

The Global Consciousness Project

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This note is to introduce the Global Consciousness Project (GCP), describing its major scientific efforts and its positive vision. We are contacting people who we believe will have an interest in this project and may have the means to contribute support.

The GCP is unique in concept, scope, and execution, with about 100 researchers in an international collaboration. We have built a world-spanning network to collect random data continuously over months and years. We hypothesize that there may be patterns in the random data corresponding to major world events that engage large numbers of people. The project's central purpose is to look for scientific evidence of the interconnections and interdependence described by sages in every cultural tradition. In our first 10 years of operation we have found suggestions of a global consciousness in which we all participate, as neurons do when they form an individual consciousness. The results are consistent with the unity or oneness of all humanity postulated by philosophers and poets.

The GCP database is rich because of its scale and careful design, and it provides a unique perspective on the role of consciousness in the world. It has yielded new insights into the subtle capabilities of consciousness, as the summary on the next page shows. The GCP data appear to establish scientifically that thoughts and emotions can have a direct role in shaping what happens in the world. However, there are many issues that require deeper examination, and as the implications unfold, new and challenging questions arise.

Teilhard de Chardin wrote that although we see human beings as the pinnacle of evolution, we are not finished. There is another stage to come, in which we will become a shell of intelligence for the earth – which he called a “noosphere”. Teilhard's image can also be thought of as a global mind, and while the idea might be regarded as a poetic metaphor, the GCP results appear to be evidence that moments of global consciousness do occur. Perhaps this is timely, for we need a shared vision as we determine our future on the earth.

If the opportunity to help with this project is intriguing, you may wish to speak with Roger Nelson, the Project Director, at 609-924-4875. You can make tax deductible donations to the GCP through the Institute of Noetic Sciences. Checks should be payable to IONS-GCP, earmarking the donation for The Global Consciousness Project, and addressed to:

Institute of Noetic Sciences
Attention: Marilyn Schlitz
101 San Antonio Road
Petaluma, CA 94952, USA

Thank you and best wishes,



Roger D. Nelson, Director

Summary: What do we know after 10 years of research?

Million-to-one odds against chance

The bottom line for more than 225 replications of the basic hypothesis test confirms that there is structure in our random data that is correlated with big global events.

Human consciousness matters

The GCP data are affected during times of importance to humans, such as natural or human caused disasters, as well as great celebrations like New Years.

Coherence among people is required

We see changes in the data when huge numbers of people are pointed in the same direction, focused on the same event, sharing thoughts and especially emotions.

Compassion is a key component

Events that evoke or embody compassion or similar deeply shared interpersonal feeling have by far the largest effects.

Large numbers are important

Events that engage large numbers, millions of people, reliably show larger effects than those attracting attention from thousands or tens of thousands, e. g. local events.

Consciousness has a general presence in the data

A correlation between measures for an exact 24-hour cycle but not for incommensurate longer or shorter “days” reflects a persistent, general effect of human consciousness.

Data are correlated with social measures

Significant long term trends in our measures are correlated with polling data, and may reflect a collective mood or attitude prevailing over months and years.

There is evidence for a precursor effect

Indications of network response beginning several hours before an event (e. g. 9/11), has been confirmed for 100 big earthquakes ($M > 6$) in populated areas.

Positive and negative trends may be meaningful

Departures from expectation tend to be followed by opposite sign deviations, suggesting differential response as the global “state of consciousness” changes.

Independent measures show similar response

Two demonstrably independent statistics, measuring network variance and co-variance, show departures from expectation that track the same global events.

Pair-wise correlation underlies the results

The effects are driven by pair-wise correlation of the REG devices during events. They track each other even though they are designed to be – and normally are – independent.