

# TOWARDS A NEW RENAISSANCE

The Newsletter of the Scientific and Medical Network

## EDITORIAL

### Emerging into Kindness and Love

BY DAVID LORIMER



*“We look forward to the time when the power of love will replace the love of power. Then will our world know the blessings of peace.” - William Ewart Gladstone, British PM.*

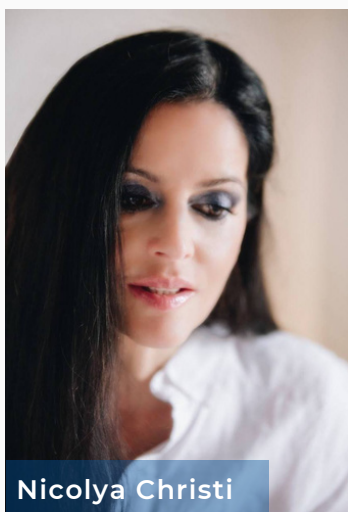
The theme of collective emergence has run as a thread through quite a few of our webinar conversations this year, and has become more urgent given the humanitarian disaster in the Ukraine war zone. Gladstone’s vision may seem utopian, but it does provide a compass direction from militarism, violence and coercion towards forgiveness, love and kindness.

In her recent book, *Love, God and Everything*, Nicolya Christi, reflecting on indigenous prophecies for our time, wrote that ‘we have arrived at a critical point on the timeline of humankind. In these liminal times we find ourselves

straddling two worlds: 1) the current paradigm and its archaic and self-serving systems and structures and 2) a new emerging paradigm built upon the principles and virtues of unity in diversity, equality, humanity, empathy, kindness and love.’ This second paradigm is the focus of our work, representing the power of love rather than the love of power.

Edgar Morin and CG Jung both assert the essential role of the individual in any collective emergence. In his essay,

*Continued on page 2...*



Nicolya Christi



This issue’s theme:  
**Collective Emergence: Consciousness and Culture**

### In this issue:

- Charles Eisenstein, p.2
- Elizabeth Debold on emergent dialogue, p.3
- Sarah Rozenthuler on building trust, p.4
- Tim Freke on new domains of consciousness, p.5





## ▶ FEATURED BLOG



### Charles Eisenstein: Reinventing Progress

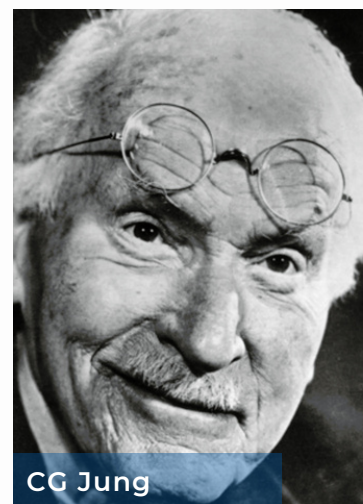
In this entry on Eisenstein's Substack blog he argues that technocratic systems are not wrong... rather, philosophically outdated. But before we can move toward a more wholistic sense of progress we must stop blaming 'villains'.

*'One of the most alluring simplifying narratives in these turbulent times is that a diabolical conspiracy controls everything, pulls the strings of every politician, manipulates financial markets, and engineers pandemics and wars, all as part of an implacable master plan for world domination. The chaos and horror of the world collapses to a simple explanation—the Hidden Hand. I reject this reductionistic explanation for what it leaves out. The machinations originate far beyond any conscious agency that we can recognize. They lie in the realm of myth, and they implicate ourselves.'*  
Read the full post [here](#).

Continued from page 1

*The Undiscovered Self*, Jung remarks that 'the individual is the true and authentic carrier of reality, the concrete person as opposed to the unreal ideal or normal man to whom scientific statements refer.' It is the individual who can relate directly to the divine and embody spiritual principles.

This is especially important at a time when mechanistic left-hemisphere dominated thinking reduces persons to things and statistics, and leading thinkers like Yuval Noah Harari define human beings as merely 'hackable animals' to be manipulated and centrally controlled in a digital dictatorship – this is not my kind of collective emergence.



CG Jung

In relation to human evolution, Barbara Marx Hubbard's vision was that 'We are evolving in the recurring evolutionary direction as individuals, towards greater consciousness, freedom and loving order. The inner motivation of most evolving humans is towards expanded

*“Both Arnold Toynbee and Vaclav Havel called for a global revolution in human consciousness”*

consciousness, greater freedom, and deeper access to complex order, connecting in love.' This is what speaks to me and makes me wary of any economic or political reform (eg the WEF's Great Reset) where the heart is absent.

