



A Tyringham Initiative Symposium

Exploring the Presence of the Sentient Other

Hosted by

Anton J G Bilton

at

Broughton Hall

September 28th - October 1st 2022

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THE TYRINGHAM INITIATIVE - SUMMARY

The Tyringham Initiative (TI) was launched at Tyringham Hall in 2015, as a world-class think-tank for the evolution, expansion and deeper understanding of ‘new-paradigm consciousness’, renowned in its enquiry for exploration, innovation, rigour and integrity.

Through an integration of Science and Spirit, TI could be described as a ‘Mystery School for the New Renaissance’, becoming both the incubator and the propagator for ideas that can enable humanity to confront the systemic challenges of the 21st century – from the ecological and social, to the economic, metaphysical and the spiritual.

Between September 2015 and September 2018, TI hosted and curated eleven seminal events at Tyringham Hall. The house now has a new owner, but TI will continue to operate as a virtual platform, disseminating an expanding archive of cutting edge educational content to a global audience and staging further events and retreats at other locations around the world.



BROUGHTON HALL - BRIEF HISTORY

The 3000-acre Broughton Hall Estate has been the home of the Tempest family since before 1097 and enjoys a rich history stretching back over the Millennium.

The Grade 1 listed Hall dates back to 1597 and combines the work of several architects including the renowned William Atkinson, who was also responsible for the impressive Durham Cathedral. Designed by Andrew Nesfield, the historic formal gardens studded with statues, ponds, parterres and fountains offer a glimpse of 18th century fashion.

The Tempest family are believed to have come to England from Normandy during William the Conqueror's 1066 invasion of England and were given land in the aftermath of the invasion. The Tempests are one of England's oldest recusant Catholic landed gentry families. Roger Tempest, the current custodian of the Broughton Hall Estate is the 32nd Tempest in a recorded line dating from the 11th century.

It has now dedicated itself to the world of transformation, being the UK's leading retreat centre and well-being enterprise, with over 50 companies based in new and restored buildings, a tourism and events business, one of England's most progressive nature recovery programmes (with over 250,000 trees planted in the last two years) and a wide variety of other activities, including 120 available beds and home of the Wyrld Experience.

INTRODUCTION

Anton Bilton

I open this symposium with the statement that it's likely that the reason you have travelled so far to come here is that you entertain the possibility that mind may have come before matter ... and certainly that's my perspective

So why do I host these symposiums?

Why fund the extended state DMT research at Imperial?

Why host a symposium with the title "Exploring the Presence of the Sentient Other."

Well, it all started with a spontaneous mystical experience at the age of 15 when whilst walking to the kitchen ... I was enraptured in a golden pinkish light, time standing still and the presence of what I can only describe now as pure cosmic consciousness, divinity ... God. This energy held me in its blissful embrace and imparted telepathically a personal message.

This unexpected and spontaneous mystical experience sent me on a lifelong quest to reconnect back to that energy, that primal source.

The quest started with a lot of reading on differing religious and esoteric practises, leading through to meditation, salt water deprivation tanks and to a hypnotic regression session that shocked me for its unbelievable sense of reality and then on to work with psychedelics and eventually to my first ayahuasca ceremony in 2005 when I immediately reconnected back to that same universal consciousness/primal source/ loving presence.... God.

I sat in tears of joy that I had at last returned to that experiential feeling that I'd had at 15. I felt as if I had come home ... there was an

overwhelming sense of remembering ... and a sense of merging with blissful source.

And it's this expansion of consciousness and the reigniting of that experiential connection to that source, rather than simply scripture based beliefs, that I feel is so vital for the future evolution of humanity.

To recall the theory of Gerald Heard, whether one's an atheist or an agnostic one has to accept that there's a primal positive creational force driving evolution, we're not going backwards, and we're not going to grow a sixth finger or get taller ... future human evolution will come through an expansion of our consciousness and to become what Chris Bache refers to as "the better humans beings that we can evolve to be", we need to learn how to do this and use all the tools available.

So I now want to throw out various questions on exploring the presence of the sentient other, to provoke your minds in consideration to these mysteries.

How to get there ... how to experience and commune with source?

One has to quell the ego; dismiss the default mode network ... and then drop into pure "witness" to attain communion with source. That can be by meditation, deep prayer and other holistic practises, or through the ingestion of an entheogen that simply and forcibly, quells the ego.

So away goes "the me", the "I am", the "I want to be" and just the observing "witness" remains. Aware, yet without operational motivation or impulse. Tranquil and at peace. Aware, self aware, but without emotion, connection nor motivation. Just being. Witnessing existence without comparisons nor judgements.

Perfect for communion; carrying no baggage, nor conditioning. Open to insight without conditioned judgement. Just Being.

This mechanism always humbles me as it's just pure genius of our creator, whether that be cosmic consciousness, God, aliens or the computer programmer to this virtual realm, to create a communication mechanism that only works when the ego is quelled. When our motivational and possibly destructive forces are quelled - and we are at peace.

But if you are communicating, how does one verify source, that connection to source? How does one distinguish between connection and self-projected imaginings?

Starting with an instinctive, homing-pigeon like desire to reconnect to that intelligence, that source, from birth, I suggest we have a further innate sense that intuitively picks up that on that sentient presence. Whether that's the sense of the numinous in nature, or the sense of the sacred in places of prayer and contemplation, which incidentally, has nothing ever to do with architecture or design but just a feeling, ... or the presence of God in prayer, or the sense of the Other in meditation or, particularly, the shock of sensing the sentient Other whilst on DMT or other psychedelics. Something happens.

It's not just a visual; it's an actual feeling ... a sense ... that the Other is present and acutely sentient. It's an innate knowing. And, without demeaning it, it seems animals have it too, as shown by Rupert Sheldrake's work with dogs.

The word sacred so aptly reflects the feeling I'm referring to. The feeling of sacredness is a sense and it can happen in the material realm and equally in the realm of visions and mind space.

Sometimes this innate sense is known and sometimes it's unknown.

Practised meditators, psychonauts and mystical religious practitioners know what they're experiencing.

Ask yourself, how, in the stillness of a meditation or psychedelic experience, there is the sudden awareness of a sentient presence?

How is it that we recognise it as separate from ourselves?

What's that sensation?

When it's experienced unknowingly, it comes in spontaneous mystical experience, psychosis, schizophrenia, prophetic vision, alien abduction, and NDE's. Just suddenly there's a sensation of someone/something else. One breaks through the matrix and is astonished by what one sees and then articulates it to the best of one's abilities dependent on our cultural conditioning ... one person's angel is another person's fairy; one person's goblin is another person's demon, one person's alien abductor conducting experiments is another person's spirit healer ... historic cultural conditioning paints the picture of the extraordinary ... just like the indigenous South Americans seeing the conquistador knights in shining armour astride horses ... they couldn't comprehend this shiny four legged, two armed beast as anything other than a God from the myths of their culture and acted accordingly.

The point is we have an ability to sense it, although it's not of the material realm. And to any sceptics out there, I used to always say, if you don't believe me about all this then come and have a cup of tea ... a cup of ayahuasca tea. Now with the help of Chris Timmerman and the Imperial team here, I can say "please just be a volunteer to the extended state DMT experiments and see what you experience."

Rick Strassman clearly describes the sentient Other in his book *DMT and the Soul of Prophecy, A new science of spiritual revelation in the Hebrew Bible*, when he uses the Hebrew word *Kavod*. *Kavod* means divine glory - it is the aspect of God that man can experience, as distinguished from the ultimate reality of God. His descriptions entail a sensation of a thick, dry, snowstorm but with no snow.

I have been blessed four times to experience a sensation close to this where it was as if the density of the air thickened and I was on my hands and knees, head bowed to the solid ground, in tearful, awed reverence to an omniscient power that presented itself as such. It felt certainly sentient and ... certainly Other.

So, what do I actually mean by Sentient Other ... what Other?

There seem to be many:

Quantum mechanic sentience and intelligence?

Plant sentience and intelligence?

Species sentience and intelligence?

Spirit sentience and intelligence?

Gaian sentience and intelligence?

Alien sentience and intelligence?

Universal cosmic consciousness sentience and intelligence ...
effectively God.

Perhaps each and every one of them is sentient and intelligent.

Are the entities sentient? I think they are.

Are the angels and demons sentient? Again I think they could be.

Certainly in the form of thought forms.

Or are they just Jungian archetypes and if so then what really is the origin of Jungian archetypes and what are they themselves other than entities of sorts?

But in terms of their realness, then that all depends on one's view on the importance of matter and how one defines reality. I have a view that matter may be the aberration, the pimple on the skin of existence, and that true eternal existence is a realm of consciousness and light. Certainly all the entities I've met are not made of matter as we understand it but seem holographic, as if made of light.

My personal view is that they all exist and we are emanations of cosmic consciousness, the godhead. Here to allow itself to experience the novelties of its creative manifestation in matter, through sharing our personal, non destined, subjective experiences.

But who knows? It's all a great and wonderful mystery. And thank you to our creator for the mystery.

Hopefully these are some of the questions that the presentations in this symposium will attempt to answer.

So let's revert to my purpose: it's my suggestion that whether it be spontaneous mystical experience, prophetic vision, NDE, OBE, severe hallucinatory psychosis, schizophrenic seizure with visions, sound induced visions, plant medicine or psychedelic experience ... everyone is going to the same place, albeit they describe their experiences differently, based on their cultural conditioning.

The probe of my quest with investigations into the DMT world is about seeking scientifically correlated experiences in that alternate reality so as to verify its authenticity, explore its realms and commune with its occupants.

I want to see a resurrection in the use of entheogens as divine sacrament for insights and guidance as the ancient Greeks and Egyptians did before with their Mystery Schools. Possibly even Jesus and the early Christians did too, as we shall all hear from Brian Muraresku on Friday.

For lets not forget, the majority of religions in the world all stemmed from entity contact in one form or another.

Five hundred years ago we experienced an enormous transition from ritual based religion to text based religion. I now feel we are on the cusp of another enormous transition from scripture based religion to experiential religion ... true connection to divinity.

I want to see an emergence of what Rick Strassman terms Theoneurology, bridging biology and spirituality and proposing that the Divine communicates with us using the brain, and DMT, whether naturally produced or exogenously ingested.

Effectively, I want us to marry science with spirituality, as although it's good that so much research is going into psychedelics for use as medicines for mental wellbeing, we also need to focus on metaphysics and consciousness research, as this is our future.

Evolution will come through expansion of our consciousness. As I said earlier, we're not going to get taller or grow a sixth finger. It will all happen through the development of our consciousness...telepathy, shared consciousness communication, remote viewing, clairvoyance, precognition, eureka-moment insight ... and all of you in this room are here because you are open-minded and courageous critical thinkers, not fearful of pushing the boundaries in scientific exploration into these arenas.

Finally, I want to honour five great consciousness explorers: Rick Strassman, whose absolutely pioneering research into the mystery of DMT has been a catalyst for most of the research in that arena happening today. Bill Richards for his statement that true science doesn't sit in consensus but continually probes the frontier of human knowledge, and in exploring entheogens, we are at the frontier of human knowledge. Chris Bache for his courage and erudite observations whilst partaking, alone, in the deepest, most disciplined and longest lasting series of psychedelic journeys that I know of in the world; Roland Griffiths for his incredible work on psychedelics and mysticism and Monica Gagliano for her quests into the intelligence of plants.

For just as her peas instinctively search out the light in the mystery of pure darkness, so we too as pioneering consciousness explorers, instinctively search out in the darkness, for the answer to the mystery of our existence.

I conclude with words from one of the world's most well known lyricists and singers, which I think aptly opens this symposium:

There's a Starman waiting in the sky

He'd like to come and meet us

But he thinks he'd blow our minds

OBJECTIVES OF THE SYMPOSIUM

Exploring the Presence of the Sentient Other – Rory Spowers

Welcome to this the fourth in a series of private symposia held by the Tyringham Initiative and focused on these issues. Our inaugural event - *Entheogenic Plant Sentience* - was held in September 2015 and the ten presentations were subsequently published in 2018 as *DMT Dialogues: Encounters with the Spirit Molecule*. The second symposium - *Exploring Entheogenic Entity Encounters* - was held in May/June 2017 and the ten presentations were also then published in 2021 as *DMT Entity Encounters: Dialogues on the Spirit Molecule*. A third event - *Dialogues with The Other* - was held in September 2018 at the artists Alex and Allyson Grey's home in upstate New York, the Chapel of Sacred Mirrors (CoSM).

