

Intelligence is the ability to respond to changes in the environment. Individual animals and humans show consistent patterns of brain wave electrical activity when responding to changes in their environment. Even plants that are hooked up to EEGs, show consistent patterns in response to changes in their environment. The Global Consciousness Project is looking for consistent patterns on a planetary scale.



EKGs

Michael Knight

in a Global Basket

By Wm.

For decades the subject of human consciousness has intrigued scientists. Some research focuses on the hypothesis that consciousness arises from neuronal activity and is to be found in the brain itself. This is yet to be proven.

A strikingly different approach has been adopted by an international group of scientists and volunteers involved in The Global Consciousness Project (GCP). They are using the “language” of chaos (“random white noise”) to test whether there is statistical evidence to support the hypothesis that humanity itself has a global consciousness. In other words, is there evidence that our consciousness as a species is connected in some measurable manner?

To do so, they have established a network of what they refer to as EKGs — explained quite delightfully in the accompanying article contributed by Dr. Roger Nelson of Princeton, New Jersey. It is the first in a series which for the first time offers the wider public an insight into a unique attempt to test an intriguing hypothesis aimed at finding evidence of such a global connection of human minds.

The group has spent several years gathering and analyzing data according to rigorous scientific protocols, and has found “strong” and “significant” evidence that certain events have a worldwide impact that can be measured as a “spike” on a graph. Nevertheless, they reiterate that “we do not know whether there is a global consciousness.” [emphasis added]

The *Golden Thread* is a vehicle for expanding the mind through its focus on the emerging proofs in science, and quantum mechanics in particular, that “consciousness and energy create the nature of reality” — a phrase coined by Ramtha and abbreviated by his RSE students as $C + E = R$.

Ramtha teaches that the quantum field responds to thought, and says proof of this is to be found in the double-slit experiment in which photons respond to the expectations of the Observer. He has also taught that lofty thought affects consciousness everywhere, that all things that have life have intelligence, and that even the planet has a consciousness and evolutionary path.

Ramtha has often said that modern science is in the process of researching, uncovering, and revealing knowledge which has been the basis of ancient wisdom. In doing so, scientists are enabling humanity to move toward an age of superconsciousness in which the role of the mind, and its influence on all aspects of life, will finally be understood.



The *Golden Thread* has published previous articles on research currently being undertaken by various scientists intrigued by the subject of consciousness but does not suggest that this research necessarily validates what Ramtha has taught. Nor does the magazine suggest that the scientists conducting such research would agree with what Ramtha teaches, though they might find it intriguing food for thought.

In agreeing to contribute this series of articles, Dr. Nelson said, "It sounds like you may have an intelligent audience that will respect the tentative nature of any conclusion, who will not necessarily overinterpret."

EVIDENCE OF GLOBAL MIND

by Roger Nelson

"Someday after mastering winds, waves, tides and gravity, we shall harness the energies of love, and then, for the second time in the history of the world, man will discover fire."

— Teilhard de Chardin (1)

There are times when we share with others a special, fully interconnected consciousness. When great music thrills us, or we are mutually inspired by an awesome sunset, or when we fall in love, we are transported temporarily into a shared world which is remarkable.

This state of true intermingling is rare,

for most of us, but it is experiential, and that means we know it for what it is; we feel it immediately as real and filled with meaning. When such an experience is past and we return to our normal, separated perceptions, the experience becomes a vulnerable memory, and our educated personality may reject the consciousness that knew this deeper connection.

Yet, the suspicion remains that there is something of mind that is not just inside our heads. We feel interconnected with each other and the world in a profound and important way. We know at some level that we are not isolated, but interdependent, so that a subtle energy of mine can reach out and mingle with yours, allowing us to share a moment that is important to both of us.

If we think of this potential extending beyond the two of us to a world full of living beings, we have the foundation for a model for global consciousness. Maybe, as Teilhard de Chardin believed (2), the world ultimately needs that shared consciousness and is actively growing toward it.

