

► TOWARDS A NEW RENAISSANCE

The Newsletter of the Scientific and Medical Network

► EDITORIAL

Heresy, Dissidence and Authority

BY DAVID LORIMER



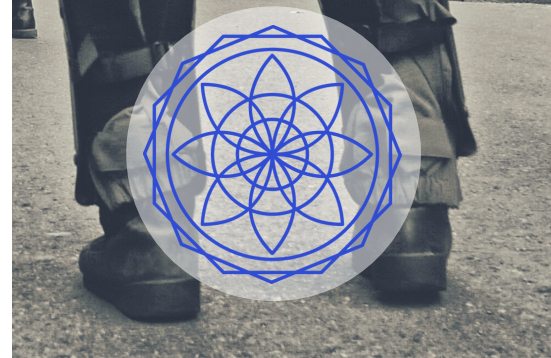
So-called 'conspiracy theorists' are the new heretics and dissidents. This weaponised and derogatory term was invented by the CIA in the 1960s to discredit and defame those who questioned the truth of the official Warren Commission report on the Kennedy assassination; the same applies to questioning the 9/11 Commission Report, the shortcomings of which have been forensically exposed by Prof David Ray Griffin in his comprehensive analysis (see p.4).

The 'conspiracy theorist' label is used against those who speak truth to power, and many journalists are cowed by the threat of being branded in this way, even if this is entirely unjustified. Judgement is a matter of reason, evidence and discrimination as each of us join the dots and proceed to draw our own conclusions. The key issue is which dots to join and on what basis.

The Inquisition – an early manifestation of a police state – was created in the 13th century to suppress the views of the Cathars of Languedoc. From the middle of the 16th century, heretical books were placed on the Index of Prohibited Books, only abolished by Pope Paul VI in 1966.

Enlightenment figures such as Voltaire promoted tolerance and freedom of speech and expression – he wrote his *Treatise on Tolerance* in 1763. Both the American and the French revolutions promoted liberty, although there is a significant difference of emphasis between 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness' and 'liberty, equality and fraternity' – the first implicitly highlighting individualism while the second balances this individualism with social concerns. In this

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► FEATURED BLOG



Dr Larry Culliford
Coronavirus Lockdown:
An Opportunity
to Flourish

In this post on Psychology Today Dr Culliford discusses the possibilities and the blessings inherent in the Covid-19 crisis, noting the way the current lockdown is teaching people to observe five wisdom practices he calls 'personal growth plans'.

'When people are forced apart, we do well to take special care to maintain valued distant connections, through cards and letters, phone calls, emails, Skype, Zoom, carrier pigeon, prayers, et cetera. This is the challenge of the pandemic, which also provides opportunities to improve our relations with others and forge new friendships, as a wonderfully uplifting spirit of camaraderie spreads through our communities.'

Read the full blog [here](#).

Continued from page 1

treatise, Voltaire writes that 'there was a time when it was thought necessary to issue decrees against those who taught a doctrine at variance with the categories of Aristotle'. Further on, he concludes that 'the law of intolerance is absurd and barbaric; it is the law of tigers; except that it is even more absurd and horrible, because tigers tear and mangle only to have food, whereas we wipe each other out over paragraphs.' Writing on the damage done by intolerance, he states: 'What? Is each citizen to be allowed to trust his own reason and to believe whatever this dictates? Yes indeed, provided he does not disturb the public order.'


Over the past few weeks we have witnessed a new episode of the Inquisition and the implicit creation of an online Index of Prohibited Material. There's been a steep rise in censorship by social media companies

of views at variance with mainstream narratives: dissident content is summarily removed.

Heretical and subversive views are not tolerated, open debate is stifled in favour of officially

"Open debate is stifled in favour of officially sanctioned orthodoxy"

sanctioned orthodoxy, and whistleblowers are abused and demonised. Manipulated by fear and on a flimsy pretext of security, we are in danger of abjectly surrendering the very freedom of thought and expression that our ancestors fought so courageously to secure in the 18th century and which constitutes the essence of our Enlightenment legacy - one that is conspicuously absent in authoritarian China. Yet we may well be drifting in the same direction with the introduction of new tracking and tracing surveillance technology further enabled by the roll-out of 5G.

