

Special issue of the Journal of Nonlocality: Psi and the Nonlocal Mind

Edited by Ben Goertzel, PhD

Deadline for the Special Issue is September 15, 2016

Book Proposal

We are soliciting articles for a Special Issue of the Journal of Nonlocality focused on psi phenomena -- and specifically on explanations, interpretations and explorations of psi phenomena that involve grounding these phenomena in nonlocal mind, nonlocal consciousness or closely related concepts.

While we recognize that this is a topic which touches many different fields of inquiry, including science, philosophy, spirituality, mathematics and more, for this Special Issue we are specifically interested in articles that treat the intersection of psi and nonlocal mind from a scientific perspective. That said, we are also open to the possibility that appropriate handling of these topics will require a substantial expansion and revision of the current standard conception of “science,” and articles pursuing this sort of direction in an intellectually rigorous way will be reviewed favorably.

Deadlines and Practicalities

The submission deadline for the Special Issue is *September 15, 2016*. Refereeing will occur during the early fall 2016, and we are targeting early 2017 for release of the Special Issue.

In addition to its appearance on the Journal website, we are planning to release the Special Issue in book form as well, for readers who prefer to consume information in this way.

To submit an article please send an email to ben AT goertzel DOT org with “Special Issue of the Journal of Nonlocality” as the subject line. Also, if you have a potential article you'd like to discuss prior to submission, please email ben AT goertzel DOT org as well.

Formatting of articles for initial submission should simply be PDF. For final submission, after refereeing, more precise instructions will be given to authors of accepted papers at the appropriate time.

Background and Goals

There is considerable scientific laboratory evidence, as well as a huge corpus of everyday-life “anecdotal” evidence, in favor of the existence of psi phenomena: precognition, ESP, psychokinesis, and so forth. This data-set has been subjected to repeated analysis by multiple scientists, using sophisticated statistical methods, and the results have been reported in hundreds of high-quality journal articles, including a number of review articles and meta-analyses. Some of this evidence has been presented and summarized in the 2014 book *The Evidence for Psi*, edited by Special Issue editor Ben Goertzel and Damien Broderick.

Progress toward a scientific *understanding* of psi phenomena, however, has been less steady than the accumulation of evidence that such phenomena exist. Numerous theoretical ideas have been presented, accounting for various aspects of the available data; but none of these ideas has yet been worked out into a true scientific theory of psi.

Our central goal in putting together this Special Issue is to present and advance thinking regarding one particular class of scientific theories of psi: those which analyze psi as an aspect of “nonlocal consciousness”, i.e. consciousness that is better thought of as being distributed throughout the universe, rather than as being localized in the brains and bodies of individual organisms. This way of thinking about psi cannot (yet) be considered solidly proven correct, of course, but we believe it does have many advantages over alternatives, including: consilience with many philosophical and spiritual traditions, harmony with the subjective reports of many psi experiencers, and close connection with nonlocality phenomena in quantum physics.

Our aim in collating the Special Issue is to make a significant impact on the direction of scientific research, via clearly presenting “nonlocal consciousness” and “nonlocal mind” as a viable, rigorous direction to pursue in working toward a rigorous understanding of psi phenomena.

In preparing their submissions, we encourage authors NOT to shy away from controversial topics. We are open to discussion not only of classic psi phenomena such as precognition, remote viewing, etc., but also of phenomena such as apparent reincarnation and survival-after-death, whose connection with psi is a matter of dispute and discussion within the parapsychology research community. Our attitude is to accept ideas and insights from any source that offers them, including spiritual and religious traditions when appropriate, but to express and evaluate these ideas purely as scientific hypotheses.

As noted above, we are also very interested in the possibility that proper treatment of psi and nonlocal consciousness may require an expansion of the practice of “science” as it is currently understood. Experimenter effects and analyzer effects in laboratory research, and conceptual difficulties regarding the first, second and third person perspectives on consciousness, make this a natural option to explore. The approach we prefer is to pursue the possibility of such expansion carefully and in a data-driven way. Science has expanded and transformed itself repeatedly throughout its history, and is almost sure to do so again in future, whether in the context of psi or otherwise. However, current scientific methodology contains a great deal of value, and if it is to be expanded so as to handle psi phenomena more effectively, this should be

done in a measured way that does not sacrifice the rigor that has given science its power to date.

The intersection of psi with nonlocal mind/consciousness and physical nonlocality poses numerous complex and multifaceted issues. However, our working hypothesis is that these issues can be worked through and understood in a rational, intuitive and scientific way. Our hope is that the papers in this Special Issue will constitute significant progress in this direction.