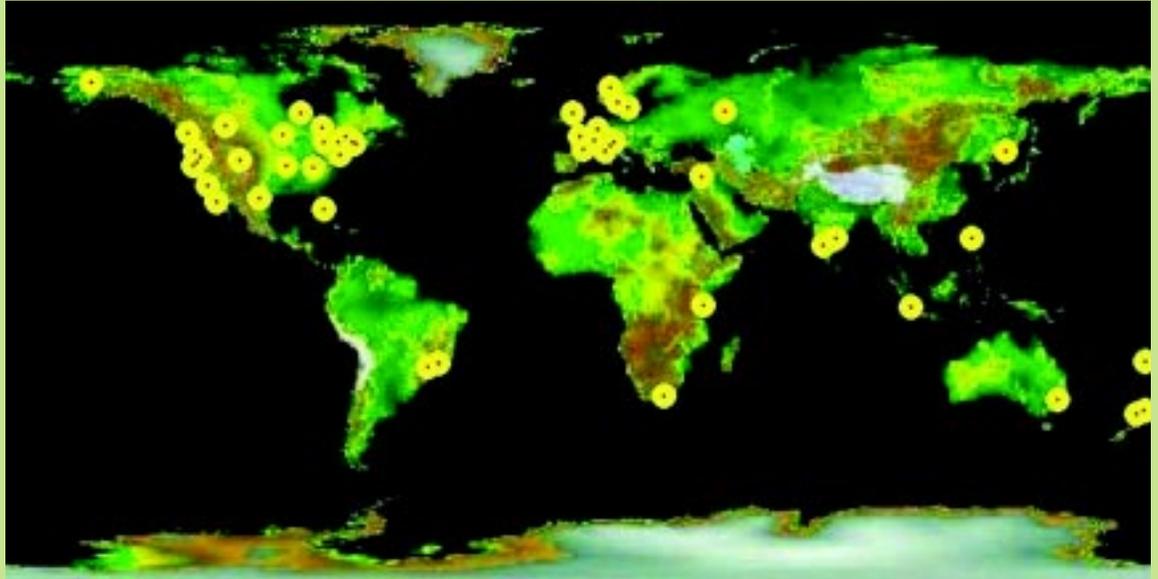
The research described here points to subtle indications that we do live in an interconnected, potentially conscious world, in which we surely play an important role. We have shown immense capacities for both destructive and creative impact, and this implies that the future is ours to mold. It will be a desirable future in proportion to our level of consciousness, individually and globally.

THE GLOBAL CONSCIOUSNESS PROJECT

The Global Consciousness Project (GCP), which is also called the EGG project, referring to its network of detectors, is, simply put, an effort to detect signs of a coalescing global consciousness. The project emerges out of scientific efforts to study direct effects of consciousness on physical systems (3).

The possibility that mind can be instrumental in the world is an idea with a turbulent history. Once, most of us believed that our thoughts had power, and at some level, despite the influence of a modern science that is pretty hostile to the idea of mind affecting the world, most of us still do.

We only need to look at the prevalence of prayer or our foolish, but invincibly persistent willingness to gamble against the odds in casinos or at the lotto vendors. This is literally wishful thinking, and in one form or another, most of us indulge in it



The Global Consciousness Project uses data-recording Random Event Generators (REGs) that feed thousands of bits of information per second to a central computer. Analogous to an electroencephalograph measuring signals in the brain, the network is referred to as an "EGG" (for "Electro-Gaia-Graph"). Analysis has shown that events such as the 9/11 attack on America have created deviations in the data.

Courtesy of the Global Consciousness Project.
<http://noosphere.princeton.edu>

purposefully, despite intellectual convictions that mind cannot influence matters in the real world.

The notion of an influential mind was dealt a devastating series of blows by the successes of materialistic science. Descartes said mind was the only directly experienced truth, but that it was, on the other hand, completely and forever isolated, separate from matter. We might believe we could share with each other an identical emotion caused by watching a child or listening to music, but such beliefs about experience could never be tested, measured, quantified, and we knew from the teachings of successful scientists that nothing is real that is not objective. Yet, at some level we are always aware of the deeper meanings and the real importance of personal experiences. We recall our childhood understanding that a stone or a tree or a river could be alive and share our experiences in a richly organic and anthropomorphic world. And we do find ourselves wondering about all the coincidences.

MEANINGFUL MEETINGS

The first direct prototype of the GCP came about "by chance" when I met Jim Fournier and Juliana Balistreri in 1996 at Esalen. They were promoting the globally organized Gaiamind meditation and I was thinking deeply about a network to detect glimmerings of global consciousness. I went on to organize a collaboration to collect "consciousness field" data during the Gaiamind event, and it showed a significant effect (4).

