Consciousness, Creativity, & Healing: Social Applications

Larry Dossey, MD

“The Healing Revolution – From Science to Social Impact”

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## Faculty Disclosure

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The question of survival

“It has been wisely said that the question of a life after death is the most important question that a scientist — or anyone — can ask.”

~ Ian Stevenson, MD

psychiatrist, U. Virginia

“The major problem of our time is the decay of belief in personal immortality.”
— George Orwell

The importance of a belief in personal immortality

“The decisive question for man is: Is he related to something infinite or not? That is the telling question of his life.”

~ C. G. Jung

Memories, Dreams, Reflections

1875-1961
“A man should be able to say he has done his best to form a conception of life after death, or to create some image of it — even if he must confess his failure. Not to have done so is a vital loss.”

~ C. G. Jung
“As a doctor, I make every effort to strengthen the belief in immortality.”

~ C. G. Jung

1875-1961
Soul:
the spiritual or immaterial part of a human being or animal, regarded as immortal.
Approaches to the soul and immortality

- religion, scripture, faith, revelation
- mediums
- near-death experiences
- memories of previous lives
- consciousness research

Alex Gray, Praying
The fear of total annihilation with death has caused more suffering in human history than all the physical diseases combined.
THE DENIAL OF DEATH

Pulitzer Prize Winner

Ernest Beckett

1974
“I don’t want to achieve immortality through my work; I want to achieve immortality through not dying. I don’t want to live on in the hearts of my countrymen; I want to live on in my apartment.”

~ Woody Allen
“Millions long for immortality who don’t know what to do on a rainy afternoon.”

~ Susan Ertz
British novelist
"Everybody wants to go to Heaven but nobody wants to die."

~ Albert King
blues guitarist & vocalist

1923-1992
“Soul” is prohibited in conventional science:

Mind equals brain.

You are your body, nothing more.

When your body dies, all that is “you” dies with it.

Nothing survives.
“[A] person’s mental activities are entirely due to the behavior of nerve cells, glial cells, and the atoms, ions, and molecules that make up and influence them.”

~ Sir Francis Crick

neurophysiologist
Nobel Prize, 1962

Conventional science insists that

= consciousness

...in spite of the fact that no human being has ever observed consciousness being produced by the brain, or by anything else.
“I regard the brain as a computer which will stop working when its components fail. There is no heaven or afterlife for broken-down computers; that is a fairy story for people afraid of the dark.”

~ Stephen Hawking


Stephen Hawking
cosmologist
Cambridge University

Photo: http://peoplesgeography.com/2009/04/22/stephen-hawking-on-palestine/
Conventional science:

“The brain is just a computer made of meat.”

— Marvin Minsky

Artificial Intelligence Lab
MIT

1927-2016
Conventional science:

“Thinking is just the meat talking to itself. It’s generated by the brain and when we die, unfortunately that dies with us. We can state that categorically.”

— Karen Stollznow, PhD linguist

Stollznow K. Quoted in: Will Stor, Postcards from the edge. Good Weekend Magazine, The Age (Melbourne newspaper)
Conventional science:
There is no direction, purpose, or meaning in the universe.
Conventional science:

“We humans are just crumbs of organic matter clinging to the surface of one tiny rock. Cosmically, we are no more significant than mold on a shower curtain.”

~ David Lindley
astrophysicist

Conventional science:

“The more the universe seems comprehensible, the more it also seems pointless.”

~ Steven Weinberg
Nobelist, physics, 1979
“We’re all zombies. Nobody is conscious.”

~ Daniel Dennett

philosopher, Tufts University

Conventional science:

“When we consider whether free will is an illusion or reality, we are looking into an abyss. What seems to confront us is a plunge into nihilism and despair.”

~ Daniel Dennett
philosopher, Tufts University
Conventional science:

“When I die I shall rot, and nothing of my ego shall remain.”

~ Lord Bertrand Russell
mathematician, philosopher

1872-1970
How do we justify a belief in immortality and the soul, in an age in which this possibility is denied in science?
We can make a case for immortality and the soul if we can establish that

- consciousness is fundamental
- consciousness is nonlocal or infinite in space and time
Consciousness as fundamental

“I regard consciousness as fundamental. I regard matter as derivative from consciousness. We cannot get behind consciousness. Everything that we talk about, everything that we regard as existing, postulates consciousness.”