Voltaire's biographer Evelyn Beatrice Hall summarised his outlook in the famous and oft-quoted phrase: 'I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it' - referring to a passage where he wrote: 'Think for yourselves and let others enjoy the privilege of doing so as well.' We forget this Enlightenment message at our peril if we are to uphold freedom of expression and an open exchange of views. In the words drafted by James Madison in the 1791 First Amendment to the US Constitution: 'Congress shall make no law prohibiting... or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.' 

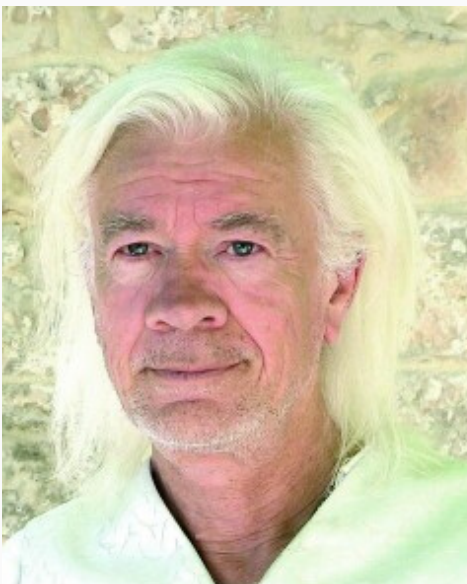
▶ VIDEOS OF NOTE

Adam M Curry and Jeremy Pfeiffer: **A Glimpse of Consciousness Technology**

Fifty years of experiments have demonstrated an unexplained influence of consciousness upon the physical world. As science works to explain the phenomena, opportunities exist to create a radically new technology that could harness this relationship between mind and matter – a so-called ‘consciousness technology.’ In this talk Adam M Curry discusses efforts to bring this out of the realm of science-fiction and into the realm of consumer devices. Jeremy Pfeiffer follows this with a demonstration of the ‘conscious observer effect’. Watch the talk [here](#).



Lars Muhl: **The God Formula**



In this chat on his own YouTube channel, Lars explains the principles of his new book – about which he is speaking on our webinar on July 16 (see p5). He says we can all access higher realms of consciousness, which is a world of answers rather than questions, and that we have within us latent powers and capacities that can help heal the planet and all living beings. We need to tune in and listen to the inner guidance available through spiritual practice, connecting to the intelligence of the heart. Watch this clip [here](#).

▶ FEATURED BLOG



Hilary Bradbury **Welcoming Wholeness in Science:** **An interview with** **David Lorimer**

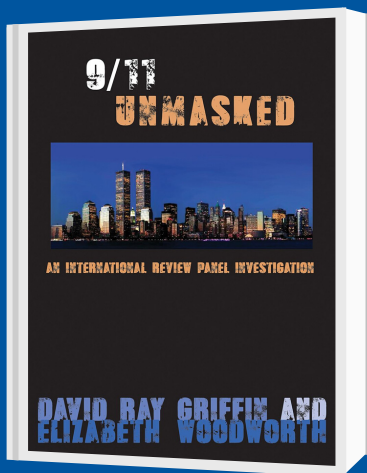
Hilary Bradbury is the founder and principal at [AR+ Foundation](#) and in this interview she and David touch on a range of topics from morning rituals to Cartesian colonialism.

From her introduction: *‘Our conversation focused on the integration of spirituality and science and David’s experiment with related practices that includes successfully inspiring 350,000 young people in the UK to find their life’s purpose. We started with gestures of attunement (of course!).’*

Read the full blog [here](#).

