

► TOWARDS A NEW RENAISSANCE

The Newsletter of the Scientific and Medical Network

► EDITORIAL

Choosing Love Over Fear

BY DAVID LORIMER



On September 12, 2001, former Network vice president, the biologist and mathematician Prof Brian Goodwin, convened his MSc students at Schumacher College to reflect on the catastrophic events of the previous day. The traditional political response in such circumstances is to identify the perpetrator and seek revenge: an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

Leaving aside the immediate issues, Brian and his students asked if there might be another way, and by the end of the morning they had come up with an original and innovative diagram featuring what they called the 'Love and Fear' loops (see diagram on next page).

Brian was also a fellow member of the International Futures Forum (IFF - www.internationalfuturesforum.com) that met first in St Andrews in April 2001. He brought this diagram to our second meeting in April 2002 and since that time it has formed a central tool within the work of the IFF in a wide variety of contexts. You can see that there is a dynamic movement between these two categories, which each of us will recognise in our own experience. The main dichotomy between love and fear is reflected in others, notably between participation and control, belonging and alienation.

The fear response is prevalent in our current situation, with a concomitant emphasis on control, security and safety, although we are concurrently witnessing the selfless actions of carers situated in the love loop. Stepping back, we have to ask ourselves if we have the capacity to imagine and create a new world based primarily on the spiritual values of love and

Continued on page 2...



Prof Brian Goodwin

► *In this issue:*

Chris Johnson, p2

Michael Moore: *Planet of the Humans*, p3

Charles Eisenstein, p4

Jules Evans - *Mystics and Scientists 2019 clip*, p5

▶ FEATURED BLOG



Chris Johnson: A Metaphysical Meta- Analysis of Covid-19: Part 2 and Part 3

Johnson continues his series of blogs analysing the coronavirus through a metaphysical lens.

“Covid-19 (interestingly not a life form) is an invention of Nature, and thus an integral part of the rich interconnectivity that is fundamental to Nature.

Many life forms demonstrate their innate interconnectivity through symbiotic relationships; indeed, symbiosis is Nature’s way of showing us the natural (all of Nature) principle of Cooperation.

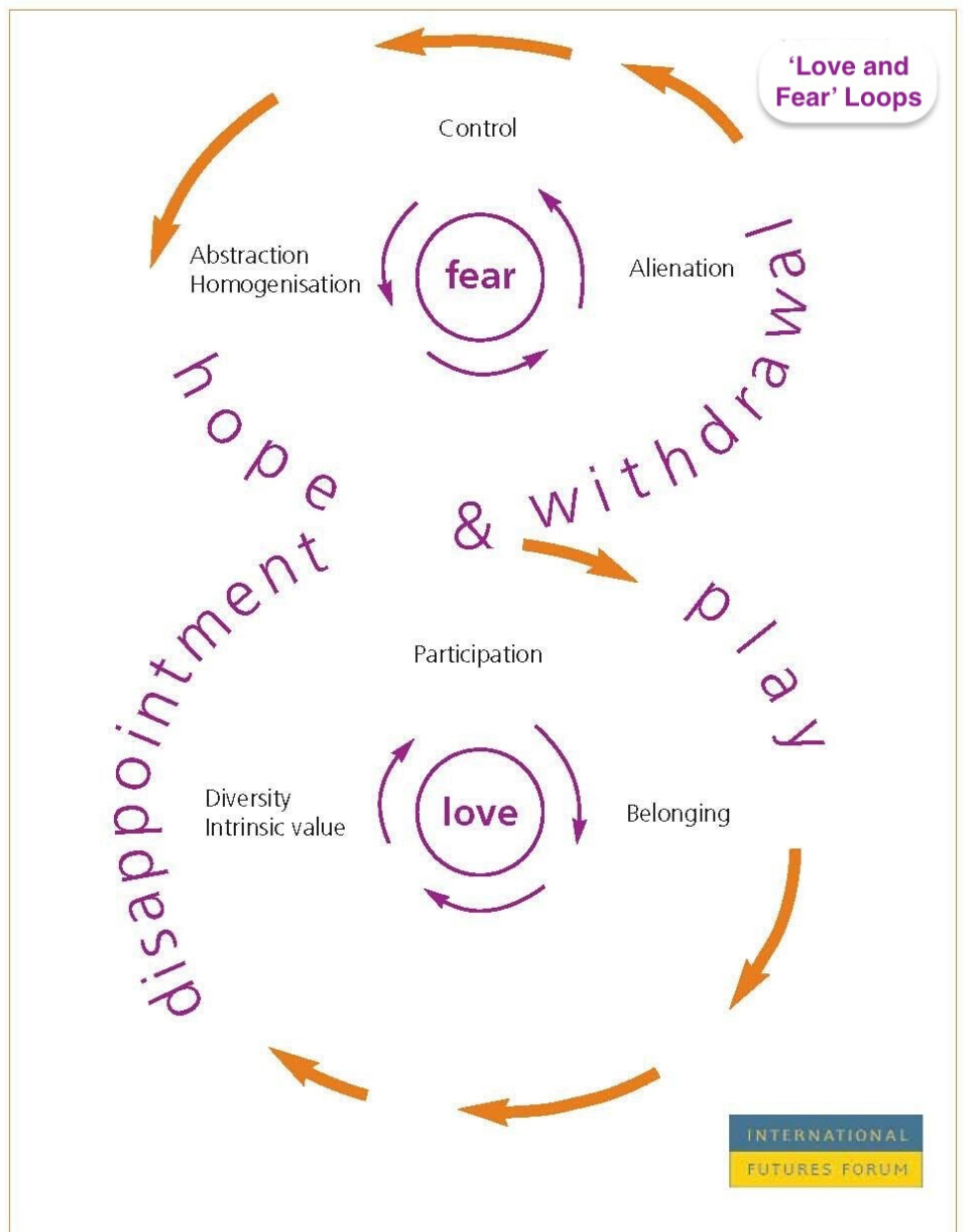
It’s not difficult to imagine what Gaia can do with her earth-body if she needs to reprimand any life form that seeks to take advantage of her supportive personality and giving spirit.”

