

► TOWARDS A NEW RENAISSANCE

The Newsletter of the Scientific and Medical Network

► EDITORIAL

Affirming our Humanity

BY DAVID LORIMER

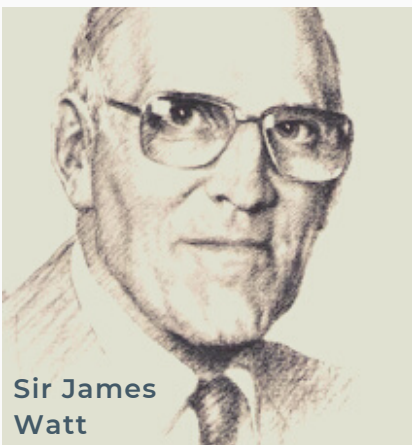


The 1955 Russell-Einstein Manifesto on nuclear weapons concludes with the following words: 'Remember your humanity, and forget the rest. If you can do so, the way lies open to a new Paradise; if you cannot, there lies before you the risk of universal death.' This was written 15 years before the first declarations in 1970 warning of our unsustainable environmental trajectory, and we are now 50 years further down the track, still trying to maintain business as usual and ignoring one of Einstein's other famous remarks that problems cannot be solved within the framework that created them.

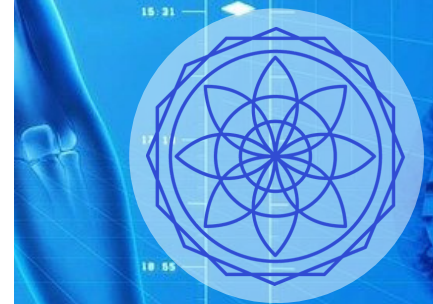
Key to these discussions is our definition of the human. At one of our occasional lunches in London, Sir James Watt (1914-2009) once said that the essential question is: *what is a human being?* For mechanistic transhumanists, we are biochemical computers in need of enhancement and upgrade, while transpersonal psychology affirms a

depth dimension and a transcendent essence that can be directly experienced. As machines, we are subject to manipulation and control, as is already happening in commercial terms with sophisticated algorithms developing online profiles for commercial gain. Then there's the moral and ethical sense of humanity, which is

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Sir James
Watt



► In this issue:

The implications of quantum mechanics, p.2

Ken Ring and Chris Bache in dialogue, p.4

Harald Walach on the Galileo Commission, p.5

► FEATURED ARTICLE



Bernardo Kastrup, Henry Stapp and Menas Kafatos: Coming to Grips with the Implications of Quantum Mechanics

In this article on Scientific American's site from 2018, Kastrup, Stapp and Kafatos (pictured above), working at the interface between physics and consciousness studies, argue that the meaning and interpretation of quantum theory poses critical questions for our understanding of reality.

'Taken together, these experiments indicate that the everyday world we perceive does not exist until observed, which in turn suggests – as we shall argue in this essay – a primary role for mind in nature. It is thus high time the scientific community at large – not only those involved in the foundations of QM – faced up to the counterintuitive implications of QM's most controversial predictions.'
Read the full article [here](#).

Continued from page 1

what Albert Schweitzer is referring to when he says that it is our task to 'become more finely and deeply human.'


UK readers will know about the recent death of the former Chief Rabbi, Lord Jonathan Sacks, who received the Templeton Prize in 2016. In his acceptance speech he said the following: "You can't outsource conscience. You can't delegate moral responsibility away. When you do, you raise expectations that cannot be met. And when, inevitably, they are not met, society becomes freighted with disappointment, anger, fear, resentment and blame. People start to take refuge in magical thinking, which today takes one of four forms: the far right, the far left, religious extremism and aggressive secularism. The far right seeks a return to a golden past that never was. The far left seeks a utopian future that will never be. Religious extremists believe you can bring salvation by terror. Aggressive secularists



**Lord
Jonathan
Sacks**

"You can't outsource conscience. You can't delegate moral responsibility away. When you do, you raise expectations that cannot be met."

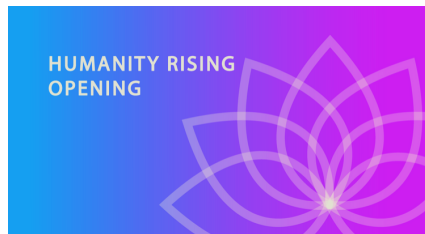
believe that if you get rid of religion there will be peace. These are all fantasies, and pursuing them will endanger the very foundations of freedom." He warned that, "if we continue to forget that a free society is a moral achievement that depends on habits of responsibility and restraint, then what will come next... will be neither liberal nor democratic, and it will certainly not be free." His proposal was to "restate the moral and spiritual dimensions in the language of the twenty-first century....in ways that are uniting rather than divisive."

