

► TOWARDS A NEW RENAISSANCE

The Newsletter of the Scientific and Medical Network

► EDITORIAL

From Desperation To Inspiration

BY DAVID LORIMER



The business philosopher Jim Rohn once noted that there were only two reasons why we humans change: inspiration or desperation. And as the Chinese character has it, crisis represents both danger and opportunity, potentially leading to a breakthrough after breakdown.

A further analogy can be found in the dynamics of Ilya Prigogine's dissipative structures: a small perturbation can be absorbed by the existing systemic pattern while a perturbation of sufficient magnitude causes the whole complex system to reconfigure into a new pattern – order arises out of chaos.

My study of transformation following near-death and mystical experiences leads to the same conclusion, representing as it does a massive challenge to the 'skin-encapsulated ego' (Alan Watts) and leading broadly to a shift of orientation from having and doing towards being, from materialism to spirituality, from separation to connectedness, with an emphasis on love and wisdom.



Milton
Friedman

The economist Milton Friedman once observed: 'Only a crisis – actual or perceived – produces real change. When that crisis occurs, the actions that are taken depend on the ideas that are lying around. That, I believe, is our basic function: to develop alternatives to existing policies, to keep them alive and available until the politically impossible becomes

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The 'butterfly wings' of the Lorenz attractor: a symbol of beautiful complexity arising out of chaos

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► FEATURED BLOG



Prof Les Lancaster: *The Third Narrative – Corona and the Collective Psyche*

In this erudite post on the Alef Trust site Les discusses how a Jungian understanding of grand narratives can aid in making sense of this crisis.

'We may reasonably propose that viewing the coronavirus phenomenon as an expression of a need experienced in the collective psyche is no longer an expression of magical thinking. I use the term "coronavirus phenomenon" since the need is obviously not for a virus – the need is not a death wish! The need is being met by the consequences of the virus.'
Read the full post [here](#).

The Alef Trust offers an MSc in Consciousness, Spirituality and Transpersonal Psychology (the SMN is one of the partners). For more details go to www.aleftrust.org.

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the politically inevitable.' We are currently at such a juncture – actual as well as perceived (in terms of widespread fear), and we don't need any more of Friedman's free-for-all neoliberalism. So what ideas, alternatives and policies can we offer if we are not simply to be drawn back into the business-as-usual based on 'spend, spend, spend' – as an article in the Sunday Times suggested?

I believe that we have to re-examine the fundamental values on which our dominant – and largely patriarchal – socio-economic systems are actually based: power, money, consumption, competition, violence, control, individualism and national interest. All of this represents what the activist

*"We have to re-examine the
fundamental values on
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systems are actually based"*

Lisa Fithian calls 'power-over', which is the power to impose one's will on another. The obverse of this is power-under, where we give up our power to fear and helplessness.

However, there are two other kinds of power that we can draw upon: power-with, which is the power of solidarity rooted in love, respect and dignity; and power-within, which we carry inside ourselves and that is found in compassion, conviction, integrity and courage.

It is clear that we need now to shift from the dynamic of power-over/under to power-with/within by assuming responsibility for our thoughts, feelings and actions. 🌀

► TOWARDS A NEW RENAISSANCE

Editor: David Lorimer
Design: Andrew Polson
Layout: Nikolay Petrov

Disclaimer: The selections in this newsletter are personal – the Network has no consensus view on this material. Readers need to draw their own conclusions based on evidence and reason. **Enquiries, click [here](#). Site: explore.scimednet.org**

► VIDEOS OF NOTE

Prof Betty Kovacs: The Inversion of Our True Myths

Betty Kovacs was part of our Beyond the Brain conference last year and in this fascinating interview by Jeffrey Mishlove of *New Thinking Allowed* Betty discusses how we are embedded in archetypal grand-narratives and how

these stories have been misused throughout history for power over others.

From Mishlove's introduction: 'In particular she focuses on myths concerning the Tree of Life. She suggests that this myth was inverted by the Deuteronomists



around 620 BCE and that this inversion has shaped Western culture, and caused much suffering.' View the clip [here](#).

And also see 'Frequency of Love in a Dying World', a beautiful audio meditation, with images, on what Betty calls 'the Heart, the Holy Grail of Love'. Find it [here](#).

Stephan Hoeller: A Gnostic Perspective on the Coronavirus



An interesting take on the coronavirus in relation to the monotheistic problem of theodicy ie. how an omnipotent and benevolent God can permit evil, especially physical evil in terms of natural disasters.