All three events were typified by bringing together a truly diverse spectrum of participants, from world-renowned experts in anthropology, ethno-pharmacology and psychedelic research, to quantum physics, neuroscience, theology and the occult. By pursuing this genuinely pluralistic approach, we have always striven to create fertile ground from which new thinking might emerge from the collective wisdom assembled. I often sense that, while many of us feel we stand on the threshold of a 'new paradigm', we often struggle to articulate quite what that looks like – largely because it is still being born and has yet to manifest itself in a concrete entirety, as if the 'emergent property' has yet to crystallize to a critical point.

In these days of what some are calling the ‘meta-crisis’ – a convergence of ecological, economic, political and technological meltdown – cynics and skeptics may look upon such endeavors from the sidelines and question their relevance. However, when we stop to evaluate just how transformative these pursuits might be, in terms of re-framing our entire understanding of ‘consensus reality’, then I think their validity starts to seem irrefutable.

For example, should this sort of exploration and research ultimately prove that Consciousness is primary not secondary – as ancient mystics, non-dualist teachers, idealist philosophers and now many scientists from multiple disciplines suggest – then it is hard to think of anything that could have a more profound and ‘Copernican’ impact on our collective world-view. Is it possible that we are actually ‘within Consciousness’, as opposed to being the personal and material generators of Consciousness? My personal speculation is that biological and planetary survival may well depend on the rate at which human identification with Consciousness shifts from one limited to the three-dimensions of our skulls, to one identified with Totality and the Ground of All Being.

On the altar in the small Theosophical Temple at Tyringham, designed in the 1920s by the famed British architect Sir Edwin Lutyens, there is an inscription: *‘Seek truth but remember that behind all the new knowledge the fundamental issues of life remain veiled.’* This has always struck me as strikingly pertinent to these explorations – not so much indicating that they should not be pursued, but that the answers we seek may remain ineffable.

In this sense, it sometimes feels that we are grappling for some new type of language – one that transcends the polarising black and white divisions so typical of our times. As Zen and Taoist masters have pondered: *'How can one describe the perfume of a rose to someone with no sense of smell?'*

And that being so, I see few other such potentially valuable avenues available to us in such a pursuit, than what we are now collectively assembled to explore together...

'Transcendence is the only real alternative to extinction.

This is serious.

This may be the ultimate final exam.'

Vaclav Havel

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Wednesday 28th Sept

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| 1230 | Arrivals |
| 1300 | Lunch |
| 1400 | <i>Introduction – Anton Bilton</i> |
| 1415 | <i>DMT Extended State Infusion: Experiential Evidence - Alexander Beiner, Dr Carl Hayden-Smith, Dr Jack Alloca</i> |
| 1515 | Break |
| 1530 | <i>At the Far Reaches of Consciousness Exploration: Preliminary Findings of Extended infusions of DMT – Dr Chris Timmerman</i> |
| 1645 | Break |
| 1700 | <i>Psychedelic Molecular (and Post-Molecular) Technologies for Communication with Alien Intelligences – Dr Andrew Gallimore</i> |
| 1930 | Welcome Drinks |
| 2030 | Dinner |

Thursday 29th September

- 0800 – 0845 Breakfast
- 0900 ***Mass Formation and Inter-Dimensional Interference*** – Prof Mattias Desmet
- 1015 Break
- 1030 ***Communicating With The Sentient Other - From Animism and Pantheism to Panpsychism and 'The Technium'*** - Daniel Pinchbeck, Dr Peter Sjostedt-Hughes, Dr Merlin Sheldrake
- 1145 Break
- 1200 ***Devas and Demons; Deities and Dakinis: Sentient Other Communion from the Vedic to Shamanic Traditions*** – Dr Matthew Clark, Dr James Mallinson, Mao Tanka
- 1300 Lunch
- 1400 ***Interspecies Communication: How Can Shamans Talk to Plants and Animals?*** – Dr Ede Frecska
- 1515 Break
- 1530 ***Plant and Animal Entities in Amerindian Indigenous Animism: An Overview*** - Dr Luis Eduardo Luna
- 1645 Break
- 1700 ***The Other's Others: Encounters With Spirit Beings in Amazonian Shamanism*** – Dr Glenn H Shepard Jr
- 1930 Drinks and Dinner

Friday 30th September

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| 0800-0845 | Breakfast |
| 0900 | <i>What Connects Psychedelic, Mystical, Alien Abduction and Near Death Experiences (NDEs)-</i> Dr Pascal Michael, Anna Lutkajtis, Dr Charlotte Martial |
| 1015 | Break |
| 1030 | <i>Esoteric and Alchemical Exploration - PD</i> Newman |
| 1145 | Break |
| 1200 | <i>Transmissions of Alchemical Divinities – Free</i> Frame |
| 1300 | Lunch |
| 1400 | <i>Psychedelic Underworld - Brian C Muraresku</i> |
| 1515 | Break |
| 1530 | <i>Angelic and Astral Entity Intelligence - From</i> <i>Angels and Archons to Machine Elves and Self-</i> <i>Dribbling Basketballs - Lorna Byrne, Dr Rupert</i> Sheldrake, Dr Dennis Mckenna |
| 1645 | Break |
| 1700 | <i>Resonance, Frequency, Sound and Geometry as</i> <i>Tools for Communion with The Divine -</i> Alexandre Tannous |
| 1930 | Drinks and Dinner |

Saturday 1st October

| | |
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| 0800-0845 | Breakfast |
| 0900 | <i>From Archaeology to Pharmacology - The Ancient Quest for Seeking the Sentient Other - Graham Hancock, Brian C Muraresku</i> |
| 1015 | Break |
| 1030 | <i>From Psychedelics to Parapsychology - Dr Jeffrey Mishlove</i> |
| 1145 | Break |
| 1200 | <i>DMT Fieldwork into Entity Encounters & Symposium Synthesis – Dr David Luke</i> |
| 1300 | Lunch |
| 1500-1600 | Departures |

PRESENTATION SPEAKER ABSTRACTS

Wednesday 28th Sept - 1530

At the Far Reaches of Consciousness Exploration: Preliminary findings of extended infusions of DMT – Dr Chris Timmerman

DMT induces highly immersive experiences of visiting alternate dimensions, feeling of disembodiment, and communicating with beings or entities, which tend to shift users' beliefs concerning the nature of reality and may have influenced cosmovisions and worldviews of indigenous cultures in the Amazon. DMT may thus provide significant insights into the mechanisms of human consciousness with implications in science, spirituality, medicine, and culture. However, this exploration remains limited, as the duration of action of DMT tends to be extremely short. In this talk we will present initial findings of the first study of continuous infusions of DMT dedicated to the exploration of the remarkable effects of this substance into the nature of human consciousness.

Wednesday 28th Sept - 1700

Psychedelic Molecular (and Post-Molecular) Technologies for Communication with Alien Intelligences – Dr Andrew Gallimore

Although apparently intelligent and communicative entities are almost ubiquitous in the DMT trip report literature, few scientists take seriously the idea that they represent anything beyond “mere hallucination”. I believe this to be a mistake. In this talk, I will discuss

some possible sources and identities of these beings, including alien intelligences from beyond our universe and, after Jung, emergent autonomous structures within the human psyche. Although most scientific searches for alien intelligence – such as the SETI program – focus on other biological organisms within our universe, I will explain why the vast majority of contactable intelligences are unlikely to be biological but, rather, post-biological (and far stranger than we can imagine). As such, I will discuss why certain exogenous psychedelic molecules could be the most efficient tools for communication with such intelligences and ought to be developed as technologies for this purpose. Finally, I will discuss the form that these technologies might take, including both exogenous psychedelic molecules, as well as post-molecular technologies for rapid and clean interfacing with the alternate domains within which these intelligences reside.

Thursday 29th September - 0900

***Mass Formation and Inter-Dimensional Interference* – Prof
Mattias Desmet**

Mattias Desmet's work on mass formation theory was recently brought to the world's attention on The Joe Rogan Experience and in major alternative news outlets around the globe. Desmet argues that totalitarianism is not a coincidence and does not form in a vacuum. It arises from a collective psychosis that has followed a predictable script throughout history, its formation gaining strength and speed with each generation - from the Jacobins to the Nazis and Stalinists -

as technology advances. Governments, mass media, and other mechanized forces use fear, loneliness, and isolation to demoralize populations and exert control, persuading large groups of people to act against their own interests, always with destructive results. In this presentation, Mattias explore the possibilities that this process might be influenced by dimensions usually excluded from what is regarded as 'consensus reality', such as the astral, psychic, etheric and occult realms.

Thursday 29th September - 1400

Interspecies Communication: How Can Shamans Talk to Plants and Animals? – Dr Ede Frecska

Mestizo vegetalistas, like their counterparts, the traditional shamans (*pajés*) of many indigenous groups of the Amazon Basin, claim to derive healing skills from certain plants (Plant Teachers as they call them). Knowledge, particularly medicinal knowledge, comes from the plants themselves, often psychoactive. The role of the shamanic healer is to mediate the transfer of information. Shamanic songs, *icaros* represent a form of inter-species communication in which the healer intercepts and interprets signals coming supposedly from plant sources. However, according to animistic cosmologies, one does not need to go to the Amazon seeking Teacher Plants, since we are surrounded by non-human intelligence wherever we live. Animism is an essential component of core shamanism, which is a common cultural heritage of the human kind and not restricted only to living creatures or physical entities. It involves inanimate objects

and spiritual beings as well. Inter-species communication and spiritual encounters are beyond the grasp of Western science. Understanding the effect of psychedelics may provide us with cues for interpretation of the curious concepts of core shamanism.

Thursday 29th September - 1530

Plant and Animal Entities in Amerindian Indigenous Animism. An Overview - Dr Luis Eduardo Luna

Indigenous shamans from various Amerindian ethnic groups claim they get their knowledge to cure or perform various tasks from entities often associated with the spirits of certain plants or animals, who may be considered manifestations of ancestors or primordial beings. They teach them songs, are the inspiration for facial or body painting, indicate them possible cures through medicinal plants or ritual performances. Access to these entities is often facilitated by psychotropic plants such as *caapi* (*Banisteriopsis caapi*), *yãkoana* (*Virola elongata*), tobacco or coca. In some cases, these practices have been preserved or developed by mestizo practitioners not any longer associated with distinct ethnic groups, who may call these entities *doctores* or plant teachers.

Thursday 29th September - 1700

***The Other's Others: Encounters with Spirit Beings in Amazonian Shamanism* – Dr Glenn H Shepard Jr**

Powerful psychedelic experiences sometimes involve encounters with seemingly sentient 'others' of various types: plant or forest spirits, animal entities, humanoid extra-terrestrial's, inter-dimensional beings, or the ubiquitous, Lilliputian 'little people' (fairies, sprites, gnomes) of Eurasian folklore. Some researchers have sought to identify universal themes in the visual, emotional, spiritual and philosophical content of psychedelic visions across cultures. However, anthropologists have warned about hasty or superficial comparisons that overlook profound cultural and ontological differences that end up 'silencing the Other'.

In this presentation, I will draw on more than three decades of experience as an ethnobotanist and anthropologist working with diverse Amazonian indigenous peoples. Shamans among the Matsigenka people of southern Peru, for example, gain powers and insights by taking psychoactive plants such as ayahuasca, tobacco and *Brugmansia* ('floripondio') to build a relationship with a spirit twin among the *Sankariite* or 'Invisible/Pure Ones', invisible beings who reside in hidden villages in the forest, and who are described as small, numerous and capricious 'like children'. The Yanomami of Venezuela and Brazil likewise describe the luminous *Xapiri* spirits who float down from the sky during visions induced by *yekoana* (*Anadenanthera*) snuff. I will discuss indigenous Amazonian peoples'

conceptions of such spirit beings and offer cautionary advice about overly broad cross-cultural comparisons.

Friday 30th September - 1030

Esoteric and Alchemical Exploration - PD Newman

The identity of the *prima materia* or 'first matter' was the central arcanum of alchemy. Using the secretive techniques of the "royal art," from this primal matter could be produced a lapidary talisman that was allegedly capable of transmuting base metals into gold and making its possessor immortal. It also had the power, it was said, to place the practitioner in rapport with angels. Beginning with Zosimos of Panopolis and Maria Prophetissima in fourth-century Roman Egypt and progressing through the famous alchemists of the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Enlightenment, Newman will trace the transmission of an esoteric tradition - a veritable occult lineage of psychedelic proto-chemists - which identified alchemy's *prima materia* with a psychoactive species of acacia.