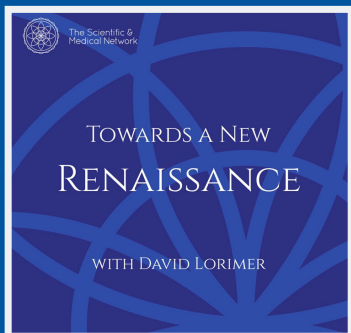


▶ THE BOOKCAST



This episode reviews two books, [9/11 Unmasked](#) and [The American Trajectory: Divine or Demonic?](#), by Prof David Ray Griffin, an American philosopher of religion turned foreign policy analyst. Griffin's work took a political turn when he was asked to write an article debunking the 'conspiracy theories' surrounding 9/11. The more he looked into it, the less plausible the official accounts appeared to him. He has now written over ten books on the subject.

Listen to the episode [here](#).



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

▶ ARTICLES OF NOTE

Continuing the theme of this issue's editorial (see p.1), we are here highlighting three thoughtful commentaries on the nature of the 'conspiracy theory' label.

Iain Davis: [A Conspiracy Theorist Confesses](#)

In his robust contribution, Iain Davis points out 'the glaring contradiction at the heart of the concept of the loony conspiracy theorist. Conspiracy theorists are both imbeciles, who don't have any proof to back up anything they say, while simultaneously being dangerous subversives who threaten to destabilise democracy and foment chaos'. Full article [here](#).

Charles Eisenstein: [The Conspiracy Myth](#)

This article follows on from *The Coronation*, noted in the [last issue](#), by trying to provide a meta-context for conspiracy theories and their role, enabling the author to sit on the proverbial fence by defining it as a myth where 'myths are vehicles of truth, and that truth needn't be literal', adding more controversially that the conspiracy narrative is 'neither provable nor falsifiable.' Full article [here](#).

Doug Lynn: [Coincidence Theorists See All Donut and No Holes in the Coronation of The Cult](#)

Doug asks whether the current pattern of events is best explained by coincidence and incompetence or by conspiracy and planning. He criticizes Eisenstein for seeing 'all donut and no hole', noting that a conspiracy is defined as two or more people making secret plans and that the article was retweeted by the CEO of Twitter that has banned the natural health blog by Joseph Mercola as against their community guidelines. Full article [here](#).

Quote

"The adventure of life is to learn. The purpose of life is to grow. The nature of life is to change. The challenge of life is to overcome. The essence of life is to care. The opportunity of life is to serve. The secret of life is to dare. The spice of life is to befriend. The beauty of life is to give. The joy of life is to love."

— William Arthur Ward (1921-1994), writer



► UPCOMING EVENTS

'Revolutionary Love' and more, online...

- **23 June, 7.30-9.30pm.** Michael Lerner: [Revolutionary Love](#). Rabbi Lerner presents a new social strategy based on kindness.
- **4 July, 10am-1pm.** Andrew Fellows: [Covid-19, Climate Chaos and the Need for Metanoia](#). Looking at levels of personal and collective consciousness and how they affect the climate crisis.
- **16 July, 7.30-9.30pm.** Lars Muhl: [The God Formula](#). Lars will discuss his new book about opening to higher consciousness.

For details and tickets go to www.mysticsandscientists.org.

Humanity Rising is an ongoing summit that promotes creative perspectives on our crisis. On **4 July, 4:00-6:00pm**, David Lorimer will host a panel, [Co-Creating a Culture of Love and Wisdom](#), with Anaiya Sophia, Michael Lerner, Martin Winiacki, Sabine Lichtenfels and Stephen G Post. Click the logo for details.



Missed a live online event? Catch the recording...

Recordings of all these recent events are free to Network members or may be purchased at www.mysticsandscientists.org

- [One Mind, One Planet, One Health](#). With presentations by Serge Beddington Behrens, Larry Dossey, Shakti Caterina Maggi and Alasdair Philips.
- [In Florence Nightingale's Footsteps](#). With presentations by Dr Barbie Dossey and Dr Deva-Marie Beck.
- [The Power of the Sacred Feminine](#). With presentations by Anaiya Sophia and Dr Christine Page.
- [Breaking Open](#). With presentations by Jules Evans, Anna Beckmann and Satyin Taylor.