~ Max Planck
Nobelist, physics, 1918
the founder of quantum physics

Max Planck. *The Observer.* London, UK; January 29, 1931
“There are good reasons to assume that our consciousness does not always coincide with the functioning of our brain: enhanced or non-local consciousness can sometimes be experienced separately from the body.”

~ Pim van Lommel, MD
Dutch cardiologist, NDE researcher

Nonlocal or infinite mind

Infinite: without boundaries, therefore unitary and one

Infinite in space: omnipresent

Infinite in time: eternal, immortal
the nonlocal, unitary, unbounded aspects of the mind: the collective conscious/unconscious

Carl G. Jung
1875-1961
“This becoming one instead of two [is] the very expression of humanity’s need. And the reason is that human nature was originally One and we were a whole, and the desire and pursuit of the whole is called love.”

~ Plato

“[T]he borders of our minds are ever shifting, and ... many minds can flow into one another... and create or reveal a single mind, a single energy.... [T]he borders of our memories are ... shifting, and ... our memories are part of one great memory....”

~ William Butler Yeats

1865-1939

“There is one mind common to all individual men.. [a] universal mind....”

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson
essayist, philosopher

1803-1882
The Over-soul is “that unity... within which every man’s particular being is contained and made one with all other ....[W]ithin man is the soul of the whole...the eternal ONE.”

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

essayist, philosopher
WHAT IS CONSCIOUSNESS?
THREE SAGES LOOK BEHIND THE VEIL

ERVIN LASZLO, JEAN HOUSTON & LARRY DOSSEY
KINGSLEY L. DENNIS, EDITOR
FOREWORD BY STANLEY KRIPPNER

A NEW PARADIGM BOOK
Is consciousness nonlocal with respect to space?
Is it omnipresent?
Does distance matter?
Evidence shows that humans are nonlocally connected at a distance.
Telesomatic events

“Telesomatic”
from the Latin, “distant body”
Telesomatic events

the simultaneous experience of physical or psychological events by distant individuals

hundreds of reported cases

Berthold Schwarz, MD
neurologist
1924-2010

Ian Stevenson, MD
U. Virginia, psychiatrist
1918-2007
Telesomatic events

Ian Stevenson, MD
psychiatrist, U. Virginia

1918-2007

Telesomatic events

Silvia and Marta Landa — 4-year old identical twins in northern Spain, 1976

When one twin touched a hot iron and a blister formed, an identical blister in the same location formed on her sister’s hand, several miles away.

Telesomatic events are frequent in around 20 percent of identical twins.
Telesomatic events usually occur in twins who are emotionally close... who *enjoy* being twins.
Telesomatic events usually occur in twins who are emotionally close... who *enjoy* being twins.
Telesomatic events most commonly occur in non-twins who are emotionally close:

- parents/children
- spouses
- siblings
- lovers
Barbara Montgomery Dossey, PhD, RN, FAAN, HWNC-BC

Barbie & Bo, 18 mos.
Nonlocal events are not just mental. They are profoundly physical as well.
A dozen experiments demonstrate that when one brain is stimulated, a distant brain responds in the same way at the same time.


Photo: http://www.lps.uci.edu/files/imagecache/155x175_scale_crop/socsci/profiles/photos/ddhoff_117265.jpg
Cell-to-Cell Connections
between isolated, distant, shielded human neurons

When one group of human neurons or neural stem cells is stimulated with laser light, a distant group of neurons registers the same changes, although both are shielded, bypassing any known form of physical communication.

~ Rita Pizzi and colleagues
DiBit Laboratories, University of Milan, Italy

“[O]ur experimental data seem to strongly suggest that biological systems present non-local properties not explainable by classical models.”

Rita Pizzi, PhD
University of Milan

The Smithsonian/NASA Astrophysics Data System
http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2004SPIE.5436..107P

Photos: http://www.123people.it/z/rita+pizzi
and: http://www.nasa.gov
Cell-to-Cell Connections
between isolated, distant cells

When an “inducer” group of human epithelial cells were poisoned with hydrogen peroxide, a distant batch of “detector” cells were damaged in a similar way, although there was no way they could communicate by any known physical means.