Friday 30th September - 1200

Transmissions of Alchemical Divinities - Free Frame

For centuries European alchemists stated that the gold they were seeking was not the gold that most imagine. Until now the identity of the *prima materia*, the starting matter of the entire alchemical process, has been hidden and obscured beneath a layer of symbols

and metaphors. Yet when one analyses the surviving documents, it is clear that there existed a secret strain of knowledge of a process of how to derive a substance from the *prima material* that produced divine angelic visions. This knowledge first appears in alchemical documents from medieval Britain and survived until the late Renaissance when it was demonized and ultimately died off. This presentation will display the surviving alchemical evidence including several versions of instructions and recipes and will conclude with a chemical analysis to show that the alchemists definitely had and used the secret knowledge of how to create a substance that gave them access to DMT entities.

Friday 30th September - 1400

***Psychedelic Underworld* - Brian C Muraresku**

A deep dive on the history of ritual psychedelic use in Western civilization. The burgeoning fields of archaeobotany and archaeochemistry are piecing together an enduring tradition of hallucinogenic elixirs in the ancient past.

Did such sacraments survive for thousands of years in our remote prehistory -- from the Stone Age, to Greco-Roman antiquity, to the rise of paleo-Christianity? What does that mean for today's 2.5 billion people who live in democratic countries, a legacy of the same Ancient Greece fueled by mystery cults and pharmacopeias; or the world's 2.5 billion Christians, the scions of Ancient Greek-speakers who gathered in homes and catacombs across the Hellenistic

Mediterranean to consume the flesh and blood of Christ? What can we learn from these psycho-spiritual pioneers who birthed Western civilization? Why did they seek the dark places?

Friday 30th September - 1700

***Resonance, Frequency, Sound and Geometry as Tools for
Communion with The Divine - Alexandre Tannous***

Sound has always been the ultimate tool and the most indispensable art form that humans have consistently used over millennia to commune with the divine in several traditional contexts: religious, spiritual, holistic, cultural, and shamanic, and its use for various purposes and occasions in worship, meditation, and rituals of healing, trance, and possession. Underlying sound's psychoacoustic¹ power is a series of infinite frequencies, called the harmonic series, bound together by a series of infinite, complex mathematical ratios. This series is nature's blueprint for sound production and timbre, capable of exhibiting limitless musical probabilities, impacting our physiology in unfathomable and complex ways, and it is also considered to be one of the most notable manifestations of intelligence in nature.

The harmonics series, which is studied by musicians, mathematicians and physicists, is the most tangible and exemplary aspect of the *logos* which is the universal ordering principal, the divine reason implicit in the cosmos, ordering it and giving it form and meaning. The *logos* is

¹ Psychoacoustics is the study of the perception of sound. This includes how we listen, our psychological responses, and the physiological impact of sound on the human nervous system.

the word, the discourse, the ultimate system, a universal language, mediation, etc. Humans have used mathematics as the universal, a very precise and accurate language, to understand, measure, fathom, experience, and transmit it. The *logos* is expressed in fields, phenomena, systems, balance, symmetry, ratios, energy and visual patterns, frequencies, processes, relationship, aesthetics, order, harmony, etc. We experience it as music, sound, sacred geometry, mathematical constants, fractals, tessellation patterns, psychedelic visual patterns, etc.

Taking an essential multidisciplinary approach in this presentation, Alexandre will explain what gives sound this power and what causes the physiological effects on the body and mind, and will address the importance of an integrated study of sound through physics, mathematics, phenomenology, spirituality, psychedelics, psychology, neuroscience, psychoacoustics, and ethnomusicology.

Saturday 1st October - 0900

***From Archaeology to Pharmacology - The Ancient Quest for Seeking the Sentient Other* - Graham Hancock, Brian C Muraresku**

Two world-renowned authors explore and expand upon their recent research into Sentient Other communication within ancient traditions across the globe.

Saturday 1st October - 1030

From Psychedelics to Parapsychology - Dr Jeffrey Mishlove

Jeffrey Mishlove describes the role that psychedelics played in his journey as a researcher of the paranormal. The process was one of a gradual unfolding, beginning with exposure to cannabis (which could be viewed as a mild psychedelic) along with the writings of Timothy Leary, Richard Alpert, and Ralph Metzner in 1966. This led to a serious interest in the psychology of mysticism.

Jeffrey's exposure to LSD and other psychedelics began in 1969 and eventually culminated in over 100 "trips" with LSD, peyote, psilocybin, mescaline, and ayahuasca – most of which occurred in the following decade. These experiences were virtually all oriented toward exploring the mysteries of consciousness. His first LSD experience was with a college roommate at the University of Wisconsin, James P. Driscoll, a Shakespearean scholar. Driscoll was later motivated to write such books as *The Unfolding God of Jung and Milton, Shakespeare and Jung: The God in Time*, and *Jung's Cartography of the Psyche: A Guide to Terms, Concepts, and Insights*. Through this work, he has been guided by a mysterious, dream figure.

In 1971, on his 25th birthday, Jeffrey met Saul-Paul Sirag and engaged in a lengthy conversation about the mechanisms of LSD. They have been lifetime friends since, and later moved in together to the Institute for the Study of Consciousness in Berkeley, CA, founded by helicopter inventor and cosmologist, Arthur M. Young, author of *The*

Reflexive Universe, The Geometry of Meaning, and Nested Time. On several occasions, Jeffrey took LSD at the Institute in the company of both Arthur Young and Saul-Paul Sirag. Sirag is the author of a book about the unification of mathematics and physics called *ADEX Theory*. Ultimately, this work leads to a hyperspace theory of consciousness. Sirag has also had contact with “the sentient other” while using LSD. At one time he also engaged in a significant parapsychology experiment while taking LSD that led to remarkable results

Virtually all of those experiences were positive and conducted in the spirit of spiritual unfoldment, inner inquiry, and self-knowledge. In effect, psychedelics blew the crust of 1950s social cultururation. They opened Jeffrey up to a series of psychic and precognitive dreams that, in 1972, prompted Jeffrey to create a unique individual, interdisciplinary, doctoral major in "parapsychology" at the University of California. Jeffrey also proposes that the disciplined use of psychedelics can be a tool for exploring the geography of consciousness and the afterlife.

Saturday 1st October – 1200

***DMT Fieldwork into Entity Encounters & Symposium Synthesis –
Dr David Luke***

An exploration of the first experimental fieldwork project investigating the encounter of DMT entities under controlled conditions. The project sought to explore the nature of these encounters, their prevalence, phenomenology and occurrence as shared visionary experiences, and their relationship to beliefs, psi

(precognition), creative insight and problem solving. A brief summary and synthesis of the main points of the symposium will also be given to round off the event.

PANEL EVENT SUMMARIES

Wednesday 28th Sept - 1400

DMT Extended State Infusion: Experiential Evidence

Alexander Beiner, Dr Carl Hayden-Smith, Dr Jack Alloca

Anton Bilton opens the symposium and introduces the aims and objectives before going on to discuss experiences of entities and the Sentient Other with three other DMT extended-state infusion volunteers from the UK Imperial College studies.

Thursday 29th September - 1030

Communicating With The Sentient Other - From Animism and Pantheism to Panpsychism and 'The Technium'

Daniel Pinchbeck, Dr Peter Sjostedt-Hughes, Dr Merlin Sheldrake

Communication with the Sentient Other has taken many forms over the ages and has been described in numerous ways. This panel takes a deep dive into those differences, from the ancient 'spirits' of animism, to John Lilly's modern notion of the 'Technium' subsuming biological life into binary digital code.

Thursday 29th September - 1200

***Devas and Demons; Deities and Dakinis: Sentient Other
Communion from the Vedic to Shamanic Traditions***

Dr Matthew Clark, Dr James Mallinson, Mao Tanka

Eastern religions and global shamanic traditions have evolved extensive and complex classifications to map out the territory associated with their respective Sentient Other communications. In this panel, two Vedic scholars and a highly respected Colombian shaman come together to compare notes.

Friday 30th September - 0900

***What Connects Psychedelic, Mystical, Alien Abduction and Near
Death Experiences (NDEs)***

Dr Pascal Michael, Anna Lutkajtis, Dr Charlotte Martial

It often seems that there is a commonality that unites 'anomalous experiences', from the mystical epiphany to bizarre 'alien abduction' accounts and Near Death Experiences (NDEs). Three world-leading researchers in this area come together to unpack these phenomena.

Friday 30th September - 1530

***Angelic and Astral Entity Intelligence - From Angels and Archons
to Machine Elves and Self-Dribbling Basketballs***

Lorna Byrne, Dr Rupert Sheldrake, Dr Dennis Mckenna

From Old Testament 'angels' to Gnostic notions of the 'archons' and Terence Mckenna's 'machine elves' and 'self-dribbling basketballs', Sentient Other 'entities' have appeared in many guises over the ages. To what extent do these differ, and to what extent do they correlate?

PRESENTATION AND PANEL SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Dr Jack Allocca is a research fellow at the University of Melbourne, Australia, in the department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics. He holds a BSc in Pharmacology from King's College London and a PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Melbourne. He researches altered states of consciousness using a multidisciplinary approach, integrating pharmacology, neuroimaging and computational neuroscience.

He started his career in 2008 working for Eli Lilly and Company, tasked with investigating the role of a wide range of psychedelic and dissociative substances in the architecture of sleep and wake. In 2017 he founded Somnivore Pty Ltd, a data analytics company providing machine learning and data mining capabilities to neuroscience laboratories working on the study of consciousness. Current projects fall within neuropharmacology, psychedelic science, sleep-science and consciousness research on wild species, including Alaskan brown bears, elephant seals and several bird species.

As a complement to academia, for most of the last 15 years, he has also been an avid 'psychonaut', using his brain and body as an experiential laboratory. This culminated in the personal testing of over 100 different psychotropic substances, including established and novel psychedelics, dissociatives, deliriant, solvents, stimulants and sedatives. In pursuing his research, he has explored over 80 countries, from tribal settings, conflict zones and some of the world's most remote regions. He is often asked to speak and consult on topics

related to psychedelic science, philosophy of mind, bio-hacking, artificial intelligence and their implications for society, culture and entrepreneurship. His work has been featured in print, video and radio, including *The Nation*, *The New York Post*, the *Financial Review*, *Psychedelics Revealed*, *FBI Radio*, and *Disney+*.

Alexander Beiner is an author and podcaster. He's one of the founders of the media and events platform Rebel Wisdom and an executive director of Breaking Convention, Europe's longest-running conference on psychedelic medicine and culture. His upcoming book *The Bigger Picture: How psychedelics can help us make sense of the world* (Hay House, 2023) explores how psychedelics could transform culture and society. He has a particular interest on how psychedelic experiences can be applied to systems change and improving how we have conversations around difficult cultural topics. He has also covered 'psychedelic capitalism' journalistically for a number of years, with a particular focus the ways in which economic and status-based incentive structures interact with the transformative potential of psychedelic medicines.

Trained as a counsellor and meditation teacher, Alexander also runs retreats centred on combining practices drawn from cognitive science, the wisdom traditions and psychedelic philosophy to create powerful group experiences. He facilitates legal psychedelic retreats in the Netherlands in partnership with 'Awaken the Medicine Within', co-developed the UK's leading men's work process through Rebel Wisdom and has designed a number of popular online courses

focused on 'sense-making', embodiment and conversational practices. He has a particular interest in the phenomenology of the psychedelic experience and how we can combine ritual, practice and collective intelligence to expand consciousness in new ways.

Lorna Byrne is a spiritual visionary, international bestselling author and philanthropist, who has dedicated her life to remind humanity of the spiritual potential within us all. She is the author of seven best-selling books, including *Angels in My Hair*, *A Message of Hope From the Angels*, and *Angels at my Fingertips* and she has been published in more than 50 countries and 30 languages around the world. Her teachings are the result of a remarkable gift, a divine connection providing her with incredible, detailed knowledge of the spiritual side of life. Unlike other spiritual teachers she has shared a platform with, this gift is not from meditation, visualisation, psychedelic experiences, or even from books or study, as she is uneducated in the traditional sense and severely dyslexic.