► FEATURED PODCAST

Krishnan Guru-Murthy: [Ways to Change the World](#)

BY CHARLOTTE LORIMER

When it comes to supporting the anti-racist movement, education is key. Krishnan Guru-Murthy's podcast is a collection of extraordinary conversations, often with authors of anti-racism books. [The interview with Adam Rutherford](#), who wrote *How to Argue with a Racist*, is informative and essential listening. Further recommended episodes include interviews with Reni Eddo-Lodge and George the Poet. Listen [here](#).



► CONSCIOUSNESS CLIP



Prof Imants Barušs:
[The Flicker Filter Model of Consciousness](#)

Prof Barušs is co-author with Dr Julia Mossbridge of *Transcendent Mind – Rethinking the Science of Consciousness*. In this interview with Dr Jeffrey Mishlove he presents his model as a way of explaining shared mind, psychokinesis and precognition.

Watch the full interview [here](#).

► TOWARDS A NEW RENAISSANCE

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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

▶ **HELP US NURTURE AND GROW TANR!**



We are excited to bring you *Towards a New Renaissance* every month and the responses we have received to the newsletter have been brilliant.

If you have been enjoying this monthly digest of David Lorimer's editorials, featured blogs, suggested videos and articles – and of course, David's ongoing 'bookcast' of spoken reviews, then would you consider making a supportive donation?

Any amount would be a great help toward our costs of time and labour. And a regular donation – even as little as £3–£5 a month – can allow us to plan ahead with new ways to bring you great content.

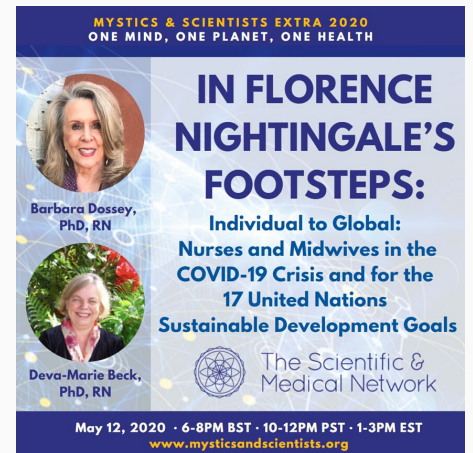
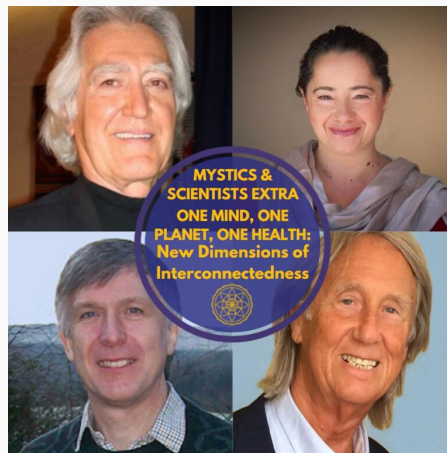
Click here to choose a donation level via PayPal - and thank you!



▶ **JOIN THE SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL NETWORK...**

...AND ENJOY ACCESS TO THE RECORDINGS OF ALL OUR RECENT ONLINE EVENTS

The last three months of global lockdown have seen a sharp increase of high-quality online events, and the Scientific and Medical Network has been fully participating in this wave of activity. As a result we are delighted to offer our members a growing number of excellent event recordings as a part of their full membership package. A few are below (click the images for details or to purchase separately):



As a member you will not only have access to **all** our recorded webinars, you'll also receive other member benefits, such as our journal, *Paradigm Explorer*, posted three times a year. Be part of a community of people enquiring into the most significant scientific and spiritual questions of our age.

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