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A Monthly e-Newsletter From:

Institute for Alternative Futures

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## *Forward Perspectives*

### **A Conversation with Dean Radin, Ph.D.**

#### *Brain, Mind & Healing Conference Revisited*

By Jonathan Peck, IAF President and Senior Futurist



The [theory of consciousness](#) described in the February 2010 IAF newsletter may offer a viable explanation for experimental work conducted by [Dean Radin, Ph.D.](#), Senior Scientist at the Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS). Dr. Radin's research effectively uses Western scientific rigor to study Eastern ideas on the nature of mind. After hearing Dr. Radin present his research at the Samuelli Institute's Brain, Mind and Healing Conference, I arranged a telephone interview to explore how his work might inform our futures work at IAF. The following are edited excerpts from our call:

The key question in thinking about the nature of mind is whether the brain and the mind and consciousness are identical. To answer part of that question, I have looked at psi research [studies of psychic phenomena] to see what we are actually capable of between the mind and consciousness. I found that there are strange things that happen such as perceiving another person's mind or seeing the past, present, and future all at once. Such phenomena rely on a distinction between consciousness and awareness, and meditation provides evidence for such a separation.

The Patanjali Sutras, from the Yoga school of Indian philosophy, describe the attainments, abilities and powers that come from the practice of meditation. At the first stage you notice that your body and mind become calm. A deeper meditation practice will then have you attain other powers. One is the ability to perceive another's mind and to see what has happened in the past or the future. Such ability stretches the credulity of our minds today.

The second stage attainments are telepathy and clairvoyance. We can use science to test whether subjective impressions such as these are objectively true. To be short, we do find that they are true. However there is a Western understanding of an external, objective view of the world which has led to the suspicion that subjective experience is either meaningless or doesn't exist at all. Thus, despite scientific evidence, psychic phenomena are assumed to be impossible. In contrast, the Eastern approach has systematically looked at subjective experience from the inside. Of course, much of subjective experience should be looked at suspiciously. People report their memories falsely, but the suspicion on the part of Western science that subjective experience is false leads to dismissing correct subjective experience as well. People may inflate their psychic abilities as better than they are, yet sometimes we can show that clairvoyance and remote viewing are actually true.

What else will we learn by studying the subjective mind with objective science? I think we will find that the Western approach is largely correct. The neurosciences, for example, will be shown to bring a good deal of understanding. However a more careful reading of Eastern philosophy will help us understand what the physical world is made up of – that if you go deep enough into consciousness you end up at the fabric of reality: information. Information provides the ground upon which knowledge emerges, which in turn is inseparable

from the mind. From this perspective, *the mind emerges from our environment*, instead of the brain. In any case as a monist I think mind and matter interrelate, so when we learn the nature of that connection the understanding will give us greater capacity.

While mind and matter are related there is only so much you can do on the mind side. We can, however, push beyond these limitations. For example, science is always trying to do East or West – one or the other, but not both. I go beyond that and look for a real synthesis between East and West.

I do not necessarily believe everything I say, but the results I've gotten in the laboratory are pretty strong. So my beliefs are pretty strong.

After the phone interview I read a number of articles Dean Radin has published. His research speaks directly to futures as he has studied intuition, which is the form of perception that the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) shows to be preferred by IAF and other futurists. One article, "Testing Nonlocal Observation as a Source of Intuitive Knowledge" (EXPLORE, January/February 2008, Vol.4, No. 1) begins with a wonderful quote from Albert Einstein:

"The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift."

The article notes that there has been little formal study of intuition in psychology, and remedies this deficit in an intriguing way. Using equipment and concepts common to quantum physics experiments, Dr. Radin has demonstrated that subjects who are experienced meditators can alter experimental results in a sealed room. The article concludes that *intuitive knowledge "may help shape the nature of physical reality itself through quantum observer effects."* This provides a new framework for thinking about futurists, who seek to shape the nature of reality through our intuitive understanding.