Lorna Byrne has physical sight of the unseen world, of the angels, spirits and other spiritual beings that she says are guiding and teaching us every second of every day. Many have sensed these beings occasionally but do not see them tangibly like Lorna. But she says we all have this potential if we grow spiritually. Lorna maintains many people are afraid of the spiritual side of themselves, but it is part of humanity's evolution for people to connect back to their spiritual self, to allow their souls to come forward and intertwine.

Lorna has been described as belonging to a tradition of visionaries, figures like Mother Julian of Norwich, Hildegard of Bingen, the Beguines and Bernadette of Lourdes and her experience has also been compared with those of other seers, from Socrates to Dante and William Blake. She travels the world extensively to spread the spiritual knowledge she has been taught over the course of her lifetime. Lorna is also a philanthropist and founder of the Lorna Byrne Children's Foundation helping vulnerable and marginalised children across the globe and the Seraph Foundation which is developing Sanctuary, her centre in County Kilkenny, Ireland. Sanctuary will be a place where people of all walks of life, all beliefs and none can come together to deepen their connection to the divine, hand in hand with Lorna and through nature.

She has been featured extensively in worldwide television, radio and print media including CNN, NBC Today, BBC, the London *Times*, *The Economist*, ITV, and many others. Lorna's vision of the future is one where there is no division or boundaries between people, where our spiritual side is accepted and transcends all belief systems. To accept we are all one. To live in peace with each other and nature, our home. According to Lorna, the future depends on this spiritual evolution.

Dr Matthew Clark (PhD) has been a Research Associate at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS, University of London) since 2004, where he taught courses on Hinduism between 1999 and 2003. Since 2002, he has been employed by over thirty different organisations, lecturing worldwide on the history, practices and philosophy of yoga. Between 1977 and 1996 Matthew travelled

extensively in India, visiting several hundred holy places. He began experimenting with yoga practices in the mid-1970s and since 1990 has been daily practising Ashtanga yoga. In 2017–18, he was employed by SOAS as a consultant to set up the SOAS Centre of Yoga Studies, which now (2022) has around 6,000 members. Since January 2021, he has been the managing editor of the *Journal of Yoga Studies*, the only peer-reviewed journal of yoga studies. Matthew Clark's publications include a study of a sect of South Asian renunciates/yogis (*sādhus*), entitled *The Daśanāmī-Saṃnyāsīs: The Integration of Ascetic Lineages into an Order* (Leiden/Boston: E. J. Brill, 2006), and a short book on yoga, *The Origins and Practices of Yoga: A Weeny Introduction (revised edition)* (Lulu, 2018).

For several years he has been researching the ancient, Asian, ritual, psychedelic drink known as *soma/haoma*. His books on this topic are *The Tawny One: Soma, Haoma and Ayahuasca* (London: Aeon Press, 2020), and *Botanical Ecstasies: Psychoactive Plant Formulas in India and Beyond* (London: Psychedelic Press, 2021). Four articles on this topic were published in 2018–19. In 2019, Matthew published a short, edited volume, *Eight Circuits of the Brain*, by Timothy Leary (London: Psychedelic Press). Between 2020 and 2022, Matthew also published thirty-six blogs on numerous aspects of cannabis, mostly for Seedsman.com, and several blogs on plants (particularly South Asian aphrodisiac plants) for Herbal Reality.com. Matthew also plays guitar, writes songs and records, as Mahabongo; he has released six albums.

Prof Mattias Desmet is a professor of clinical psychology at Ghent University (Belgium) and a practicing psychoanalytic psychotherapist. His previous books include *The Pursuit of Objectivity in Psychology* and *Lacan's Logic of Subjectivity: A Walk on the Graph of Desire*. Desmet is the author of over one hundred peer-reviewed academic papers. In 2018 he received the Evidence-Based Psychoanalytic Case Study Prize of the Association for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, and in 2019 he received the Wim Trijsburg Prize of the Dutch Association of Psychotherapy.

Free Frame is a researcher of alchemy and magic in the medieval and Renaissance periods in the former Kingdom of Bohemia, today's Czech Republic. Guided by a statement made by the truly free thinker Terence McKenna in his wonderful 1996 documentary film aptly named Prague Gnosis, Free Frame co-founded the Bohemia Alchemy Institute in Prague and has created a collection of alchemical and esoteric books with an emphasis on proving the use of psychedelic substances by medieval and Renaissance alchemists. A book of the findings will be published soon.

Working with the world's top psychedelic artists and largest collectors of psychedelic art, Free Frame is committed to establishing a network of psychedelic museum experiences in EPIC locations which showcase the ancient psychedelic history of all cultures of the world in a way that transforms the viewer to transform their life. An experience so incredible it will inspire a true global alchemical transmutation of consciousness and society. Transformation through

art and ideas, with an emphasis on the psychedelic potions of the alchemists, Free Frame believes this is the missing piece that connects all of the pieces together. By divine intuition and the guidance of Terence McKenna, along with hints and clues from many other researchers, the lost knowledge of the psychedelic solutions of the archaic European shamanic tradition has finally been revived. Truly an archaic revival, one that will make Terence and all of the alchemists in history proud.

Dr Ede Frecska (MD, PhD) received his medical degree in 1977 from the Semmelweis University in Hungary. He then earned qualifications as certified psychologist from the Department of Psychology at Lorand Eotvos University in Budapest. Dr Frecska completed his residency training in Psychiatry both in Hungary (1986), and in the United States (1992). He is a qualified psychopharmacologist (1987) of international merit with 17 years of clinical and research experience in the United States, where he reached the rank of Associate Professorship.

During his academic years, Dr Frecska's studies were devoted to research on schizophrenia and affective illness. In his recent research he is engaged in studies on psychedelic drugs, especially on the physiological effects of DMT in acute and chronic cellular stress like hypoxia. His theoretical work focuses on the interface between cognitive neuroscience and quantum brain dynamics. He is especially interested in the ontological interpretation of shamanic practices and psychedelic experiences. He published more than 100 scientific

papers and book chapters on these topics. Dr. Frecska is a co-author with Rick Strassman, Slawek Wojtowicz and Luis Eduardo Luna of the book *Inner Paths to Outer Space*.

Dr Andrew Gallimore is a neurobiologist, pharmacologist, and chemist currently based in Tokyo, Japan, where he writes about psychedelics as molecular technologies for interfacing with alternate realities and for communication with the apparently intelligent beings that reside therein. He is the author of *Alien Information Theory: Psychedelic Drug Technologies* and *The Cosmic Game*, and the forthcoming *Reality Switch Technologies: Psychedelics as Tools for the Discovery and Exploration of New Worlds*, in addition to a range of both academic and popular articles on DMT and other psychedelic molecules. In 2015, he collaborated with Dr Rick Strassman to develop a model for the repurposing of the target-controlled intravenous infusion technology used in anaesthesiology to allow the DMT state to be safely and stably extended for an indefinite period of time. It is hoped that this technology will be used to allow extended sojourns in the DMT space for detailed exploration and mapping of the space, as well as for performing experiments and establishing communication with contacted intelligences. When he was a child, he really wanted to become a ghost hunter, but this'll do.

Graham Hancock is the author of the major international non-fiction bestsellers *The Sign and the Seal* (1992), *Fingerprints of the Gods* (1995), *The Message of the Sphinx* (1996), *Heaven's Mirror*

(1998), *Underworld* (2002), *Supernatural* (2005), *Magicians of the Gods* (2015), and *America Before* (2019), and also of the epic adventure novels *Entangled* and *War God* (written between 2006 and 2014, both have psychedelic sub-themes).

His books have sold more than seven million copies worldwide and have been translated into thirty languages. His public lectures, radio and TV appearances, including two major TV series, *Quest For The Lost Civilisation* and *Flooded Kingdoms of the Ice Age*, as well as his strong presence on the internet, have put his ideas before audiences of tens of millions. He has become recognised as an unconventional thinker who raises resonant questions about humanity's past and about our present predicament. In January 2022 Hancock was voted No 32 in the Watkins list of "The 100 Most Spiritually Influential Living People". Hancock's major new 8-part television series, *Ancient Apocalypse*, will launch worldwide in November 2022.

Carl Hayden-Smith is the interim Head of Research and Director of the Learning Technology Research Centre (LTRC) at the Institute for Creativity & Technology, Ravensbourne University London. Carl is also the co-founder of the Cyberdelics Society and founder of the Museum of Consciousness. Carl has 24 years' experience conducting R+D into the application of hybrid technologies for perceptual, cognitive and creative transformation. He is focused on using both the technological and biological means to alter, probe and study the spectral nature of consciousness. His research focuses on generating

new forms of media including Neuroadaptive Mixed Reality Training, Natural Media and Wearable experience (WE).

Raising over £10 million in research funding, Carl has worked on numerous large-scale Leonardo LifeLong Learning, Erasmus+, FP7, XPRIZE and Horizon European projects including: Wearable Experience (WEKIT), REAP, AR4EU (Code Reality), Hobs Academy (LLDC), Hyperhumanism, Contextology (Context Engineering) and Holotechnica.Academy.

Carl has given over 300 invited public lectures, conference presentations and keynotes in 40 countries and published more than 100 academic papers. His research interests include Double Consciousness, Embodied Cognition, Spatial Literacy, Umwelt Hacking, Sensory Augmentation, Artificial Senses and Body Hacking. Carl has been very fortunate to be part of the nnDMT research at Imperial College London for the last six years and has been through all three phases, including: i) EEG ii) EEG+FMRI and iii) nnDMTx.

Dr Luis Eduardo Luna (MA PhD) was born in Florencia, Colombia, in 1947. He has a BA from Universidad Complutense de Madrid (1972), an interdisciplinary Master from Oslo University (1980), and a PhD from the Department of Comparative Religion Stockholm University (1989). He received a Fellowship of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, appointed for a study of the ethnobotany and ethnomedicine of the Colombian and Peruvian

Amazon (1986), and the title Doctor of Humane Letters, *Honoris Causa*, from St. Lawrence, Canton, New York (2002). He was an associate of the Botanical Museum of Harvard University (1987) and was elected Fellow of the Linnaean Society of London (1989). He was an Assistant Professor in Anthropology (1994-1998) at the Department of Anthropology of Santa Catarina Federal University (UFSC) in Florianópolis, Brazil. He retired in 2011 from the Department of Modern Language and Communication at the Hanken School of Economics, Helsinki.

Besides numerous publications in various journals, Dr. Luna is the author of *Vegetalismo: Shamanism among the Mestizo Population of the Peruvian Amazon* (1986), a co-author with Pablo Amarigo of *Ayahuasca Visions: The Religious Iconography of a Peruvian Shaman* (1991), and co-author with Slawek Wojtowicz, Rick Strassman and Ede Frecska of *Inner Paths to Outer Space: Journeys Through Psychedelics and Other Spiritual Technologies* (2008). He is also a co-editor with Steven White of *Ayahuasca Reader: Encounters with the Amazon's Sacred Vine* (2000, enlarged second edition 2016). Dr. Luna has lectured worldwide on indigenous and mestizo shamanism and has been a curator of visionary art exhibits in Europe, Latin America, the United States, and Japan. He is the Director of Wasiwaska, Research Center for the Study of Psychointegrator Plants, Visionary Art and Consciousness, Florianópolis, Brazil. From June 2022 he is also an Honorary Research Fellow of University of Exeter, England.

Anna Lutkajtis is a higher degree researcher from Sydney, Australia. Her research focuses on psilocybin, mysticism, entheogenic new religious movements, and the healing potential of altered states of consciousness. She is particularly interested in how substances and techniques that were originally utilised for contemplative and spiritual purposes have been integrated into modern Western medicine and psychology.

Her book, *The Dark Side of Dharma*, examines why meditation adverse effects, while well known in spiritual and religious traditions, have been ignored in contemporary Western secular contexts. Her PhD research is focused on the phenomenology of the high dose psilocybin experience. She holds a B. Psychology (Hons) degree from The University of New South Wales, a Master of Art Administration degree from the College of Fine Arts, and a Master of Arts (Research: Religion Studies) degree from The University of Sydney.