This is our challenge, to affirm our common humanity in terms of love and freedom, co-creating in the process an ethic of care, compassion, partnership, integrity and responsibility to future generations. 

► VIDEOS OF NOTE

Humanity Rising: Breakthroughs in Physics and Cosmology and the Rise of a New Story for Humanity

Humanity Rising is a series of online events initiated by Jim Garrison (who spoke recently on an SMN webinar) as a forum for groups and individuals to confer about co-creating a just and sustainable future. This session examines the idea that physics and cosmology are currently undergoing another Copernican Revolution as fundamental as the original revolution in the 16th century that proved that the Sun, not the Earth, was the centre of our solar system. Now, bursting through the findings of physicists and cosmologists the world over is an understanding that space is alive with energy, intention, intelligence, and information and that evolution is a conscious, intentional, regenerative process. The whole cosmos is being understood as a single intelligent unfolding drama of consciousness. Just when our theories have brought us to the brink of extinction, letting us believe we could desecrate the Earth, science is finding that the Earth is actually Gaia. Listen [here](#).



Source of Wonder Videos

This is a series of short presentations that were filmed at an inspirational event organised by the Goi Peace Foundation and the Club of Budapest, and are now all gradually being uploaded to YouTube on a daily basis. Sixty clips are up already including Jane Goodall, Roger



Ervin
Laszlo

Nelson, Peter Russell and Karan Singh. Along with talks there are musical performances including a wonderful [Chopin waltz](#) by Ervin Laszlo, who began his career as a concert pianist. Find all the videos [here](#).

► FEATURED ARTICLE

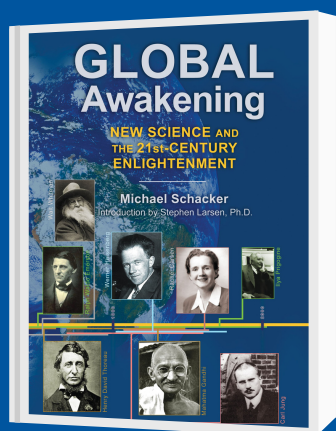


[Does the Human Brain Resemble the Universe?](#)

This is a University of Bologna report about a fascinating paper published in *Frontiers in Physics* by Franco Vazza (pictured above, one of their astrophysicists) and Alberto Feletti (working as a neurosurgeon at the University of Verona) where they compared two of the most complex systems in nature: the network of galaxies and the network of neuronal cells in the human brain.

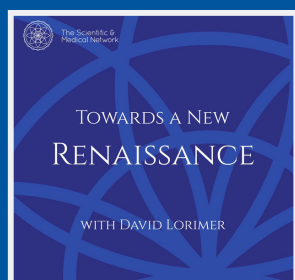
'Despite the substantial difference in scale between the two networks (more than 27 orders of magnitude), their quantitative analysis, which sits at the crossroads of cosmology and neurosurgery, suggests that diverse physical processes can build structures characterized by similar levels of complexity and self-organization.'
Read the full report [here](#).

► THE BOOKCAST



The Regeneration Revolution

This episode features a review of an important book published in 2012 - *Global Awakening*, by Michael Schacker. This follows on from a recent webinar with Dr Jim Garrison of Humanity Rising where he spoke of the need for regenerative, not simply sustainable development. The book sets out a roadmap for the necessary 'Regeneration Revolution' as an evolutionary imperative for future human flourishing in the biosphere we share with the whole of life. Listen to the episode [here](#).



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

► ARTICLES OF NOTE

An Exchange between Ken Ring and Chris Bache: Are deep psychedelic experiences trustable?

Chris Bache recently gave us a webinar on his new book, *LSD and the Cosmic Mind*. This article represents an exchange of letters between Chris, with his background in philosophy, and psychologist Kenneth Ring, the eminent researcher on near death experiences and Founding President of IANDS, as they discuss the ontological trustworthiness of psychedelic experience. Some of the questions Ken puts to Chris include:

- Do Chris's experiences reflect his academic training and karmic propensities?
- Would a different person with a different cultural background who followed the same protocol have the same experiences?
- Are his visions of the birth of the future human encounters with an archetypal constellation in the collective unconscious?

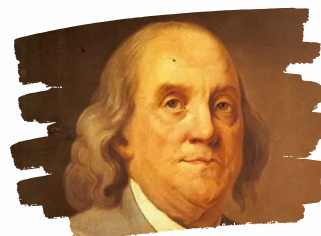
Read Chris's answers and more in the full article [here](#).