This work was a prelude for our attempt to register effects of the worldwide expression of compassion at Princess

Diana's funeral in September of 1997, which, coincidentally, was followed exactly a week later by the ceremonies for Mother Teresa. These were obviously prototypical global events (5). Analysis of the data collected from a dozen randomness detectors in Europe and the U.S. during Diana's funeral ceremonies showed an anomalous "... effect that would happen by chance only once in 100 repetitions of the remarkable circumstances." Together with the Gaiamind results, this began to look like a truly global effect of consciousness — like a global mind's inchoate thoughts.

Shortly thereafter, forces that were to be essential to the development of the Global Consciousness Project gathered in Freiburg, Germany, in late November of 1997, but it was for another purpose, a conference I had begun planning a year earlier on psychophysiology and psi. Dick Bierman was there, and Dean Radin, and Marilyn Schlitz, and Jim Wackermann, all in some way important to the EGG project. Indeed, the concept was vitalized when Dick and Dean and I were talking during a break about the complexities of physiological measures and the curiosities of nonlocal psi and possible fields of group consciousness. Dean whimsically put the odd bits of our casual conversation together as an image of a world electroencephalograph (EEG), and the EGG was practically hatched. Was this gathering of people, and the juncture of topics just a coincidence, or was there perhaps a field, an attractor, drawing together the pieces of a purposeful project?

Certainly it is hard to credit mere chance with the "coincidence" that Greg Nelson, my son, had the interest and the

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skills, and — through a most unlikely combination of circumstances — the time to create the exquisitely sophisticated framework of software for the project just when the need arose. The EGG is Greg’s delightful, richly metaphoric alternate name for the project. It means Electrogaigram, a play on electroencephalogram, and reflects similarities to the EEG technology used to record brain waves. “Of course, we are not measuring electrical changes, but something more subtle. In any case, the name stuck, not least because the idea of an egg has extraordinarily diverse metaphoric linkages. Our more formal, public name, Global Consciousness Project, or GCP, came later.

The synchronistic links that ensured I would meet John Walker, the other main protagonist in the development of software for the EGG network and Web site, are yet more remarkable. While I was searching the Web in the Spring of 1998 for beautiful pictures of the earth to enhance the GCP Web-site-to-be, I accidentally met John, by rediscovering the Retrocognitive Psychokinesis experiment on his richly diverse fourmilab.ch Web site (6). This was another essential link, bringing refinements and new aspects that enabled and enriched the growing EGG, and it is hard for me to think it was just a chance connection.

CONVERGING CONTEXTS

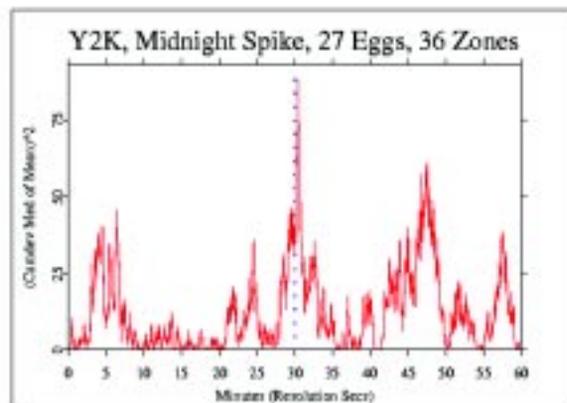
Three major threads of context were crucial in shaping the GCP. One is the history of research on consciousness and the development of measures that seem to capture direct effects of intention and group states of mind in an objective, scientific medium.

Over the last few decades, technologically and scientifically sophisticated experimental work has produced incontrovertible evidence for effects of consciousness on physical systems, and evidence for anomalous interpersonal communication and acquisition of information about distant events (7, 8). This research indicates a subtle but pervasive, nonlocal interconnection that is manifested by mind and consciousness (9), and the findings seem consonant with the second thread, namely, ideas like those expressed so beautifully by Teilhard de Chardin on humanity’s purpose. He argued that we were to be the source and substance of a noosphere, a layer of intelligence for the earth (2, 10).

Combining these suggestions, we are led naturally to the idea of measuring effects of a possible global consciousness, and motivated to hypothesize that there might be detectable signs of a consciousness field representing a coalescing interconnection of minds. In a sense, this represents an exaggerated but testable form of a question asked by thoughtful people in modern efforts to address consciousness in psychology and philosophy (11). It is the hard question: Is there something beyond the movement of molecules? Are mind and consciousness in a special realm that must be understood from a wider perspective than the physical, which we have learned to measure so well?