Dr Jim Mallinson is Reader in Indology and Yoga Studies at SOAS University of London, which has been his institutional base since 2013. His research focuses on the history and current traditional practice of yoga and his primary methods are philology, ethnography and art history. Jim did a BA in Sanskrit at the University of Oxford, an MA in anthropology at SOAS, and his PhD at the University of Oxford under the supervision of Alexis Sanderson, the world's foremost scholar of Tantra. His PhD thesis was a critical edition of the *Khecarīvidyā*, an early haṭhayogic work which teaches *khecarīmudrā*, a technique in which the tongue is turned back and up above the soft

palate in order to drink the nectar of immortality and summon *yoginīs* known as *khecarīs*. Jim's research has been informed by more than a decade spent living in India with traditional itinerant yogis. He is an initiate of the Rāmānandī Saṃpradāya and at the 2013 Kumbh Mela was awarded the title of Mahant.

From 2015–2021 Dr Mallinson led a large-scale research project on the history of physical yoga funded by the European Research Council. Various outputs of the project have been published with several more still to come. Notable among the project's findings are that the first text to teach physical yoga, the *Amṛtasiddhi*, which was composed in south India in the 11th century, was written by Tantric Buddhists; and that physical yoga practices which cultivate the body are only 1000 years old, prior to which the body was something to be subdued or controlled through austerities.

Dr Mallinson has published widely in the field of yoga and Indian religion. His articles can all be found on the academia.edu website. His book-length publications include *Roots of Yoga* (Penguin Classics, 2017), co-authored with Mark Singleton; a revision of his doctoral thesis, *The Khecarīvidyā of Ādinātha, a Critical Edition and Annotated Translation of an Early Text on Haṭhayoga* (Routledge, 2007); and *The Amṛtasiddhi and Amṛtasiddhimūla: The Earliest Texts of Haṭhayoga* (École française d'Extrême-orient, Pondicherry, 2021).

Dr Charlotte Martial is a post-doctoral researcher at the Coma Science Group (GIGA-Consciousness, University of Liège, Belgium). She heads the projects on the phenomenon of near-death experiences

(NDEs). More generally, Charlotte's work aims to investigate various states of disconnected consciousness (being conscious without experiencing the external world). She studies conditions in which people are outwardly unresponsive such as during general anesthesia or cardiac arrest, but 'disconnected' and/or 'connected', testified by the detailed subjective reports upon awakening. She also explores the neural correlates of other altered or modified states of consciousness such as disorder of consciousness or hypnosis (mainly using behavioral assessments, MRI and EEG techniques).

Dr Dennis McKenna has conducted research in ethnopharmacology for over 40 years. He is a founding board member of the Heffter Research Institute, and was a key investigator on the Hoasca Project, the first biomedical investigation of ayahuasca. He is the younger brother of Terence McKenna. From 2000 to 2017, he taught courses on Ethnopharmacology and Plants in Human affairs as an adjunct Assistant Professor in the Center for Spirituality and Healing at the University of Minnesota. He emigrated to Canada in the spring of 2019 together with his wife Sheila, and now resides in Abbotsford.

Since 2019, he has been working with colleagues to manifest a long-term dream: the McKenna Academy of Natural Philosophy, a non-profit organization founded in the spirit of the ancient Mystery Schools and dedicated to the study of plant medicines, consciousness, intelligence in nature, preservation of indigenous knowledge and a re-visioning of humanity's relationship with Nature. Dr. McKenna is author or co-author of 6 books and over 50 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr Pascal Michael received a BSc Hons (University of Aberdeen) in Neuroscience, where he identified the neurotrophic capacity of the Omega-3 fatty-acid EPA, and an MSc (University College London) in Clinical Mental Health Sciences, exploring the post-acute effects on wellbeing of DMT. He is presently a PhD candidate in Psychology at the University of Greenwich with Dr. David Luke, using nuanced qualitative analyses to compare the DMT experience, based on the first conceived field study of DMT use, with the near-death experience (NDE). This thesis allows him to delve into the paradoxical puzzle of why the human person seems to not only report experience at all, but profound mystical-type experiences at the precipice of death.

The phenomenology of psychedelic experiences, as well as their anomalous and transformative effects, manifestly echo those of the so-called NDE. This might hint at the implication of endogenous psychedelics near-death, but may equally suggest neural correlates ultimately common to them both. The frontiers of psychedelic neuroscience, such as the entropic brain hypothesis or predictive processing, may shed invaluable light on these extraordinary human experiences which ‘manifest the mind’ at the time of a coma-like state. But he continually presents the question of: What does this all mean, anyway? Does it reveal clinical potential of psychedelics like DMT, such as in palliative care? How might it bear on ontological matters of the universal, religious conceptualisation of the ‘other world’? And beyond the transpersonal, what can we learn from this for our personal and inter-personal lives?

Pascal has presented at conferences such as Breaking Conventions, has been invited to give talks such as with the Psychedelic Society UK, and his articles have appeared in journals such as *Frontiers*. He is a coordinator for the ALEF Trust's certificate in Psychedelics, Altered States and Transpersonal Psychology, and is the 2020 recipient of the Parapsychology Association's Schmeidler Outstanding Student Award. When he's not researching academically, he relishes spending time writing blog articles or poetry pieces, about the synaptic junction (like in Michelangelo's Creation of Adam) lying at the nexus between the naturalistic and supernatural. He is also an amateur actor and drum player.

Dr Jeffrey Mishlove PhD is host of the *New Thinking Allowed* channel on YouTube featuring interviews with thought leaders in psychology, philosophy, health, science, and spirituality – with an emphasis on parapsychology. Over fifteen hundred videos have been uploaded to that website. Between 1986 and 2002 he hosted and co-produced the original *Thinking Allowed* public television series, which was carried via satellite to over 100 public television stations throughout North America.

He is author of *The Roots of Consciousness: Psychic Liberation Through History, Science and Experience*. This book, published in 1975, was widely used as a college text for courses in parapsychology and consciousness. A second edition was published in 1993, titled *The Roots of Consciousness: The Classic Encyclopedia of Consciousness Studies Revised and Expanded. The PK Man: A True Story of Mind-Over-*

Matter, published in 2000 resulted from his ten-year field study of the psychokinetic abilities of the UFO contactee, Ted Owens.

Jeffrey is the recipient of the only doctoral diploma in "Parapsychology" ever awarded by an accredited university (University of California, Berkeley, 1980). He received this degree through an individual, interdisciplinary program. *Psi Development Systems*, originally published in 1983 (with a paperback version in 1987) was based upon his doctoral dissertation. He also received a Master of Criminology degree from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1972.

He is a past-vice-president of the Association for Humanistic Psychology and recipient of the 2001 Pathfinder Award from that society. He is also past president of the Intuition Network, a non-profit devoted to creating a world in which all people are encouraged to cultivate and apply their inner intuitive abilities. He is the Grand Prize winner of the 2021 Bigelow Institute essay competition regarding the best evidence for survival of human consciousness after permanent bodily death. He presently serves on the board of directors of the Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies. Jeffrey's hobbies include astronomy, hiking, bicycling, and karaoke.

Brian C Muraresku graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Brown University with a degree in Latin, Greek and Sanskrit. As an alumnus of Georgetown Law and a member of the Bars of both New York and Washington DC, he has been practicing law internationally for over fifteen years. He lives outside Washington DC with his wife and two daughters. *The Immortality Key* is Muraresku's debut book. In 2020, it became a *New York Times* bestseller. Audible named it "Best of 2020" in the History category. Muraresku launched *The Immortality Key* on the Joe Rogan Experience. He has since appeared on CNN, NPR, SiriusXM and a number of celebrity podcasts, including Jordan Peterson, Lex Fridman, Andrew Sullivan, Pete Holmes and Gwyneth Paltrow. His work has been featured in *Forbes*, *Daily Beast*, *Vox*, *VICE*, *Haaretz*, *Big Think*, *Patheos*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Quillette*, *Brown Alumni Magazine* and ABC Australia, with honourable mention in *Los Angeles Magazine* and *Rolling Stone*. Muraresku regularly engages academic colleagues, including Harvard Divinity School, Columbia University and the Yale Psychedelic Science Group.

PD Newman is an internationally recognized author and lecturer specializing in the historical and current use of entheogenic compounds in magical and initiatory settings. He is the author of the groundbreaking works, *Alchemically Stoned: The Psychedelic Secret of Freemasonry*, *Angels in Vermilion: The Philosophers' Stone from Dee to DMT*, and the forthcoming title, *Homer and the Heart of Theurgy: Foreshadowings of a Ritual Tradition*. Newman has also published a number of influential articles and award-winning papers with several esoteric and scientific journals, including John W. Allen's

Ethnomycological Journals: Sacred Mushroom Studies and the *Scottish Rite Journal*. A member of both the Masonic Fraternity and the Society of Rosicrucians, Newman has been immersed in the study and practice of shamanism, Hermetism, alchemy, and theurgy for over two decades.

Daniel Pinchbeck is the author of *Breaking Open the Head, 2012: The Return of Quetzalcoatl*, and *When Plants Dream* (with Sophia Rokhlin). In his 2017 book, *How Soon Is Now*, he explored the systemic changes needed to avert ecological collapse and extinction. His work was featured in the 2010 documentary, *2012: Time for Change*, which promoted the value of indigenous knowledge systems and a proposed a path to systemic change. He co-founded evolver.net and the web magazine *Reality Sandwich*. He speaks at festivals and conferences around the world. He writes a regular newsletter and teaches courses and seminars at www.liminal.news. He is currently developing a web3 project, building an art movement supporting the frontiers of consciousness research

Dr Merlin Sheldrake (PhD) is a biologist and author of *Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds, and Shape Our Futures*, a *New York Times* and *Sunday Times* bestseller, and winner of the Royal Society Book Prize and the Wainwright Prize. Merlin received a PhD in tropical ecology from Cambridge University for his work on underground fungal networks in tropical forests in Panama, where he was a pre-doctoral research fellow of the Smithsonian

Tropical Research Institute. Merlin is a research associate of the Vrije University Amsterdam, and works with the Society for the Protection of Underground Networks and the Fungi Foundation. A keen brewer and fermenter, he is fascinated by the relationships that arise between humans and more-than-human organisms.

Dr Rupert Sheldrake (PhD) is a biologist and author of more than 90 technical papers and nine books, including *Science and Spiritual Practices*, and the co-author of six books. He was a Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge University, a Research Fellow of the Royal Society, and a Frank Know Fellow at Harvard. He worked in India as Principal Plant Physiologist at the International Crops Research Institute ICRISAT, and also lived for two years in the Benedictine ashram of Fr Bede Griffiths in Tamil Nadu. From 2005-2010, he was Director of the Perrott-Warrick Project for the study of unexplained human and animal abilities, funded from Trinity College, Cambridge. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Noetic Sciences and of Schumacher College in Devon, England. He lives in London with his wife Jill Purce.

Dr Glenn H Shepard Jr was born in Georgia and raised in the Tidewater area of Virginia. He attended Princeton University and received his doctorate in Medical Anthropology at the University of California at Berkeley. As an ethnobotanist, medical anthropologist, and filmmaker, he has carried out fieldwork for over thirty years among diverse indigenous peoples around the world, particularly in Amazonia. He has published over a hundred research articles on

topics including shamanism and traditional medicine, community-based resource management, the rights of isolated peoples and indigenous appropriations of digital media. He has participated in the production of several films, including the Emmy Award-winning documentary, *Spirits of the Rainforest*. His research, photography and writing has gained visibility in magazines like *National Geographic*, *The New Yorker*, *Financial Times* and *The New York Review of Books*. He is currently a staff researcher in the Human Sciences Division at the Goeldi Museum in Belém, Brazil, and a research associate at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, where he helped curate a recent online exhibit about Kayapó filmmakers (<https://archaeology.columbia.edu/kayapovideowarriors/>). He blogs at *Notes from the Ethnoground* (<http://ethnoground.blogspot.com/>).

Dr Peter Sjöstedt-Hughes is an Anglo-Scandinavian philosopher of mind who specializes in the thought of Whitehead, Nietzsche, and Spinoza, and in fields pertaining to panpsychism and altered states of mind. Following his degree in Continental Philosophy at the University of Warwick, he became a Philosophy lecturer in London for six years after which he pursued his PhD at The University of Exeter – where he is now a research fellow and associate lecturer. Peter is the author of *Noumenautics* (2015), *Modes of Sentience* (2021), co-editor of Bloomsbury's *Philosophy and Psychedelics* (2022), the TEDx Talker on ‘psychedelics and consciousness’, and he is inspiration to the inhuman philosopher Marvel Superhero, Karnak. He is creator, with Prof. Christine Hauskeller, of the Philosophy of Psychedelics Exeter Research Group.