Both historian Arnold Toynbee and Czech writer and President Vaclav Havel called for a global revolution in human consciousness. This means activating the cosmic power of love: according to the Bulgarian sage Beinsa Douno, 'Love is necessary for the transformation of the world. It is the only force which can bring peace between the nations', while 'the supreme goal of human life is that people should be free and to serve Love, Wisdom and Truth.'





## ▶ VIDEOS OF NOTE

### Elizabeth Debold: Human Unity and the Spirit of Emergent Dialogue

‘The truth that comes through the space *between*, and being open to that, is very different from speaking one's *own truth*,’ says Elizabeth Debold about the spiritual practice of emergent dialogue. ‘It is a field awareness that is bigger than us or any group of people.’



Elizabeth Debold

In this conversation, on the SenseSpace podcast, the author and co-founder of One World in Dialogue goes on to describe how emergent dialogue can bring people into a space of intersubjective intelligence that transcends the egoic limits of individual consciousness. That space can feel deeply impersonal and yet, paradoxically, also imbued with love. And it includes a clear somatic component: ‘it’s an openness at the level of being that is fully embodied,’ says Debold. ‘But it’s not about the body per se - it’s about the body as an instrument of perception’. Watch the clip [here](#).

### Sara Ness: The Art of Difficult Conversations



Sara Ness

In this interview on the Rebel Wisdom platform David Fuller chats to authentic relating teacher Sara Ness about her new course on how to navigate difficult subjects with family, friends and colleagues. She says that these skills are sorely needed now, in a

social and political climate where high levels of uncertainty have led to increasingly polarised views (all amplified in online echo chambers) to the point where having nuanced disagreements has become almost impossible. As Fuller says, ‘we need to learn to stop relationships breaking down.’ Ness suggests a way forward is to apply ‘the three gates that conversation should pass through: is it true, is it necessary and is it kind?’ as a way of filtering statements. And to develop the self-awareness needed to deescalate yourself in the midst of an exchange, to remain open and curious. See the clip [here](#). And the course starts in April - details [here](#).

## ▶ FEATURED ARTICLE



### Dr Alfred de Zayas: Who Will Guard the Guardians?

Dr de Zayas appeared in a recent SMN webinar on the situation in Ukraine, and in this CounterPunch article (from December 2021) he writes about the need for all citizens to hold political institutions to standards established in legal charters.

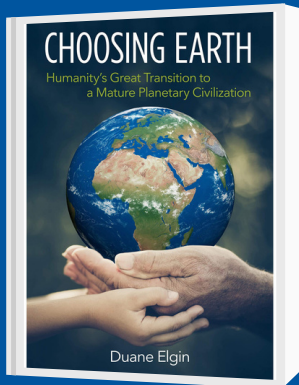
*‘We should remember that human rights are not in competition with each other, but that human rights constitute a holistic system based on our common human dignity. We know that the United Nations, the Security Council, the General Assembly, ECOSOC, the Human Rights Council are all political. That’s not the problem – it is a factum that everything can be seen as “political” in some way. What is crucial is that everybody be required to play by the same rules and that there be some kind of monitoring to ensure that the rules are being observed in good faith.’*

Read the full article [here](#).





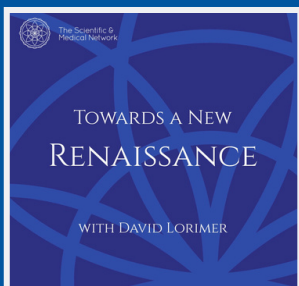
## ▶ THE BOOKCAST



### Global Emergence

This episode features three books discussing our evolutionary potential and the collective choices we need to make in order to co-create a flourishing, regenerative and genuinely sustainable future. First, *Choosing Earth* by Duane Elgin ([choosingearth.org](http://choosingearth.org)), then *The Call to Unite*, edited by Tim Shriver and Tom Rosshirt. Finally, *Our Moment of Choice*, edited by Robert Atkinson, Kurt Johnson and Deborah Moldow. They make for challenging reading but do give reasons for hope – if we can manage a radical change of course.

Listen to the episode [here](#).



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

## ▶ ARTICLES OF NOTE

### Sarah Rozenhuler: **Building Trust in Changing Times**



Sarah Rozenhuler

*Sarah Rozenhuler is a chartered psychologist, leadership consultant and dialogue coach, with over 15 years international experience. As the author of 'How to Have Meaningful Conversations' and 'Powered by Purpose', Sarah's work has been featured widely including in The Sunday Times, Psychologies Magazine and BBC Business online. Sarah also recently facilitated part of the SMN leadership retreat where she helped to create an open dialogue about the purpose and future of the Network. Here she introduces her work and a key article on her website.*

'At the heart of my work is creating psychological safety so people are willing to share what's true for them, including their hopes and fears, ideas, and flashes of intuition. Prior to the SMN retreat, I invited participants to reflect on what's moved them about being part of the SMN and to bring an artefact that in some way symbolised this, such as a photo, an object or a poem. A generative image helps people to be more receptive and creative, so that they can think together and trust one another more deeply. It is in this more coherent energy field that the 'new' emerges.