~ Ashkan Farhadi and colleagues
Rush University Medical Center, Chicago

Neuroblastoma cancer cells have been shown to communicate with normal neurons, when both are shielded, preventing any known means of communication.

~ Victor V. Chaban et al
Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA


Photo: http://www.uib.no/rg/tsg/projects/selheim-group/quantitative-proteomic-analysis
An alternative view of the mind-brain relationship: the brain as filter

“We are conscious not because of the brain, but in spite of it.”

~ David Darling, astrophysicist

Soul Search
“[E]ach one of us is potentially Mind at Large. But in so far as we are animals, our business at all costs is to survive. To make biological survival possible, Mind at Large has to be funneled through the reducing valve of the brain and nervous system.”

~ Aldous Huxley

*The Doors of Perception*
“What comes out at the other end is a measly trickle of the kind of consciousness which will help us to stay alive on the surface of this particular planet.”

~ Aldous Huxley

*The Doors of Perception*
The goal of spiritual and metaphysical systems throughout human history has been to unblock the filter, thereby increasing the perception of “the way things are.”
Implications of a collective consciousness and a variable filter for creativity
A collective consciousness with which each individual is connected suggests a pool of intelligence that might be tapped by creative individuals.
“There is one mind common to all individual men.... What Plato has thought, he may think; what a saint has felt, he may feel; what at any time has befallen any man, he can understand. Who hath access to this universal mind is a party to all that is or can be done....”

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

_Essays: First Series_  
1803-1882
On creative geniuses in science:

“[T]heir virtual unanimous emphasis on spontaneous intuitions, unconscious guidance, and sudden leaps of imagination which they are at a loss to explain, suggests that the role of strictly rational thought processes in scientific discovery has been vastly over-estimated.”

~ Arthur Koestler
The Act of Creation

Is the lone genius really alone?
“[In any great discovery] we find the often disturbing and happy experience: ‘It is not I; I have not done this.’ Still, in a certain way it is I — yet not the ego ... but...a more comprehensive self.”

~ Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker
physicist

"People say I have created things. I have never created anything. I get impressions from the Universe at large and work them out, but I am only a plate on a record or a receiving apparatus.... Thoughts are really impressions that we get from outside."

~ Thomas Alva Edison

Creativity in the arts

“To call individuals such as...Mozart, a Michelangelo, or a Shakespeare ... ‘gifted’ and their achievements ‘works of genius’ is not to explain their abilities, but only to label them.”

~ Ervin Laszlo

concert pianist, systems theorist, author
“We raise the possibility that the minds of exceptionally creative people would be in spontaneous, direct, though not necessarily conscious, interaction with other minds within the creative process itself.”

~ Ervin Laszlo

concert pianist, systems theorist, author
Some acts of creativity, particularly when sudden and unexpected, “are not due to a spontaneous and largely unexplained stroke of genius, but to the elaboration of an idea or a pattern in two or more minds in interaction.”

~ Ervin Laszlo
concert pianist, systems theorist, author
“Art has shown that universal expression can only be created by a real equation of the universal and the individual... [The artist’s] position is humble. He is merely a channel.”

~ Piet Mondrian
artist

1872-1944

“[The creator] has to give up holding on to himself as a thing.... He transcends the boundaries of his own person, and at the very moment when he feels ‘I am’ he also feels ‘I am you.’ I am one with the whole world.”

~ Erich Fromm
psychologist

1900-1980

“My symphony will be something that the world has never heard before! ...I tell you, at certain places in the score, a quite uncanny feeling takes possession of me, and I feel as if I had not created this myself.”

~ Gustav Mahler
composer

1860-1911

(in a letter to a friend about his Third Symphony, 1896)
D: “In the movie *Amadeus*, was Mozart authentic?”

H: “No. That wasn’t Mozart.”

D: “How do you know?”

H: “Because when I play Mozart, I *become* Mozart. And that was not Mozart.”