The third element of contextual shap-

ing for the EGG project is the extremely rapid emergence of our new, but already immensely powerful electronic interconnectivity via the Internet. Not only is the Web a lively, growing, practically organic entity in itself — with considerable similarity in many respects to Teilhard’s noosphere — it is a vehicle which, by way of some elegant software, enables real-time sampling of a possible consciousness field. The result is a unique opportunity that is only possible now in the most recent moments of our history, to “measure” the



Courtesy of
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subtle effects of our hypothesized global consciousness.

Teilhard warned that we should not be impatient, that his noosphere would develop over perhaps 10,000 years, but, remarkably enough, we can ask now whether there might be faint glimmerings of that integrated intelligence already beginning to show. That is the goal of the GCP/EGG project: to try to register the subtle first sparks of consciousness in a global mind.

This is the first in a series of articles by Dr. Nelson about the Global Consciousness Project. The GCP is a voluntary collaborative effort between scientists and interested people worldwide. It is not funded by the institutions at which its organizers and directors are employed, nor should its research data be cited as "proof" of global consciousness — although it may be seen as "evidence" for a hypothesis that may be yielding to scientific analysis. The main repository for documentation and the primary communication interface for the project is a deep and comprehensive Web site at:

<http://noosphere.princeton.edu>.



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Roger Nelson

GCP/EGG email update 15 March 2002

The EGG project is healthy and doing fine, growing just a little in physical scope, and perhaps a bit more in the confidence we can have in the solidity of our premises. There is always a flow of interesting work, which sometimes seems like a flood. Early today, we finished a long and demanding period of analysis and writing for a compact presentation of the data from September 11 in a "Letter" to *Nature*, a major journal. It has been submitted, and we hope the editors will agree that the information should be published for a broad audience of scientific professionals.

We do have a remarkable phenomenon to consider. The correlated structures in the data are not just chance fluctuations, but we can find no physical mechanism to explain them. Many of us are comfortable, to a degree, with the dramatic but essentially metaphoric interpretation that the GCP network is displaying nonlocal effects or influences from a large-scale "global consciousness." That may be correct in some sense, and yet, we would like to understand better how the correlations arise and what their extended implications might be. In any case, it will be good to have comments and ideas from others, especially people who are capable and open-minded, but who do not have prior experience with this work.

The EGG network has grown a little larger, broadening our reach. Jammy Xie in Shanghai, China, and Sergey Medvedev in Moscow, Russia are the most recent hosts to come online. Oleg Avchenko, in Vladivostok, Russia, is working to resolve a problem with opening a firewall to communication with the GCP server. We would welcome advice from an expert — especially someone who speaks Russian!

Once again, we made a prediction for the opening of the Olympic games, since that provides a moment of strong focus for people from everywhere in the world. Despite the background of disappointing, scandalous behavior on the part of some high-ranking officials, the opening ceremonies were beautiful and engaging. The GCP

"THE EGG NETWORK HAS GROWN A LITTLE LARGER, BROADENING OUR REACH!"

network responded with a lovely positive trend. Of course, to be scientifically "correct," I should say simply that the data show a trend — but personally, I feel we need to shift more toward a recognition of meaning in our scientific work. Unless and until we discover a sensible alternative, I think it is fair to interpret the GCP trends as indicators of our human interconnections. And fair to take some encouragement from those indications.

The possibilities that are implied by a subtle, but effective melding of our separate selves into a larger consciousness are great. And it seems imperative that something like this begin to occur, for we see signs all around us that we, the human skin of the earth, must begin to care more for ourselves en masse, for the earth as a whole. It becomes increasingly obvious that the scandalous and self-serving behaviors of a few, especially when they are in leadership roles, are threatening our home. It is as if the human skin of the earth has a widespread rash, and several open wounds, all symptoms of an increasingly unhealthy environment. Ironically, we are the creators of that situation, and we have great difficulty accepting our responsibility. Our heritage is self-preservation and tribalism turned into self-aggrandizement and corporate rather than human valuations, but our future quite obviously requires a different course. We will have to become conscious and intentional about remaking our place in the world and we must learn to share its resources equitably. As a revolutionary patriot once said, "We must hang together, or we will surely hang separately!"