In the linked article below, I explore how trust is 'gold' in organisations. It's not possible to have a free-flowing, creative conversation if people feel guarded or goaded into talking. My work is also about psychological richness, which means creating an energising space where diversity of opinion is welcome and generates shifts in perspective. In the corporate world, we are much more comfortable engaging the left hemisphere of our brains, with its linear thinking and logical analysis. The cultural dominance of the left hemisphere has led to an increasingly mechanistic world where many people feel separation from one another. To move from 'me' to 'we', we need to include the right hemisphere, which can take the long view, see the bigger picture and live with uncertainty.' Find the article [here](#).

### Quote

"The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason for hope."

- Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, French Jesuit priest, paleontologist, theologian



## ► NETWORK NODES

### Tim Freke: **New Domains of Consciousness**

Author and philosopher Tim Freke was a featured speaker at our Beyond The Brain conference last year where he gave a talk he titled: *Consciousness... and why I was wrong about it!* In it he outlines how his spiritual ideas have changed radically in the last few years, moving from the assumption of consciousness as a pure primary toward a more evolutionary paradigm in which novel forms of consciousness are continuing to emerge out of the universe. 'The evolutionary process that has taken us through matter and then life has led to the emergence of a new level of information that is literally transmaterial,' Tim says, calling this level of the process 'the exponential evolution of psyche.' Further, he suggests this new unfoldment needs to be recognised on its own terms. 'There is an ecology of soul, just like there is an ecology of nature,' he says. 'And the ecology of soul is a domain in its own right now - it has evolved.' Tim calls his new philosophy 'unindividualism', and you can read more on [timfreke.com](http://timfreke.com). Find his Beyond The Brain talk [here](#).



Tim Freke

## ► FEATURED PODCAST

### Jeff Salzman: **The Daily Evolver**

As its name suggests this podcast seeks to view the complexity of the modern world through a distinctly developmental framework – and it unapologetically also slants towards optimism. As host Jeff Salzman writes on [dailyevolver.com](http://dailyevolver.com), his thesis is that 'life is animated by the power of evolution, inside and out, and that we are riding a geyser of emergence toward a sacred world'. This doesn't mean, though, that he glosses over the difficulties or real-world suffering involved in this process, and in a recent episode, titled *Emergence Appears as Regression and Decadence*, he continues a series on the war in Ukraine. This he frames primarily as an evolutionary conflict between the emerging modernity of the Ukrainian people (seeking after democratic self-determination) and the pre-modernism of Vladimir Putin's more imperialistic ambitions. Find it [here](#).



## ► FEATURED VIDEO



### Prof Robert Romanyshyn: **Psychotherapy During Times of War, Climate Change and Pandemic**

In this talk to the Hampstead Psychotherapy Club (hosted by the SMN's Claudia Nielsen), Prof Romanyshyn says that in the midst of crisis we should remember 'we are a part of nature and not apart from it' and points to the healing power of grieving as a journey of 'love, loss, descent and transformation'. See it [here](#).

## ► 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 the material covered. Readers need to draw their own conclusions on the basis of evidence and reason.

For all enquiries click [here](#).  
[scientificandmedical.net](http://scientificandmedical.net)



► WE'D LOVE TO  
HEAR FROM YOU...



We are excited to bring you *Towards a New Renaissance* on a regular basis and the response has been brilliant. We would also love to get your feedback and ideas on how we can make the newsletter even better and more relevant to you. Send us comments/suggestions on our contact form [here](#).

If you have been enjoying this monthly digest, would you also consider making a supportive donation?

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Our Spring conference, **Mystics and Scientists: Music, Order and Beauty**, is almost upon us. Click the poster below for info and tickets...

A conference poster for 'Mystics and Scientists: Music, Order and Beauty'. The poster features a purple and gold geometric pattern in the background. At the top left is the logo for 'The Scientific &amp; Medical Network'. To the right of the logo is the text 'ONLINE CONFERENCE'. Below this are two rows of circular portraits of speakers. The top row includes Edi Bilimoria, Tom Bree, Calista Georget, Kayleen Asbo, Painton Cowen, and David Lorimer. The bottom row includes John Butt, Chika Robertson, Nicola Graves-Gregory, Peter Fenwick, Joscelyn Godwin, and Andrew Baker. The title 'MYSTICS AND SCIENTISTS: MUSIC, ORDER AND BEAUTY' is prominently displayed in the center. At the bottom, the dates 'SATURDAY, 9 APRIL AND SUNDAY, 10 APRIL' and the website 'WWW.SCIENTIFICANDMEDICAL.NET' are listed.

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