Hoeller explains his dualistic view as a Gnostic Bishop and presents a different interpretation of good and evil in which the world was created by a demiurge. Watch the talk [here](#).

► FEATURED ARTICLE

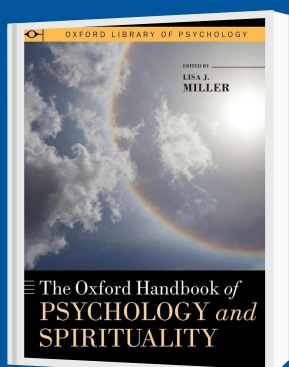


Prof Harald Walach: [Inner Experience – Direct Access to Reality](#)

This excerpt from an article in the academic journal [Frontiers of Psychology](#) is based on Harald's [Galileo Commission report](#).

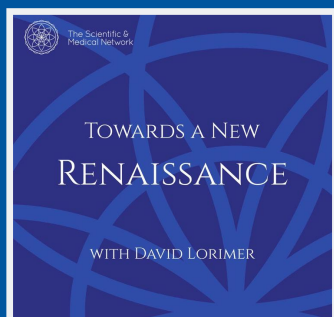
'Currently, the dominant ontology in science is a materialist model, and associated with it an empiricist epistemology. Historically speaking, there was a more comprehensive notion at the cradle of modern science in the middle ages. Then 'experience' meant both inner, or first person, and outer, or third person, experience. With the historical development, experience has come to mean only sense experience of outer reality. This has become associated with the ontology that matter is the most important substance in the universe, everything else – consciousness, mind, values, etc. – being derived thereof or reducible to it.'
Read the full article [here](#).

► THE BOOKCAST



This episode reviews two landmark works in psychology: *The Oxford Handbook of Psychology and Spirituality* and *The Wiley Blackwell Handbook of Transpersonal Psychology*, both of which call for these fields of study to be expanded beyond scientific materialism.

Also reviewed is *I: Reality and Subjectivity* by David Hawkins, which is one of the most brilliant and profound explanations of the relationship between the nonlinear and linear realms – the very fabric of our experience – and that every seeker should study. Listen to the episode [here](#).



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

► ARTICLES OF NOTE

Dr Robert Verkerk: **Vaccine Transparency**

Dr Verkerk is a respected advocate for responsible medical practices and in this article he lays out his argument for accountability and clarity regarding the content of vaccines. He writes: 'We know many of our readers and supporters are as keen as we are to see what we term 'vaccine transparency.'

We know this because we witnessed unprecedented traffic on our website and sharing of posts and videos after we sent an open letter to the UK Health Secretary, Matt Hancock MP, on 20th April calling for a new public narrative around vaccines based in transparency [no reply]. We need transparency if we're to ensure properly informed consent – this being a frequently overlooked legal requirement in many countries.' Read the full article [here](#). And watch the corresponding video on Rob's website [here](#).



And don't miss Rob's upcoming webinar (details [here](#)): **Thursday, 13 August, 7.30-9.30pm. The Great Disconnect: Why so many think a Covid Vaccine is our only Option.**

Dr Andreas Sommer: **Forbidden Histories - from 'Natural Magic' to 'Scientific Naturalism'**

Dr Sommer writes: 'Has science vanquished magic? While many prominent popularizers of science think so, professional history of science scholarship suggests otherwise. Here is a constantly updated list of key readings for those who want to study the complex historical relationship of the sciences with magic for themselves.' Find the list [here](#).

Quote

"We change the world not by what we say or do, but as a consequence of what we have become."

— David R. Hawkins, author



► UPCOMING EVENTS ONLINE

'Speeding Up Our Evolution' and more...

• **Thursday, 23 July, 7.30-9.30pm.**

Dr Serge Beddington-Behrens: Speeding up our Evolution in a Corona Affected World. A welcome return from Serge!

• **Wednesday, 5 August, 7.30-9.30pm.**

Riane Eisler: Nurturing our Humanity.

An interview by David and Charlotte Lorimer.

• **Monday, 10 August, 7.30-9.30pm.**

Prof John Clarke: Beyond Nihilism - What can we learn from Nietzsche? An SMN London Group event.

• **Thursday, 13 August 7.30-9.30pm.**

Dr Robert Verkerk: The Great Disconnect - Why so many think a Covid Vaccine is our only option.

Find more details at www.mysticsandscientists.org.

