



School of Economic Science

O P E N D I A L O G U E

Towards an Understanding of the Primacy of Consciousness



School of Economic Science
11 Mandeville Place
London
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Sunday 11th October 2009

Speakers:
Dennis Blejer
Graham Dunstan Martin
Dr. Elisabet Sahtouris

Chairs: David Lorimer and Peter Bowman

The Conference

This joint conference will explore the consequences of challenging the conventional view that consciousness is merely a secondary attribute of the most highly evolved creatures, adopting instead the premise that consciousness is fundamental and is the primary element in life. The day will explore if this position provides a reasonable basis for a more comprehensive understanding of the full range of phenomena we experience, with interdisciplinary contributions from physics, biology and philosophy. Those wishing to speak from the floor should submit an abstract - see booking form overleaf.

Programme

- 9:00 Registration
- 9:30 Introductions – David Lorimer and Peter Bowman
- 9:45 **Dennis Blejer: *Towards an Axiomatic Theory of Consciousness***
- 10:30 **Dr. Elisabet Sahtouris: *Consciousness as Primary or Emergent in Theories of Evolution? Implications for Science and the Human Future***
- 11:15 Coffee
- 11:45 **Graham Dunstan Martin: *The Case for Mind as the Maker of the Universe: a Philosophical Perspective***
- 12:30 Dialogue with speakers
- 1:00 Lunch
- 2:15 Short contributions from the floor (5 minutes each) with response from the panel
- 3:30 Tea
- 4:00 Plenary dialogue
- 5:00 Conclusions

The Organisers

The Scientific and Medical Network is an informal international forum consisting of qualified scientists and doctors, psychologists, engineers, philosophers, psychologists and other professionals. The Network came into existence in 1973 and has Members in more than 50 countries. It questions the reductionist assumptions of contemporary scientific and medical thinking and seeks to reach beyond a materialistic world-view. See www.scimednet.org

School of Economic Science

The School of Economic Science is a centre of spiritual and practical knowledge and enquiry. It aims to help individuals lead a fuller, richer and more useful life, and to evolve the spiritual aspect of their being. See www.schooleconomicsscience.org

The Speakers



Dennis Blejer is an engineering physicist by profession. He has been employed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Lincoln Laboratory since 1985, where he is engaged in studies on electromagnetic scattering and phenomenology, radar systems design, and signal processing. He

is also the branch leader for the School of Practical Philosophy and Meditation in Boston, and has been a member of the School for 35 years. His interest in consciousness studies comes from his practice of meditation and study of the philosophy of mind. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Physics from Brandeis University, and was on the research staff at Harvard University, Department of Engineering and Applied Physics, where he also did graduate studies in applied physics and mathematics.



Graham Dunstan Martin lectured in French literature, language and philosophy at Edinburgh University between 1965 and 2000. He has published two children's novels; four adult science-fiction / fantasy novels; a number of translations of French poetry including the Penguin Laforgue; three

works of literary philosophy; and three works of anti-materialist philosophy, namely *Shadows in the Cave* (Penguin 1990), *Does It Matter?* (Floris 2005) and *Living On Purpose* (Floris 2008), books which seek to show that, properly understood, science does not support a materialist / physicalist view of the universe, that it leaves room for spiritual realities, an afterlife, and the ultimate knowledge of the mystics.



Dr. Elisabet Sahtouris is an internationally known American/Greek evolution biologist now living on Mallorca. She has taught at the Univ.

of Massachusetts and MIT, was a UN consultant on indigenous peoples, is a member of the World Wisdom Council and organized the first Evolution of Science Symposium in Hokkaido, Japan, with a second symposium to be held in Kuala Lumpur this year. She presents to businesses, banks, governments, progressive business alliances and other international organizations on the maturation of humanity from competition to cooperation, as well as on what we can learn from nature to live better on a hotter planet. Her books include *EarthDance: Living Systems in Evolution*, *A Walk Through Time: from Stardust to Us* and *Biology Revisited* (with Willis Harman). Her websites are www.sahtouris.com (professional) and www.ratical.org/lifeweb (personal, with many writings).

