The Implications of Global Consciousness Research for the Future of Our World

Dr. Roger Nelson
Director of the Global Consciousness Project – Princeton, NJ

There is one thing that is stronger than all the armies in the world, and that is an idea whose time has come. – Victor Hugo

Research Background

Here is such an idea: We are interconnected. The connection is below our usual level of consciousness, but it is real, and when we bring it into awareness, we will have the power to change the world.

Over the history of mankind, there has been a recognition of our essential oneness in all cultural and religious traditions. With an increasing reliance on science and engineering, we drifted away from this understanding – it didn’t seem relevant – but there has been a return to scientific research on human consciousness giving a new perspective on the idea of oneness.

First came laboratory demonstrations that human intention can affect random number generators (high-speed electronic “coin-flippers” based on quantum fluctuations), followed by field studies showing effects of group consciousness on such devices. This research led to the Global Consciousness Project, a long-term natural experiment which reveals effects arising from deep-lying unconscious interconnections among humans everywhere.

The GCP monitors the behavior of a world-spanning network of random number generators during major events that engage millions of people responding to tragedies and celebrations. The accumulated results over 15 years show changes in the data during moments of special importance to humans, and that has profound implications.

Significance of Research

We can picture ourselves immersed in a global consciousness field. It is made of vast numbers of individual fields, and is generally quite chaotic because the components are uncoordinated. Now and then, some factor that influences the structure and rhythm of individual fields may be common to many of them, and this can produce something like a resonance or coherence. The ripples in our separate consciousness fields overlap and build upon each other to make a ringing chord of shared, coherent activity.

We are at a crucial time in our history and in our sojourn on this good earth, a time when recognition of our interconnected nature is required. We actually need to go beyond simply accepting that we are always touching each other through subtle connections. We must honor and foster our links, and together grow beyond human to humane, to develop as human beings toward our potential.

When large numbers of us become fully human, we will assume the role of functioning elements in subtle networks within a global intelligence. Like neurons, which create brain and mind simply by performing their roles, we are the essential elements of mind on a global scale. Working together, even...
without knowing the result of their individual actions, neurons create thought and emotion and consciousness. **Our destiny is to become a brain-like consciousness for the Earth, to create a protective, loving sheath of intelligence for our home.**

**So What?**
The importance of evidence for global consciousness is profound, and it is disproportionate to its apparent fragility. What would it mean to you, to your family, your community, and ultimately the world, to know that we humans are interconnected? Even though we can't directly measure the bonds, the evidence says we are linked – to each other and to the world in which we live.

When humans are brought by external forces or by internal motivations to a synchronized and coherent state, there is a new, creative presence in the world. It is not yet a consciousness in the sense of being awake and aware (as far as we know), but it confirms the perennial wisdom that we are One. It shows that when we are in an interconnected state the world changes.

We have learned something very significant about human nature and capacities.

1) What can we do to ensure that it has some good effect?
2) How can we get people to do something about it, and what should they actually do?
3) Reaching beyond a small population who already understand that we are connected, how can we make this knowledge useful for all people throughout our world?
4) What do we do about active resistance from people who profit from individualistic selfishness and know that if people really started connecting and loving that the profits would shrink?
5) Is that even true? Maybe even the selfish will profit. What if the markets and the business of making money by bartering goods and services among individuals, communities and nations could work better, even for the greedy? How is the zero-sum game affected?

**What Should Can You Do? Practical Application of Research Results**

Here, Roger, it would be helpful if we could add some basic, practical tips/action steps to make this information useful to young people: keeping oneself free from negative emotions; positive and constructive day dreaming about a beautiful world free of poverty and suffering; imagining ways to create peace at every level of human interaction, etc., if I am not too off-target! I think the more simple action steps we can give our youth, the more likely they will embrace all of this with great enthusiasm as being very doable!

1) Work together. Two heads are better than one, and organized groups are powerful.
2) Think positively. Your images of a bright future create a path toward beauty.
3) Envision peace. What we expect becomes more likely, and our intentions make it happen.
4) Practice forgiveness. Your enemy can become your friend and help you move forward.
5) Become your potential. Conscious evolution is possible and essential in our time.

Be creative. The power of a good idea is almost without limit.

Your turn – how can you help make a beautiful world for all?

**Concluding Challenge**
The integrity of our only possible home is in great danger from our own destructive and careless misunderstanding, and it is time for us to see ourselves growing toward the next stage of humanity. The future of man is reaching toward us, drawing us into an awakening earth mind which can begin healing the wounds of our people and our home planet. We need to wake up *en masse* and get on with the job of managing our responsibilities.

*My relatives say it is over 133,000 years that we have been here, the time period of human mind*
development upon this land. There have been four creations before this, and now we are in the Fifth
Creation, the Fifth World. The Fifth Creation, like the fifth tone in music, is the opportunity to go into yet
another realm. We can come now to the Beauty Path, the path of right action, of good relationship, of
clear intention. That is a choice we make as this fifth cycle ends.

– Dhyani Ywahoo – Cherokee, keeper of wisdom – 1987