Recent webinars - recordings now available!

These are all now available to view for Network members:

- **Jules Evans, Anna Beckmann and Satyin Taylor: Breaking Open: Finding a Way through Spiritual Emergency**
- **Rabbi Michael Lerner: Revolutionary Love**
- **Dr Andrew Fellows: Covid-19, Climate Chaos and the Need for Metanoia: A Trans-disciplinary Guide**

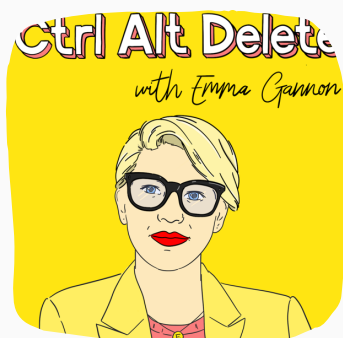
For details see www.mysticsandscientists.org.

► FEATURED PODCAST

Emma Gannon: Ctrl Alt Delete

BY CHARLOTTE LORIMER

Emma Gannon, author of the new novel *Olive*, has interviewed hundreds of fascinating, whole-hearted people for her podcast *Ctrl Alt Del*. Her first interview was with author of *Eat, Pray, Love*, **Elizabeth Gilbert**. She interviewed her again last summer, an episode that covers creativity, curiosity, grief and daring. Listen [here](#).



► CONFERENCE CLIPS



Humanity Rising: Co-Creating a Culture of Love and Wisdom

This panel discussion, hosted by the SMN and David Lorimer, addressed how we can best collectively co-create a sustainable culture of love and wisdom. It drew out the life experience and ideas of the panellists – Rabbi Michael Lerner, Prof Stephen Post, Sabine Lichtenfels and Martin Winiecki – all of whom are dedicating their lives to this ideal, setting a future compass direction for a caring humanity. Watch the clip [here](#).



Humanity Rising is an ongoing series of events. Click the logo for details.

► 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!

Donate


► JOIN THE SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL NETWORK...

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

The last four months of global lockdown have seen a sharp increase of high-quality online events and presentations, and the Scientific and Medical Network has been fully participating in this wave of activity. As a result we are delighted to be able to offer our members a growing number of excellent webinar recordings as a part of their full membership package. Just a few of these are below:

MYSTICS & SCIENTISTS EXTRA 2020
ONE MIND, ONE PLANET, ONE HEALTH

SERGE BEDDINGTON-BEHRENS



**HOW TO SPEED UP
OUR EVOLUTION
AND MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN A
CORONA INFECTED
WORLD**


Moving from personal to
collective transformation
– an online presentation

Thursday, 23 July, 2020 • 7:30-9:30 PM (BST)
www.mysticsandscientists.org

MYSTICS & SCIENTISTS EXTRA 2020
ONE MIND, ONE PLANET, ONE HEALTH

LARS MUHL

THE GOD FORMULA



In this webinar I will share with you some of my most profound findings from many years of studying the Essene Mystery School, Yohanan the Baptist, Yeshua the Nazarene and Mariam the Magdalene and their teachings. The main key to these teachings, I found in the Aramaic language of the Essenes, Yeshua and Mariam.

JULY 16TH 19:30 - 21:30 BST • 11:30 - 13:30 PST • 14:30 - 16:30 EST
www.mysticsandscientists.org

MYSTICS & SCIENTISTS EXTRA 2020
ONE MIND, ONE PLANET, ONE HEALTH

**THE POWER OF
THE SACRED
FEMININE**



Anaiya Sophia



Christine Page, MD

Session 1: Goddesses, Mystics and Holy Women

Session 2: Embodying the Sacred Feminine


The Scientific & Medical Network

May 16, 2020 • Session 1: 10-12PM BST • Session 2: 4-6PM BST
www.mysticsandscientists.org

MYSTICS & SCIENTISTS EXTRA 2020
ONE MIND, ONE PLANET, ONE HEALTH

ANDREW FELLOWS

**COVID-19 CLIMATE CHAOS
& THE NEED FOR METANOIA**



A TRANS-DISCIPLINARY GUIDE

Join joint Network Book Prize 2019 winner Andrew Fellows as he gives a fascinating presentation on how understanding different levels of individual and collective consciousness can provide important insights into our ecological predicament.

July 4, 2020 • 10AM - 1PM BST
www.mysticsandscientists.org

Join today with an annual subscription of just £60!

As well as access to all 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. **Click below for full details.**

Join the SMN!