Read Part 2 in full [here](#).
Read Part 3 in full [here](#).

Continued from page 1

care rather than materialistic power and exploitation of each other - and indeed of nature in the name of ultimately unsustainable economic growth.

In the next issue of *Paradigm Explorer* (now in press), Honorary Member Ervin Laszlo suggests that we have an enormous opportunity to reset our economic and social systems and establish them on a fresh basis that recognises our fundamental interconnectedness, as also reflected in advances in physics and biology: we are entangled with each other in potentially symbiotic relationships opening up possibilities for synergy. 🌐



▶ VIDEOS OF NOTE

Michael Moore: **Planet of The Humans**

Michael Moore presents a documentary that dares to say what no one else is currently: that we are losing the battle to stop climate change on Planet Earth because we are following leaders who have taken us down the wrong road – selling out the green movement to wealthy interests and corporate America. This film is the wake-up call to a reality we are afraid to face: that in the midst of a human-caused extinction event, the environmental movement's answer is to push for techno-fixes and band-aids. It's too little, too late. This is a must-watch, especially on the status of biofuels. Find it [here](#).

And for an engaging interview with the producers of the film, click [here](#).



Robert Frost poetry reading and more....

Robert Frost

The Road Not Taken

Read by the poet himself. ('When I visited Robert Frost's house in Deia, Mallorca, I was struck by his writer's spare room, complete with typewriter!' - David).

Keith Critchlow Film

The Art of The Ever True

Shown at the 70th Birthday Celebration of HRH The Prince of Wales. Keith's obituary on the site can be found [here](#).

Joan Borysenko:

A Glimpse of Eternity

Joan tells of how she and her son Justin went into the light with her mother at the time of her mother's death.

▶ FEATURED BLOG



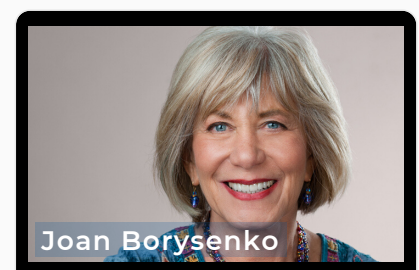
Prof Brian Martin: **Virus Debates**

Prof Martin is a specialist in scientific controversies and the suppression of dissent. Here he comments on the current debates around Covid-19.

"For several decades, I've been studying public scientific controversies, such as the ones about nuclear power, pesticides and fluoridation.

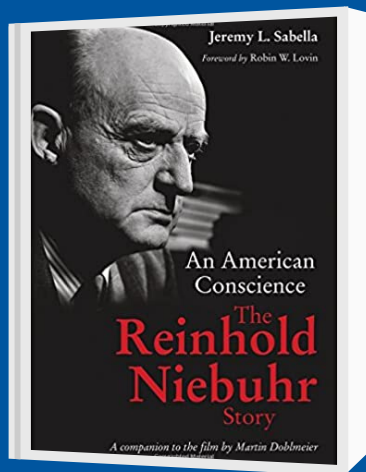
There are some regular, often predictable, features of longstanding controversies. Usually there are two sides, with one side supported by most scientific experts and one side backed by groups with wealth and power."

Read the full blog [here](#).