Mao Tanka (Mauricio Hernandez) was born in Florida Valle, Colombia on September 11, 1965. His interests have revolved around the discovery, recovery, understanding, and sharing of the ancient wisdom and the medicines of North and South American indigenous communities. His call to this work has taken him from the heart of the Amazonian jungle to the plains of South Dakota and across the planet thereafter, in order to cultivate wisdom and receive blessings for the sharing ancient healing and transformational practices. Through the work he has developed in the past 25+ years, and with the help of many indigenous leaders and healers who kindly believe in his efforts and social work, he has been recognized as a “Bridge” and a Medicine Man in various native traditions and cultures. Mauricio is the former Vice President and School Project Coordinator of the Inti Wayna Foundation (Children of the Sun) in Peru, Colombia, and the United States and he is a board member of the Green Way Foundation in Massachusetts, USA. These institutions support and encourage young people from the Amazon to study and learn from their elders and medicine teachers. The foundations aim to restore dignity to the communities who have inhabited the South American continent for thousands of years. He is the Founder of the Fundacion Pilares de Luz (Pillars of Light Foundation) in Colombia. The mission of this foundation is to promote the local Native communities economic, social and spiritual development through the recovery of their traditional ways. As an ordained Minister of the Church of Spiritual Humanism, Mauricio performs traditional native social blessings such as unions, naming ceremonies and others. Mauricio is currently carrying his mission of bridging the ancient ways with the modern world, and sharing this knowledge with people in South,

Central and North America, as well as Europe and the Middle East. His work includes running various Vision Quests, a Sun Dance in Colombia, traditional medicinal ceremonies from South and North America, sweat lodges and purification rituals. Mauricio represents the hope of his people and this ancient medicine way of life. He represents a culture and the remains of a forgotten civilization. He stands firmly in the prophecy that the union of the people of the North with the people of the South signifies the union of the Condor and the Eagle and the birth of a new humanity.

Alexandre Tannous is a musician, educator, composer, and an ethnomusicologist. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Theory and Composition, and a Master of Arts degree in Music Education from Columbia University Teachers College. As a recipient of the Mellon Fellowship he also earned a Master of Arts and a Master of Philosophy degrees in Ethnomusicology from Columbia University where he was enrolled in the PhD program. He has taught at Columbia University and is a frequent guest-lecturer at universities, institutions, and museums. As an ethnomusicologist, he has conducted fieldwork for 27 years in over 40 countries around the world. For the past 22 years he has been researching the therapeutic and esoteric properties of sound from three different perspectives - Western scientific, Eastern philosophical, and shamanic societal beliefs - to gain a deeper understanding of how, and to what extent, sound has been used to affect human consciousness.

This search has led him to the intersection where art, science, spirituality and philosophy intersect. His ethno-musicological

approach entails a social scientific study of sound use in several traditional contexts—religious, spiritual, holistic, and cultural—for various purposes and occasions in entertainment, worship, meditation, and rituals of healing and trance. Consequently, his approach in researching, understanding, experiencing, transmitting, and working with sound has always been based on a multidisciplinary approach.

The material he transmits about sound is based on thorough research over many years: observations he made during his fieldwork, scientific studies, personal experiences, and data collected from thousands of people he has worked with doing sound therapy. This has led him to a deeper understanding of how sound reveals and unlocks hidden powers we have within us to promote profound inner changes and healing. Inspired by his findings, he designed a protocol of an integrated experience he calls “Sound Meditation” in which he shares the findings from his research, raising an awareness to how a specifically designed sound can have the ability to help us to disconnect from habitual patterns while judiciously listening to the specific, overtone-rich instruments he plays. He employs a phenomenological approach to study the effects of sound, using a method that empowers the participants to engage actively with tools that enhance their experience, using the consciousness-altering properties of sound to heighten self-awareness, to connect to the higher self, to fine-tune self-observation, and to attain self-realization. He currently works as a sound researcher, sound therapist, teaches this practice, and lectures about sound.

Dr Christopher Timmerman (PhD) obtained a BSc in Psychology in Santiago, Chile and an MSc in Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Bologna in Italy. He leads the DMT Research Group at the Centre for Psychedelic Research within Imperial College London. He led the first neuroimaging work (employing EEG and fMRI) of DMT in the human brain and consciousness, explored the overlaps between DMT and Near-Death Experiences, and studied the impact of DMT and psychedelic experiences in beliefs concerning the nature of reality. He is currently supervising the first study exploring the phenomenology and neuroscience of extended DMT infusions. As part of his work, more than 70 doses of DMT have been administered to date. His work broadly focuses on how DMT and psychedelics can inform the neuroscience, psychology, and beliefs of consciousness. He is also the director for the Foundation for the Study of Human Consciousness (EcoH) in Chile.

DISCUSSANT BIOGRAPHIES

Annette Badenhorst is a multi-faceted commercial executive with 27 years of communications, marketing, PR and business development experience. She holds a B.Com Honors degree in Marketing and Communications from the University of Pretoria, South Africa and currently does fundraising and consultant work in the psychedelic drug development and education field. She has a passion for producing multi-disciplinary events, from language and music festivals, to science conferences, mindfulness retreats, art exhibitions and documentary film production.

Tommaso Barba is a research assistant and upcoming PhD student at the Centre for Psychedelic Research, Imperial College London, under the supervision of Dr Chris Timmerman. His current focus is understanding the brain effects of short-acting psychedelics, like 5-MeO-DMT, and the potential role of psychedelic drugs in depression and pain management. He has a background in neuroscience and psychoanalysis and completed cum laude a Master of Research in Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience from Maastricht University. He has been involved in the research happening at the Centre for Psychedelic Research since September 2020, focusing on several neuropsychopharmacological and basic science projects.

Flor Bollini is a pioneer, entrepreneur and medicine woman. Named The Corporate Shaman by Forbes Magazine, Flor is regarded as one of the trailblazers in the plant medicine world. With over a decade of experience pioneering her empathetic, feminine approach to serving and integrating psychoactive medicines, her methods have been adopted by the leaders in the space and have made Flor one of the most respected psycho-spiritual entrepreneurs in the world. Flor is the founder and CEO of NANA Health, the world's first integrative solution for mental health and wellness. She's also the co-founder and Creative Director of ReWire Therapeutics LTD, a biotechnology company that provides the first time-release combination drug products in the psychedelic industry.

Maya Bracknell Watson is a multimedia interdisciplinary artist and researcher. Her artwork is informed by her work in psychedelic parapsychology research, primarily DMT research, and the study of shamanism. Presenting at Breaking Convention and the Tate Britain, she created the first live immersive performance based on a DMT experience, along with installations and performances around near-death experiences and DMT, and an immersive online art-science hub platforming research into entity encounters. Walking between the worlds of art, science and the occult, she combines media and investigative techniques from each to inform and articulate one another, with her practise broadly revolving around the investigation of ontology, consciousness, altered states, interconnectivity, the human condition and its relationship to the environment, otherness, death and mortality.

Giancarlo Canavesio is a neo-culture entrepreneur involved in regenerative content with the online channel Mangu.TV, in regenerative hospitality with the seasonal residence Difuso.net and in regenerative farming with TerraVibalbiza.com. A former investment banker, he produced award-winning documentaries like *Neurons to Nirvana* about psychedelic science and mystical experiences; *2012 - Time for Change* about personal and spiritual transformation; and *Monogamish*, about conscious non-monogamy. His podcast and blogs on mangu.tv continues the exploration of these topics, plus new ones like sacred sexuality and community-building. Difuso.net connects travellers to Ibiza with the regenerative community and regenerative practices. Terra Viva is a radically bio-diverse farm that uses regenerative principles of crop and animal rotation to avoid fertilizers and pesticides, protect the health of the soil, the plants, the animals, the humans and the biosphere. He lives between Ibiza and London with his wife, psychotherapist and meditation teacher Stephanie, and their son Edoardo, 10 years old. They also have 2 other children, Stefano 20 years and Talia 24 years old.

Prof Bernard Carr is Emeritus Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy at Queen Mary University of London. His professional area of research is cosmology and astrophysics and includes such topics as the early universe, dark matter, black holes and the anthropic principle. For his PhD he studied the first second of the Universe, working under the supervision of Stephen Hawking at the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge and the California Institute of

Technology. He was elected to a Fellowship at Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1975 and moved to Queen Mary College in 1985. He has also held Visiting Professorships at Kyoto University, Tokyo University, the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and the Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics. He is the author of nearly three hundred scientific papers and the books *Universe or Multiverse?* and *Quantum Black Holes*. Beyond his professional field, he is interested in the role of consciousness in physics and he is developing a new psycho-physical paradigm, linking matter and mind, which accommodates normal, transpersonal and psychedelic experiences. He also has a long-standing interest in the relationship between science and spirituality and in psychical research, which forms a bridge between them. He was President of the Society for Psychical Research in 2000-2004 and is currently President of the Scientific and Medical Network.

John Chavez is an independent researcher and founder of the organization DMT Quest which has a primary focus on endogenous DMT research. In 2013, John experienced a spontaneous mystical experience which led him to develop a physiological framework for awakening experiences. He would go on to author 2 books on this subject titled, "Questions for the Lion Tamer: Delving into the Mystery that is DMT" and "Questions for the Lion Tamer 2: Swimming in Electric Endohuasca". The information gathered in these books were utilized to develop documentaries surrounding endogenous DMT and the latest research regarding it. At the beginning of 2020, the initial DMT Quest documentary began

production, which was then released with great fanfare in early 2021. The film featured psychedelic researchers such as Rick Strassman, Dennis McKenna, Jon Dean as well as 26 Guinness World Record Holder Wim Hof. The focus of the film was to publicize the groundbreaking findings from Dr. Dean's seminal paper titled, "Biosynthesis and Extracellular Concentrations of N,N-dimethyltryptamine (DMT) in Mammalian Brain". This study changed the discussion of endogenous DMT altogether being that the researchers found extracellular DMT at similar levels to commonly studied neurotransmitters serotonin and dopamine. In addition, the team found that the enzymes necessary to synthesize DMT were found in multiple prominent areas of the brain (not just the pineal gland).

Since then, fundraising efforts and publicity have led to the development of follow-up documentaries which are currently in pre-production and will continue to build upon the latest research in the field of neuroscience, DMT, and the human potential. While DMT is predominantly known for its influence on the visual system, John's main focus is on uncovering the mechanisms of supernormal abilities and offering a palatable presentation of these mechanisms to the general public. Altered states of consciousness providing the foundation for the arising of the supernormal which could potentially be interlinked with the Endohuasca system.

Vimal Darpan weaves 30 years of experience in music, healing, and the shamanic arts to create a unique transmission that inspires, enlivens and transforms. His home is in Australia where he is

renowned as a teacher, musician and healer. Bringing people together to create an unambiguous experience of our common Source is the intention, which inspires his work. A skillful blend of ceremony, song, meditation and celebration are the means by which he achieves the goal. Darpan is a spontaneous and engaging speaker with a natural flair for embellishing his talks with interesting stories, anecdotal references and rich personal experience. He delivers a wealth of information within a context which inspires and motivates. His passion is creating positive change by initiating vision and awakening new perspectives. Darpan is currently working on a book which references his many years of experience in the shamanic/healing arts and is available to deliver talks, concerts, seminars and workshops anywhere in the world

Dr Erik Davis is an author, scholar, award-winning journalist, podcaster, and teacher based in San Francisco. He is the author, most recently, of *High Weirdness: Drugs, Esoterica, and Visionary Experience in the Seventies*, co-published by MIT Press and Strange Attractor, a widely-celebrated volume that explores the legacy of psychedelic mysticism in a scholarly but playful manner. He also wrote *Nomad Codes: Adventures in Modern Esoterica* (2010), *The Visionary State: A Journey through California's Spiritual Landscape* (2006), a critical volume on Led Zeppelin (2005), and the book *TechGnosis: Myth, Magic, and Mysticism in the Age of Information* (1998), a cult classic of media studies that has remained continuously in print. Erik's scholarly and popular essays on music, subcultures, technology, drugs, and spirituality have appeared in

scores of books, magazines, and academic journals, and his writing has been translated into a dozen languages.