Alan Rayner: Nature as a Source of Moral Guidance

The idea that Nature is at best amoral and at worst totally immoral has long been embedded in the human psyche and is reflected in the writings of Richard Dawkins. Alan takes the opposite view, suggesting that the converse is true: 'an awareness of how we naturally are as needful, living human beings in the world as it actually is, full of life, is a source of moral guidance that enables us to value honesty, reasonableness and kindness as vital qualities of loving care for self and neighbourhood.' Find the full article [here](#).

Quote

"Your net worth to the world is usually determined by what remains after your bad habits are subtracted from your good ones."
– Benjamin Franklin



The lightened view

A photon is going through airport security. The TSA agent asks if he has any luggage. The photon says, "No. I'm travelling light."

► UPCOMING EVENTS ONLINE

'Secularity and Science' and more...

• Wednesday, 16 December, 7.30-9.30pm.

Prof Keith Ward FBA:

Religion and Spirituality in the Modern World

• Wednesday, 30 December, 7.30-9.30pm.

Prof Stephen Post:

One Mind and the Ultimate Reality of Pure Unlimited Love

Find more details at www.mysticsandscientists.org.

Recent webinars - recordings now available!

These are all now available to view for Network members, or purchase individually at www.mysticsandscientists.org.

- **Prof Chris Bache: LSD and the Cosmic Mind**
- **Dr Vasileios Basios: Complexity and Tipping Points**
- **Dr Emily Thomas: The Meaning of Travel**
- **Dr Jim Garrison: Humanity Rising**

Also: our recordings of **Beynd the Brain Online 2020** are now available at www.beyndthebrain.org.

► FEATURED PODCAST

Imaginal Inspirations – with David Lorimer

BY CHARLOTTE LORIMER

Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution – Albert Einstein

Imaginal cells are responsible for the metamorphosis of the caterpillar into a butterfly (the Greek symbol for the soul). They lie dormant in the insect until a critical point of development when they create the structure that becomes the butterfly. In this podcast series, David Lorimer talks to authors and scientists about experiences, people and books that shaped their lives and professional development. In the first episode he speaks to **Elisabet Sahtouris** about imaginal cells, transformation and presence. Listen [here](#).



► SMN VIDEO CLIPS



Harald Walach:

Towards a Post-Materialist Science

Harald presents an outline of the argument of his *Galileo Commission Report* to the Society for Scientific Exploration in June 2019. The remit was to review information that points towards an expansion of science beyond a materialist worldview. Watch it [here](#).

► TOWARDS A NEW RENAISSANCE

Editor: David Lorimer

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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* on a regular basis and the responses we have received 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 £2–£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 nine months of restricted movement has produced a sharp increase in high-quality online presentations and events 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

THE SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL NETWORK
PRESENTS

**ALL IN THE SAME CANOE:
INDIGENOUS APPROACHES TO
CONSCIOUSNESS AND CULTURE**

WHAT IF WE LISTENED DEEPLY TO THE VOICE OF THE EARTH?

A triologue with Dr Apela Colorado, Prof Leroy Little Bear
and David Lorimer

WEDNESDAY, 2 DECEMBER • 8:00-10:00 PM (GMT)
WWW.MYSTICSANDSCIENTISTS.ORG

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

THE SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL NETWORK
PRESENTS

**HUMANITY RISING:
CO-CREATING A CULTURAL AND
SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE
FOR OUR TIME**

• Dr Jim Garrison • 

What if breakdown can be a breakthrough?

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25, 7:30-9:30 PM (GMT)
WWW.MYSTICSANDSCIENTISTS.ORG


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

THE SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL NETWORK
PRESENTS

**LSD
AND THE MIND
OF THE UNIVERSE**

DR CHRIS BACHE

A mind and heart-expanding insight into the extraordinary spiritual odyssey that brought him revelatory understandings of the Universal Cosmic Mind as our common Ground of Being

 Can we all access the Cosmic Mind?


THURSDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2020 • 7:30-9:30 PM (BST)
WWW.MYSTICSANDSCIENTISTS.ORG

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

THE SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL NETWORK
PRESENTS

**AN EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY INTO
FUNGAL INTELLIGENCE**

ENTANGLED LIVES
FUNGAL NETWORKS, ECOLOGY, AND US

• Dr Merlin Sheldrake • 

How do fungi – and our relationships with them – change our understanding of life on Earth?

THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2020 • 7:30-9:30 PM (BST)
WWW.MYSTICSANDSCIENTISTS.ORG

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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.**

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