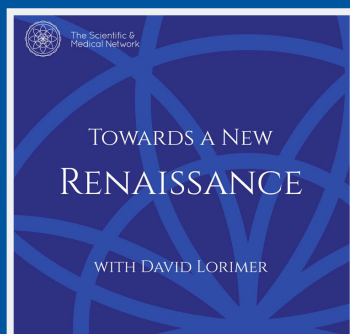


Joan Borysenko

▶ THE BOOKCAST



In this episode I review [Religion As Metaphor: Beyond Literal Belief](#) by Australian scholar David Tacey, a book in which he steers a middle path between religious and scientific fundamentalism, promoting a symbolic approach instead. And I also consider [An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story](#) by Jeremy L Sabella. This is a biography and film of American theologian and social activist Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971), who is perhaps best known as the author of the Serenity Prayer.



Find the full bookcast on [RedCircle](#), [Apple podcasts](#), [Spotify](#) and [Stitcher](#).

▶ ARTICLES OF NOTE

Charles Eisenstein: **The Coronation**

In this brilliant and penetrating essay Eisenstein applies his keen analytical skills to the current crisis. He says: “Covid-19 is like a rehab intervention that breaks the addictive hold of normality. To interrupt a habit is to make it visible; it is to turn it from a compulsion to a choice. When the crisis subsides, we might have occasion to ask whether we want to return to normal, or whether there might be something we’ve seen during this break in the routines that we want to bring into the future.” Read it in full [here](#).

Martin Winiecki, Tamera Community: **Searching for the Anti-Virus**

“I’ve struggled to make sense of what is going on. I do know this is a crucial moment of choice for humanity. In this essay, coming from a spiritually-informed holistic worldview, I entertain the possibility that we as humanity – or some deeper part of ourselves, whether conscious or not – have dreamed this moment into existence as a catalyst for our collective evolution.” Find the full article [here](#).

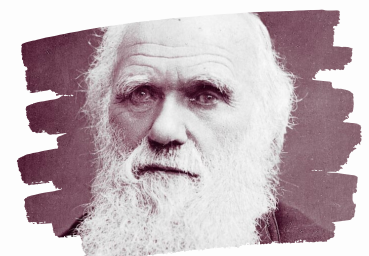
And also read this view from the Tamera Community where Martin lives, [here](#).

Dr Vandana Shiva: **Ecological Reflections on the Coronavirus**

“We need to shift from a reductionist, mechanistic, militaristic paradigm, based on separation from and colonization of the Earth, other species and our bodies that have contributed to the health crisis to systems like Ayurveda that recognize that we are part of the Earth’s living web of life.” Full article [here](#).

Quote

“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.”
— Charles Darwin (1809-1882)



► UPCOMING EVENTS

The Power of The Sacred Feminine

In the midst of this period of global transformation, there's never been a more important time for the sacred feminine to emerge as we face a spiritual initiation, unlike anything we've experienced before. Join **Anaiya Sophia** and **Christine Page** for an immersion in the energies of feminine spirituality.

- **16 May - The Power of the Sacred Feminine** is a one-day webinar with two sessions: 10AM-12PM and 4-6PM (BST). Tickets and info are [here](#).



Other events to look out for....

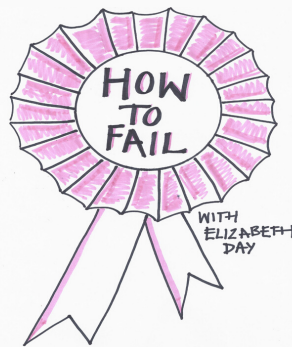
- **30 May - Strengthening Your Resilience in a Time of Crisis** Featuring six brilliant authors from Changemakers Books.
- **4 July - Andrew Fellows - webinar** Find more details on our ['Future Events'](#) page.

► FEATURED PODCAST

Elizabeth Day: [How To Fail](#)

BY CHARLOTTE LORIMER

Elizabeth Day creates podcasts that can be returned to like the pages of your favourite books. "This is a podcast about learning from our mistakes and understanding that why we fail ultimately makes us stronger," she says. In her first conversation with **Mo Gawdat** in [April last year](#) they spoke about how to survive depression and grief; how happiness is like fitness and how to cope with break-ups. Mo explained his algorithm for happiness, which was put to the ultimate test when his 21-year-old son Ali died during a routine operation. And this year Mo returned for a [special episode](#), in which he shares a simultaneously grounded and uplifting perspective on the pandemic. Listen [here](#).



► CONFERENCE CLIPS



Jules Evans: **Spiritual Technologies Old and New**

From Mystics and Scientists 2019, this includes discussion of Aldous Huxley - about whom Jules has written an article for the forthcoming journal. Watch the full talk [here](#). And look out for a webinar with Jules and Tim Read on June 9, about their new book, *Breaking Open: Finding a Way through Spiritual Emergency*.

► TOWARDS A NEW RENAISSANCE

Editor: David Lorimer
Layout: Andrew Polson

Disclaimer: The selections in this newsletter are personal – the Network has no consensus view on the material covered. Readers need to draw their own conclusions on the basis of evidence and reason.

For all enquiries click [here](#).
Site: explore.scimednet.org