Davis has spoken widely at universities, conferences, retreat centers, and festivals, and has been interviewed for many documentaries and by CNN, the BBC, NPR, and the *New York Times*. He graduated magna cum laude from Yale University in 1988, and earned his PhD in religious studies at Rice University in 2015. His podcast *Expanding Mind* ran for ten years, and broke new ground in intelligent coverage of the weird. Currently, he writes the Substack publication *Burning Shore*, and has just completed a lavishly illustrated study of LSD blotter art for MIT Press, a volume slated for publication in 2023.

Khaliya Ermacora is a Columbia University-trained public health specialist and Harvard University-trained specialist in Global Mental Health and Refugee Trauma. Khaliya is now a Venture Partner for Gender Equity Diversity Investments, a new female-led VC firm targeting high growth investments that deliver top-quartile returns and measurable impact towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals with a preliminary focus on health. Formerly an aid worker in over 32 countries and a former Peace Corps Volunteer for the US State Department, she has won numerous awards for her international service.

Khaliya was the youngest member of the World Economic Forum's Futures Council on the Future of Health and Healthcare and her opinion pieces have run in the *New York Times* (International and

Domestic Editions) as well as WiredUK. Khaliya was the recipient of the John J. Luce Award for Foreign Service as well as the Middleton Candler Peace Prize, which she won alongside former US First Lady Rosalind Carter in 2016. Currently at work on a book on the future of mental health, she continues to be a sought after public speaker, having spoken at the White House organized United States of Women Summit, the World Economic Forum's Family Business Summit, the Vatican, Clinton Global Initiative, WiredHealth, WebSummit, the United Nations General Assembly and at the G20 Women's Summit, among others. She can be found online at www.khaliya.net or on Twitter at @Khaliya where over 150,000 people follow her for commentary and information on the future of health, mental health and society.

Thomas Ermacora is an award winning futurist, architect, creative director, author, curator, tech angel and impact investor working to build momentum towards regenerative society through a combination of strategic design, exponential technology and novel practices to address community wellbeing. Ermacora has consulted and advised a wide range of organisations, cities and countries including the G7, the Clinton Global Initiative, the Xprize foundation, the World Economic Forum, the European Commission and the LA Cleantech Incubator. He also co-founded a refugee education platform with MIT, a last mile technology incubator at the Vatican with the blessing of Pope Francis, and supports many young disruptive startups such as Square Roots, Apparent Energy, RegenVillages, WasteFuel, mycomedica, Beckley Psytech and more.

Ermacora has been featured in numerous publications including Wired and the Guardian, and has spoken at over 200 venues including TED, Citylab, Techonomy, the Danish and Moscow parliaments, Websummit, Singularity, Near Future and the UN General Assembly. Recently he was the guest curator of the acclaimed London Design Museum exhibition about 'Moving to Mars'. Always interested in humanity's next frontier and the understanding of consciousness, Ermacora also been deeply involved with his wife Khaliya in supporting the emergence of the Psychedelic science movement.

Dr Ricardo Claudio Farago was born in Argentina and migrated to Australia as a child with his family. He graduated in medicine at the University of Sydney and has been a doctor for 43 years and a specialist psychiatrist for 27 years, having sub-specialised in Criminal Forensic Psychiatry. He has been active in educating doctors and lawyers about medico-legal matters and mood disorders and has been keenly interested in the use of new treatment modalities and paradigms to shift the discourse away from the classic medical models. He is also an entrepreneur, having been involved in the creation and management of medical centres, property development, the establishment of a vineyard with an award-winning wine label, and a restaurant.

Amanda Feilding is the Founder and Executive Director of the Beckley Foundation. She has been called the ‘hidden hand’ behind the Renaissance of Psychedelic Science, and her contribution to the advancement of psychedelic research and global drug policy has been pivotal and widely acknowledged. Featured on the Guardian’s list of the Bravest Men and Women in the History of Science, Amanda has personally co-authored over 80 peer-reviewed scientific publications on psychoactive substances, many with ground-breaking results. By establishing key Research Programmes at some of the world’s most prestigious institutions, she has propelled the field forward over the last 20+ years, conducting landmark studies, such as the world’s first psilocybin for treatment-resistant depression study, the world’s first LSD, MDMA and DMT brain imaging studies, plus the initiation and collaboration with Johns Hopkins on the first study using psilocybin-assisted psychotherapy to overcome nicotine addiction.

Since its inception in 1998, the Beckley Foundation has been at the forefront of exploratory research into psychedelics and cannabis, and evidence-based global drug policies. Through a series of pivotal international seminars at the House of Lords (starting in 2000) with leading figures from around the world in different fields, from science to politics, plus over 60 much-cited books, reports and papers, and numerous meetings with thought-leaders, academics, and policy-makers at the UN and governments around the world, Amanda has ensured that the Beckley Foundation has been at the forefront of global drug policy reform, particularly in the field of cannabis and the psychedelics. Through her work with the Beckley Foundation, Amanda is bridging the gap between science and policy,

creating a positive feedback loop, with the aim of building and harnessing our knowledge of the benefits of currently prohibited compounds to optimise human health, wellbeing and potential.

Andres Gomez Emilsson has a Master's Degree in Psychology with an emphasis in computational models from Stanford and a professional background in graph theory, statistics, and affective science. Andrés was also the co-founder of the Stanford Transhumanist Association and first place winner of the Norway Math Olympiad. His work at the Qualia Research Institute ranges from algorithm design, to psychedelic theory, to neurotechnology development, to mapping and studying the computational properties of consciousness.

Santha Faiia Hancock is a professional photographer specialising in ancient cultures and monuments. Her work has been published around the world in major newspapers and magazines and in 1990 her photographic exhibition *Ethiopian Trilogy* was opened at the Royal Geographical Society London by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne. Faiia's work illustrated *The Sign and the Seal* (1992) and *Fingerprints of the Gods* (1995), and in 1998 her major book of photographs was published – the international bestseller *Heaven's Mirror*. Faiia's images from sacred sites as far afield as the temples of Angkor in Cambodia and the great pyramids of Giza in Egypt bring to life a lost world and 'achieve the rare feat of making you feel you are there' (Western Mail).

Faiia worked closely with Hancock on *Underworld* (published in 2002), her photographs of the many ancient underwater ruins off the coast of Japan, all around the Pacific, off Indonesia and Malaysia, off India, and in the Mediterranean, the Atlantic and the Caribbean adding a whole new dimension to her work. She also photographed *Supernatural* (published 2005), putting unique images of the ancient rock art of South Africa before a global public. More recently, in 2013, Faiia's photographs of Easter Island were presented at the Vatican Ethnological Museum contextualising a special exhibition of Easter Island artefacts. In 2014 a second exhibition at the Vatican Ethnological Museum, this time on Indonesia, was again contextualised with a collection of Faiia's photographs. Faiia's latest work is to be seen in the 32 pages of colour photographs she has contributed to *Magicians of the Gods* (2015) and *America Before* (2019).

Alexander Haslam has been studying Analytical Psychology for the last 5 years, completing a year-long foundation course in Analytical Psychology with the Society of Analytical Psychology and more recently Psychotherapy Today with the British Psychotherapy Foundation (BPF). He is currently enrolled in the BPF's Jungian Reading Group studying Carl Jung's Red and Black Books. His work in, and understanding of, Analytical Psychology is reflected in his creative work, both writing and photography.

Alexander's photography has been selected as a finalist of the Urban Photo awards at the annual Trieste Photography Festival and has received two Juror's honourable mentions by the International Photography Awards. His images have been exhibited in New York, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Warsaw. He is currently writing a book on the Jungian idea of individuation and researching a second book on religion and psychology which he plans to do as part of a masters in Jungian and post-Jungian studies at the University of Essex in 2023. Outside of Analytical Psychology, Alexander spent nearly 15 years living in Hong Kong working as an M&A and restructuring lawyer at various investment funds carrying out special situations investing in the Asia Pacific region. Now back in the U.K. Alexander divides his time between Cornwall and London and invests in distressed and turnaround opportunities in Europe and Asia. Alexander is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a member of the Royal Society of Asian Affairs.

David Langer is a serial entrepreneur, venture capitalist and student of indigenous wisdom. He is the founding partner at Lionheart Ventures, a seed-stage venture capital fund investing in startups tackling existential risk to humanity, with a focus on startups addressing wisdom (or "consciousness") as an existential risk factor. He is also an active investor in AI safety startups and has a keen interest in the philosophical questions relating to whether or not AIs can one day become sentient or conscious.

Outside of Lionheart, David is creating Dharma San Juan, an intentional community in Nosara, Costa Rica where their mission is to support their residents and visitors to have the greatest impact they can on all of life, by connecting them with their dharma and supporting them to fulfill it. Prior to founding Lionheart, David was the co-founder/CEO at Zesty, a health corporate catering marketplace with a mission to improve the health of humanity. Zesty was backed by Y Combinator, Founders Fund and Index Ventures, and the company was acquired by Square in 2018. He is a certified hatha and yin yoga teacher, experienced Vipassana meditator and regular attendee of Burning Man. David studied Mathematics at St Anne's College, Oxford where he was awarded 2nd place in the UK Graduate of the Year competition.

Loic Le Meur is a serial entrepreneur, founder of the PAWA. PAWA is a community and events for conscious entrepreneurs with its first event in Paris Oct 14-15 2022. Founded LeWeb, which was for 12 years the largest technology conference in Europe with 3,000+ participants from 80 countries. Founded many other start-ups such as B2L, a web agency, RapidSite, a web hosting company, Seismic a video social network, [Leade.rs](https://leade.rs) a speakers marketplace. Invested in 50+ startups, was a business angel in LinkedIn, Evernote, LendingClub, Animoca, Upgrade Inc... Limited Partner in 10+ Silicon Valley private equity funds such as Slow Ventures, Village, Week-End fund or Uncork Capital.

Deeply immersed in spirituality and consciousness work. Spent about a year in total deep in the Amazon forest with indigenous tribes. Received 7 "dietas" working with the most advanced teachings, songs and plants of the Yawanawà tribe in Brazil. Loic received their most advanced training, the "Muka" dieta. Meditator, vipassana. Sundancer and Vision Quester at the Sundance of Bacalar, Mexico. Writes two newsletters with about 50k+ subscribers <http://yawa.news> (daily or almost) <http://loiclemeur.substack.com> (no more than once a week). Was named one of "Europe's Tech25" by the Wall Street Journal as well as one of the "25 most influential people" on the web by Business Week He is featured in The Economist as one of "Europe's Blooming Entrepreneurs", and is a "Young Global Leader" by the World Economic Forum.

Dr Chris Letheby is a Lecturer in Philosophy at The University of Western Australia (UWA). His areas of specialization are philosophy of mind, philosophy of cognitive science, and philosophy of neuroscience. His research interests include the causal mechanisms and epistemic status of transformative spiritual practices, the possibility of a "naturalistic spirituality", and the nature of self-awareness. At UWA he teaches topics including logic, epistemology, philosophy of science, and philosophy of psychology and psychiatry. His research to date has focused mainly on the use of classic psychedelic drugs in neuroscience and psychiatry. In several articles and a book, he has argued that a traditional conception of psychedelics as agents of insight and spirituality can be reconciled with naturalism, the philosophical position that the natural world is

all there is. He takes a neuro-philosophical approach, grounding his analyses in scientific findings, and has engaged in several interdisciplinary collaborations with neuroscientists and psychologists.

His monograph *Philosophy of Psychedelics* was published in 2021 by Oxford University Press. An open-access symposium on the book was published in 2022 by the journal *Philosophy and the Mind Sciences*. The book has received two awards to date, both from The University of Adelaide (where he worked as a postdoc while writing it): the Faculty of Arts Prize for Outstanding Research by an Early Career Researcher and the School of Humanities Early Career Prize for best publication in 2021. A review series on the book will be published soon in *The Polyphony*, and a Spanish translation of the book is forthcoming from Editorial Blauplan.

Rebecca Paige Newman is a registered nurse at the North Mississippi Medical Center Newborn Intensive Care Unit. In addition to professionally caring for infants, for the past two decades, Rebecca has also dedicated much of her time to creating safe, “consequence-free” environments for persons undergoing numinous experiences. A proponent of Margaret A. Newman’s grand theory of nursing, that *health constitutes an expansion of consciousness*, Rebecca is a passionate patron of patients’ rights and a devoted advocate for the integration of plant medicines into the current model of Western medicine. She is a master of the Usui system of Reiki as well as an initiated member of the Daughters of the Moon.