## News & Events

### Sandra Tripp Elected to IAF Board of Directors

IAF is proud to welcome Sandra Tripp to our Board of Directors. Ms. Tripp is Vice President of At-Risk Populations at Thrive Research Inc. and was elected to the IAF Board in May 2010. She knows IAF very well as a past client and long-time friend. Her business experience and commitment to values shared by IAF will be an invaluable contribution to IAF.

For over 30 years, Ms. Tripp has used her expertise and skills as a strategist and futurist to provide counsel and leadership to several Fortune 500 companies and innovative nonprofit organizations. Prior to joining Thrive Research Inc., Ms. Tripp was Vice President of Strategic Planning for the Johnson & Johnson global pharmaceuticals business. She has also held senior level positions at Merck, Syntex Laboratories, and the Institute for the Future.

Ms. Tripp has used her business acumen to help nonprofit organizations develop successful strategies for long-term viability and to achieve their strategic goals. Her accomplishments include leading the board of directors and senior staff of Women Helping Women to develop a comprehensive five-year strategic plan that articulated, and continues to actively implement, the vision, mission, top priorities, strategic objectives, and action plans; as well as creating the C4C Program to give J&J employees opportunities to contribute to the community and helping more than double the participation rate for the program.

Ms. Tripp received her B.A. from Wellesley College and her M.B.A. from Columbia University.

### From Right to Responsibility: What Does the "American Experience" Mean for the Success of Health Care Reform?

IAF is co-sponsoring a roundtable luncheon discussion with Altarum Institute on June 17 at the Newseum in Washington D.C. The discussion is "From Right to Responsibility: What Does the 'American Experience' Mean for the Success of Health Care Reform?" The speakers will include: IAF President Jonathan Peck; Journal of the American Medical Society (JAMA) Editor-in-Chief Catherine D'Angeles; and Kennedy School of Government Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy and Faculty Research Fellow Sheila Burke.

### IAF Welcomes New Intern, Sahal Alarabi

Sahal Alarabi, a student at the Kogod School of Business at American University, will work on IAF's marketing and strategy, leveraging his studies in the business field. He will also contribute to IAF's work on pro-poor foresight and the future of vulnerability. Sahal is very enthusiastic to learn more about futures techniques and how foresight is applied to create better futures. He will be returning to his studies at AU in the fall.

## Upcoming events

[Diabetes Task Force Conference](#), Women in Government, IAF Senior Fellow Bill Rowley, June 16th, 2010 in Louisville, KY.

[From Right to Responsibility: What Does the "American Experience" Mean for the Success of Health Care Reform?](#)

Roundtable luncheon discussion hosted by Altarum Institute and the Institute for Alternative Futures. June 17, 2010, 12:30-3:00 p.m., in Washington, DC.

[Wiser Futures Workshop](#), WorldFuture 2010: Sustainable Futures, Strategies, and Technologies, IAF Futurists Clem Bezold and Eric Meade, July 8th, 2010 in Boston, MA.

**Register Now and Save \$50 Off the On-Site Rate!**

[Health For All And A Health-Care System Worth Creating](#), IAF Founder and Chairman Clem Bezold, WorldFuture 2010: Sustainable Futures, Strategies, and Technologies Conference, on July 10, 2010, 9:00-10:30am, in Boston, MA.

[Future Paradigms of Poverty and Development](#), Senior Futurist & Vice President Eric Meade, WorldFuture 2010: Sustainable Futures, Strategies, and Technologies Conference, on July 10, 2010, 11:00-12:00n, in Boston, MA.

The Institute for Alternative Futures is a 501(c)3 non-profit research and education organization based in Alexandria, VA. IAF was founded in 1977 by Clem Bezold, Alvin Toffler, and James Dator. IAF has a long track record of using forecasts, scenarios, visioning, and other futures tools to help leading organizations understand the likely, challenging, and visionary developments that may take place in their environments, and to develop robust and visionary strategies that account for the inherent uncertainty of the future. IAF's past clients include the World Health Organization, AARP, American Cancer Society, and Rockefeller Foundation, as well as a wide range of multinational corporations through its for-profit subsidiary, Alternative Futures Associates. To learn more about what we can do for your organization, call us at (703) 684-5880 or write to [futurist@allfutures.org](mailto:futurist@allfutures.org).

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