Consciousness and the Stubborn Illusion of Separation

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NOETIC: Deep inner knowing.
Intuition, insight, gut feelings, hunches, non-rational knowledge.

Presentation outline

- NOETIC SCIENCE
- REALITY AND COMMON SENSE
- TESTING THE SIDDHIS
- EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCE
- REVISIONS OF REALITY

Experiences

rare

Saints
mystical union
oceanic feeling

frequency

genius
religious epiphany

creative insight

healer
distant healing

everyone
distant knowing

telepathy

feeling of being stared at

gut feelings

mundane
impact
profound
Rare experiences, beyond the reach of science, but well accepted

Common experiences, amenable to scientific study, but highly controversial

"The supreme task of the physicist is to arrive at those universal elementary laws from which the cosmos can be built up by pure deduction. There is no logical path to these laws; only intuition, resting on sympathetic understanding of experience, can reach them."
He was engulfed by a profound sense of universal connectedness — an epiphany. In Mitchell's own words: "The presence of divinity became almost palpable, and I knew that life in the universe was not just an accident based on random processes. . . . The knowledge came to me directly."
1973 BS Electrical Engineering
- Music & Physics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
1975 Masters Electrical Engineering
- University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana
  - Cybernetics & biological control systems
1979 PhD Psychology
- University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana
  - Computer-based cognitive modeling
STAR GATE, SUN STREAK, GRILL FLAME, CENTER LANE, SCANATE

Remote Viewing

Mind–matter interaction

Precognition
Consciousness and the Stubborn Illusion of Separation
Craik-Cornsweet illusion
We don’t see what is actually out there.

We see what we expect to see.

What drives expectations?

Expectations are driven by common sense and by authority

“....the day-fly as it is called, uses four feet and four wings ...”

Jan Swammerdam (1637–1680) finally corrected Aristotle

Longest-lasting mistake in scientific history

6 feet and 2 wings!
Separation is a stubborn illusion
Mind is not identical to brain.
Consciousness is both local and nonlocal
Some “superpowers” are real.

Superpowers?

- Superstitious nonsense!
- No, it’s all real!

Illusion
Delusion
Wishful thinking
Cognitive biases
Coincidence
Fraud
Western sciences ~ 500 years old
psychic phenomena = impossible nonsense
Violates the Laws of Science

Mainstream Western scientific opinion accurately reflected in education
17,500 institutions of higher learning, 99.5% have not a single faculty member known for an interest in this area
But at least 99.5% of the population is intrigued by these topics

What’s wrong with this picture?

alchemist
tried to contact the dead
attended séances
Science and the taboo of psi

1,209 Google Tech Talks as of February 3, 2010

#1 most discussed
#18 most viewed
#50 highest rated

Science as “nothing but”-ism.

Mind = Brain = physical object

Western Model of Mind

Science as “nothing but”-ism.
“machines made of meat”
– Marvin Minsky, AI pioneer

Everything Is Pointless

6 drugs = $11 billion per year

The Washington Post

Depression and The Recession: Cymbalta Sales Are on the Rise

Half of the adult population in the USA

BBC NEWS

Antidepressant prescribing soars

Number of Prescriptions Written in UK for Antidepressants Nearly Equals Entire Population
Eastern “mental sciences” > 3,000 years old psychic phenomena = expected

Vibhuti Pada III: Union Achieved and its Results

Moving the consciousness from many-pointedness to one-pointedness results in transformations which …allow the Yogi to …

… comprehend past, present and future as an integrated whole…

…perceive another’s persons mind …

Catholic charisms

- **The Word of Knowledge** (1Cor.12:8):
  - Specific knowledge about a person or situation that could not be known otherwise...

- **Gifts of Healing** (1Cor.12:9):
  - By laying on hands …

- **Working of Miracles** (1Cor.12:10):
  - Power over nature …

- **Prophecy** (1Cor.12:10)
Common sense Awareness bound by space and time Intention localized

Macroscopic world Objects separated in space and time Local forces

Microscopic world < 10^{-12} Objects connected through space & time
Time symmetry Observation ~ influence

Awareness unbound by space or time Intention / observation are nonlocal

Holoworld < 10^{-35} No objects No matter, No energy No time, No space Purely relational

Neti Neti

Atman = Brahman?

Newsweek

Why We Believe
Belief in the paranormal reflects normal brain activity carried to an extreme.

By Sharon Begley | NEWSWEEK
Published Oct 25, 2010
From the special issue: Mind! Nov 5

If you take the word "normal" as superstitious and those who believe in the paranormal were to reveal their secrets, the results would be extraordinary. But a

no empirical evidence

unable to replicate these results

Psychology Today

Blog
Brain, Mind, and Spirit
Can We Really Read Each Other’s Minds?

The belief in telepathy is deeply ingrained in the consciousness of millions of people. They believe that their thoughts can be transmitted through the air, and that others can read them.

Professors of parapsychology argue that this belief is supported by the results of experiments in the laboratory. They claim that experiments cannot prove the existence of telepathy, but a
Rule #1: Human performance varies

Rule #2: Experimental results vary

Rule #3: Small effects can have big consequences
Rule #4: Some extraordinary experiences have ordinary explanations

- Selective memory
- False memory
- Coincidence
- Misperception
- Embellishment
- Wishful thinking
- Mental illness

Objects are not as separate as they seem.

Including the objects we call minds.
Experimental Investigations of Telepathy

- Harvard University
- Duke University
- City College, City University of New York
- University of California, Los Angeles
- McGill University, Montreal
- University of Leningrad
- Cambridge University
- University of Amsterdam
- University of Göteborg, Sweden
- Cornell University
- University of Edinburgh, Scotland
- Stanford University
122 published experiments

Cumulative Results as of 2008  122 experiments, 20 labs, 4,674 sessions

Odds against chance = 300 trillion quadrillion to 1
p = 3 x 10^{-30}

Alternative explanations

- sensory leakage
- recording mistakes
- randomization problems
- poor design
- selective reporting
- subject fraud
- experimenter fraud
- skeptical replications?
“After eight studies, we had an overall [statistically significant] hit rate of 32% …”

“…precariously close to demonstrating humans do have psychic powers.”
$r = .20, p = 0.0005$

Mario Kittenis et al, University of Edinburgh, 2004

Leanna Standish et al, Bastyr University
fMRI image of receiver’s brain

p < 0.00007

Alternative Therapies, 2001

fMRI image of receiver’s brain

p < 0.000005

Journal of Alternative & Complementary Medicine, 2005

Duane TD, Behrendt T. Extrasensory electroencephalographic induction between identical twins. *Science* 1965


SCL all data (40 couples)

Odds against chance > 30,000 to one
Telepathy?

120 years of repeatable, controlled scientific evidence: *Mind to mind communication exists beyond a reasonable doubt.*

*Patanjali was correct!*

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### Does telepathic information need to be “sent” by someone?

**Can this be understood as a form of “mental radio”?**

**No**
(US government) Expert Remote Viewer

Windmill Farm

Perception through time
Mind–matter interaction
Towards an understanding of these phenomena
Thank you for your kind attention