Jill Purce is a British voice teacher, Family Constellations therapist, and author. In the 1970s she developed a new way of working with the voice, introducing the teaching of group overtone chanting, producing a single note whilst amplifying the vocal harmonics. Through her *Healing Voice Workshops* she pioneered the international sound healing movement with this rediscovery of ancient vocal techniques, the teaching of overtone chanting, the power of group chant, and the spiritual potential of the voice as a magical instrument for healing and meditation. She pioneered the practice of healing family and ancestral traumas with her *Healing Family and Ancestor and Resonant Family Constellations*, and the activation of the mandala as a living practice with her extended *Mandala Ceremonies*.

Her 1974 book, *The Mystic Spiral; Journey of the Soul* about the spiral in sacred traditions, art and psychology was such a seminal influence, that the Bishop of California describes her contribution to the 1990's installation of the labyrinths in Grace Cathedral, San Francisco:- "*She helped inspire the birth of the modern labyrinth movement. Jill's groundbreaking work with the labyrinth was inspiring, informative and important...it couldn't have been done without her work.*"

After a postgraduate Fellowship in the Biophysics Department at Kings College London, working with Maurice Wilkins (Nobel prize for DNA), with whom she dialogued on the relationship between art, science and spirituality, she lived and worked in Germany with the composer Karlheinz Stockhausen, exploring the spiritual dimension

of music. She learned overtone chanting in the Himalayas with the chant master of the Gyutö Tibetan Monastery. In 1974 The BBC made *“More Ways than One: The Mystic Spiral”*, an hour-long documentary film about Jill and her work. Jill has followed the philosophy and practice of Dzogchen since 1978, with the late Tibetan Lama, Namkhai Norbu Rinpoche.

She lectures and conducts workshops internationally, especially *The Healing Voice*, exploring diverse forms of spiritual chant and guiding non-singers and singers in their pursuit of the lost voice. She has taught the English National Opera and The English Shakespeare Company, as well as teaching in hospitals, schools, monastic communities, and businesses. She has worked with many thousands of people with her *Healing the Family and Ancestors workshops*, a unique combination of Family constellations, chant and ceremony. Some of her published articles include: *Patterns of Growth in Nature and Consciousness; Time and the Music of Form; Creative Tension; Harmonics of Mind and Body; Sound in Mind and Body; Healing Resonance; Re-enchanting the World; The Healing Voice; Being in Tune*. Her recordings include *Overtone Chanting Meditations* and *The Healing Voice*. She lives in London with her husband, the biologist Rupert Sheldrake and their two sons the biologist and author Merlin Sheldrake and the musician Cosmo Sheldrake.

JR Rahn is the founder and former CEO of MindMed, a biotech company focused on developing innovative treatments for mental health. He serves on the board of the Fungi Foundation, a non-profit

focused on exploring and promoting Fungi on a global stage. He currently invests and supports paradigm shifting missions and ideas to better the planet and those that inhabit it.

Magdalena Sartori is a creative director, holistic designer, architect and real estate developer with +15 years developing major projects in NYC, Hong Kong, Dubai, Paris. Magdalena holds Masters in Real Estate Development Columbia University and Masters in Architecture from Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne. She is founder of [PAWA](#), a community of conscious entrepreneurs, with its first event happening in Paris in Oct 14-15 2022. She co-founded, managed and creatively directed [THE ASSEMBLAGE](#) in NYC, an innovative hospitality concept of community, co-working and living spaces with a total of \$900M real estate spaces in NYC. She is founder of the The Ashram Studio, a studio that advises the creation and expansion of several membership and wellness communities around the world, as well as their intersection with consciousness and spirituality. Magdalena is also a Moon Dancer in the lineage of Abuela Tonalmitl, in the Circle of Chialchutekpatl in Bacalar, Mexico.

Dr Serena Roney-Dougal (PhD) started her parapsychology work at Surrey University in 1987, comparing subliminal and psi perception using the Ganzfeld technique. For 15 years she taught parapsychology, yoga and meditation, at the local college, as well as travelling world-wide giving talks and running workshops. During this time she did three years research with a healer, enhancing

lettuce crop on a local farm. Her book *Where Science and Magic Meet* was first published by Element Books in 1991 and is still in print. Her second book *The Faery Faith*, was published by Green Magic in 2003.

In 2002 she started a three-year meditation research programme with yogis in the world's first Yoga University in an ashram in India. She received a research grant from Bial Foundation to extend this research to Tibetan Buddhist monks and nuns and for the next three years lived and worked with monks in a Tibetan monastery in South India, as well as Dharamsala and Ladakh. This research continued at Samye Ling Tibetan monastery in Scotland, where she looked at the effect of the Earth's magnetic field on psi awareness, working with experienced meditators. In 2014, Serena retired from teaching and research in parapsychology and returned home to Glastonbury, working with several local charitable groups. In 2019 she was elected as a Green Town Councillor and have just been re-elected. Her main focus is to help Glastonbury to become resilient and adapted to the Climate and Ecological Emergency we are now experiencing.

Augusta Tigrett is an entrepreneur, and was formerly with Freud Communications.

Riaz Valani is the founder of Global Asset Capital. Previously, Mr. Valani was with Gruntal & Co.

Lucy Walker is an Emmy-winning, two-time Oscar-nominated director who has been called “the new Errol Morris” by the *Hollywood Reporter* and has been singled out for creating “nonfiction fare that connects with audiences” by *Variety*. Walker’s new hit series, *How To Change Your Mind*, about psychedelics, which she directed and executive produced, launched on Netflix in July 2022 and has been in the Top 10 shows worldwide. Current projects in progress include a feature documentary all about iboga and ibogaine.

Her last film *Bring Your Own Brigade* (2021) was released theatrically by Paramount and listed #5 in the New York Times’ Top 10 Best Movies of 2021, with AO Scott writing that “its open-mindedness, compassion and intellectual rigor provide a buffer against despair”. Previous films include *The Crash Reel* (2013), which won an Emmy and was nominated for a *Gotham*; *Waste Land* (2010) which was theatrically released by Arthouse and went on to be nominated for the Best Documentary Oscar and to win IDA awards including Best Documentary; *Countdown to Zero* (2010), an Official Selection at Cannes, theatrically released by Magnolia and Participant; *Blindsight* (2006) which won at Berlin and AFI; and *Devil’s Playground* (2002), which was nominated for three Emmys and the Independent Spirit for Best Documentary.

Her films have won over one hundred other festival awards including two at Sundance, two at SXSW, and she is the only filmmaker to have won the Audience Award at Berlin twice. She has also made short films, notably Oscar-nominated and double-Emmy-nominated *The Tsunami and the Cherry Blossom* (2011); triple-Emmy-nominated *The*

Lion's Mouth Opens (2014); and *David Hockney In The Now* (2012) commissioned by LACMA. Series and television credits include Nickelodeon's *Blue's Clues* for which she was nominated for two Emmys for Outstanding Directing, and *Defying Gravity*, directed and executive produced by Walker, which was Emmy-nominated and won a PGA Award for Best Sports series.

Her advertising work has been honored with multiple Clios and Cannes Lions. Aside from directing, Walker has executive produced *Ram Dass, Going Home* (2018), and produced *Why Did You Kill Me?* (2021), both Netflix Originals. Walker is based in Venice, CA where she curates TEDxVeniceBeach and is an advocate for psychedelic research. She grew up in London and read English Language and Literature at Oxford University, graduating with a starred first class BA Hons, MA Oxon, and directing award-winning theater before winning a Fulbright Scholarship to earn her MFA at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences and the Directors Guild of America. She also enjoyed a successful career as a DJ and is an Artist in Residence at the SETI Institute.

Dr Gino Yu received his BS and PhD at the University of California at Berkeley in 1987 and 1993 respectively. After receiving his PhD, he taught at the University of Southern California and worked to establish multimedia initiatives including the Integrated Media Systems Center. From 1995 to 1997, he taught at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology where he helped to establish

the Center for Enhanced Learning Technologies. In 1999, he established the Multimedia Innovation Centre at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), a leading edge think tank and research centre on digital entertainment. He is currently an Associate Professor and Director of Digital Entertainment and Game Development in the School of Design at PolyU where he founded M-Lab, a commercial digital entertainment entity that provides consulting, research, instruction and new ideas for the industry.

His main research interests involve the application of media technologies to cultivate creativity and promote enlightened consciousness. Over the past fifteen years he's developed a framework for personal development that is consistent with western science, theistic traditions, and eastern philosophy. Dr. Yu also founded the Hong Kong Digital Entertainment Association, the Consciousness, Science, Technology, and Society Conference, and the Asia Consciousness Festival. He hosted many events including TEDxHongKong, Wikimania, Toward a Science of Consciousness, and Meaningful Media. Additionally, Gino is a sought-after speaker on Blockchain and other emergent technologies and serves as an advisor to several leading-edge endeavours including SingularityNET, Rio Defi, Maaind, and Hanson Robotics.

TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Anton Bilton is an economics graduate from The City University, London. He is the founder and Executive Deputy Chairman of The Raven Property Group and the Chairman of Sabina Estates Ltd. Outside of his working environment, Anton's principal interests are altered states of consciousness and exploring the presence of the Sentient Other.

Dr David Luke is Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Greenwich, UK, where he has been teaching an undergraduate course on the Psychology of Exceptional Human Experience since 2009, and he is also Honorary Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Psychedelic Research, Imperial College London, and Lecturer on the MSc Consciousness, Spirituality and Transpersonal Psychology for Alef Trust and Liverpool John Moores University. His research focuses on transpersonal experiences, anomalous phenomena and altered states of consciousness, especially via psychedelics, having published more than 100 academic papers in this area, including thirteen books, such as, including *DMT Dialogues* and *DMT Entity Encounters*. When he is not running clinical drug trials with LSD, conducting DMT field experiments or observing apparent weather control with Mexican shamans he directs the Ecology, Cosmos and Consciousness salon at the Institute of Ecotechnics, London, and is a cofounder and director of Breaking Convention: International Conference on Psychedelic Consciousness. He has given over 400 invited public lectures and conference presentations; won teaching,

research and writing awards; organised numerous festivals, conferences, symposia, seminars, retreats, expeditions, pagan cabarets and pilgrimages; and has studied techniques of consciousness alteration from South America to India, from the perspective of scientists, shamans and Shivaïtes. He lives life on the edge, of Sussex.

Rory Spowers is a writer and systems thinker, focused on ecological and consciousness issues. After graduating from the University of Edinburgh, he cycled the length of Africa in 1989/90 with friends on a three-seater 'trandem' originally used in a famous BBC comedy series from the 1970s, *The Goodies*. This led to his first book, *Three Men On A Bike*, and catalysed a passion for working on documentary films about ecological issues. In 1996/97, he walked the length of India on a spiritual pilgrimage, after winning a travel writing competition in *The Independent*, consolidating an interest in the Vedic non-duality teachings of *advaita vedanta*.

After developing a permaculture smallholding in mid-Wales and writing his second book, *Rising Tides* - a critically acclaimed history of ecological thinking - he launched The Web of Hope at the UN's World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002 - 'the world's first database of sustainable systems solutions'. In 2004, Rory moved to Sri Lanka with his wife Yvette and their two sons, Sholto (now 21) and Xan (now 19), where they founded Samakanda on an abandoned 60-acre tea estate, an ecological educational centre and the subject of Rory's third book, *A Year in Green Tea and Tuk Tuks*.

In 2012, the family relocated to Ibiza, Spain, where Rory worked with ex-BBC presenter Bruce Parry on the feature-length documentary film *Tawai*, exploring humanity's conceptual separation from nature. Rory and Anton Bilton founded the Tyringham Initiative in 2015, a world-class think-tank for 'new paradigm' thinking, and in 2018 Rory launched The Re-Generation, a new media platform highlighting 'regenerative systems change solutions'. He is currently working on his next book - *The Turning: Roadmaps to a Regenerative Renaissance* - and actively seeking partners interested in establishing blueprint nodal hubs for seeding an educational regenerative renaissance. He also lives life on the edge, of Ibiza.