~ Lorin Hollander
concert pianist
When developmental psychologist Joseph Chilton Pearce was in his early 30s, teaching humanities in a college, he was engrossed with nature of the God-human relationship and the psychology of Carl Jung. He was “obsessed” with the topic, and his reading on the subject was extensive. As he was preparing for an early class, his five-year-old son came into his bedroom, sat on the edge of his bed, and launched into a 20-minute discussion on the nature of God and man.
“He spoke in perfect, publishable sentences, without pause or haste, and in a flat monotone. He used complex theological terminology and told me, it seemed, everything there was to know. As I listened, astonished, the hair rose on my neck; I felt goose bumps, and, finally, tears streamed down my face. I was in the midst of the uncanny, the inexplicable. My son’s ride to kindergarten arrived, horn blowing, and he got up and left. I was unnerved and arrived late to my class....My son had no recollection of the event.”

Joseph Chilton Pearce
Evolution’s End
HEALING

Healing, like creativity, often involves minds that are in connection.
“Miracles”

Artist: Alex Gray
http://alexgrey.com/art/books/sacred-mirrors/
The polite term for miracles is “spontaneous healing.”
We trivialize “miracle.”
“Miracle” — from the Latin verb *mirari*, to wonder or marvel

Miracle — that which provokes awe or wonder
“Miracles do not happen in contradiction to nature, but only in contradiction to that which is known to us in nature.”

~ St. Augustine

4th century CE

St. Augustine, Against Faustus the Manichee, Book 29, Chapter 2.
C. Hirshberg & B. O’Regan

Spontaneous Remission: An Annotated Bibliography

- 3,500 cases
- 800 journals
- 20 languages

Institute of Noetic Sciences; 1993
C. Hirshberg & M. I. Barasch

Remarkable Recovery

What Extraordinary Healings Tell Us About Getting Well and Staying Well

Foreword by Larry Dossey, M.D.

Caryle Hirshberg & Marc Ian Barasch

Caryle Hirshberg

Marc Ian Barasch
Frontiers of healing: Dreams of illness

“The Sleeping Gypsy”
Henri Rousseau
“Biopsy where she points....”
In 1989, her deceased father appeared in a dream shouting that she had breast cancer as the cause of nagging breast pain. A further dream showed her the precise location. A biopsy at that location confirmed breast cancer.

Following mastectomy and chemo she is a 24-yr. survivor.
She has reported on 18 women from a support group at the Charles Wood Cancer Center in Glen Falls, NY, all of whom had precognitive dreams of their breast cancers that featured warning visits, often from deceased family members or white-coated doctors.
“Perhaps the most paradigm-shifting aspect of the warning dream phenomenon was their ability to localize the exact site of the tumor in the correct breast.”

“However, we have no idea about the sensitivity, specificity and accuracy of warning dreams, since it has not been scientifically studied.”

~ Larry Burk, MD

Larry Burk, Warning dreams preceding the diagnosis of breast cancer: a survey of the most important characteristics. Explore. 2015; 11(3): 193-198. Also: Let Magic Happen: Adventures in Healing with a Holistic Radiologist, Ch. 9
Nurses commonly report premonitions

“In her dream, a young pediatric nurse answered the phone at the nurses’ station and was told to go to the lobby where a gravely ill patient was being admitted. She went down to find a little boy in blue, pink, and white pajamas… [S]he knew he would die from cancer the next day. The boy came gratefully into her arms….

“At the hospital [the next morning], she told her supervisor about her dream. Then the phone rang, and her dream began to unfold. The child was in the lobby, dressed in the blue, pink, and white pajamas. He came into her arms, and by the next day, he was dead.”

Doctors and premonitions

“I get numbers in my dreams.... I see the results of my patients’ lab tests before I order them.”
Larger lessons of the collective, unitary, nonlocal One Mind
“[We are] Peeping Toms at the keyhole of eternity. But at least we can try to take the stuffing out of the keyhole, which blocks even our limited view.”

~ Arthur Koestler
1905-1983

If we remove the stuffing from the keyhole — if we unblock the filter — what do we experience?
We experience our nonlocal mind
Conclusion: A plea for open inquiry

“It is the responsibility of scientists never to suppress knowledge, no matter how awkward that knowledge is, no matter how it may bother those in power. We are not smart enough to decide which pieces of knowledge are permissible and which are not....”

~ CARL SAGAN
astronomer

UCLA Commencement Speech, June 1991

1934-1996
thank you
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