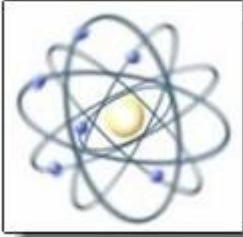


KEVIN WILLIAMS Science and the ND Experience



By [Kevin Williams](#)

Scientific knowledge is always in a state of flux. New scientific discoveries come along and overthrow long-held hypotheses. A good example of this is the attempt by humanity to explain the phenomenon of light. Before the dawn of science, humanity relied on religious experience and philosophy to understand light and the cosmos. The Bible declares the universe began when God said, "[Let there be light.](#)" Ancient religious texts throughout history have associated light with divine consciousness - a consciousness from which everything, including all other consciousness, originated. The Bible declares, "[God is light.](#)" Eminent physicist, [David Bohm](#), viewed all matter as "condensed" or "frozen light." Physicist [Stephen Hawking](#) once stated, "When you break subatomic particles down to their most elemental level, you are left with nothing but pure light." Science has discovered that [light was pervasive](#) at the beginning of the universe. Scientists recently discovered the so-called "[God Particle](#)" - the particle which bestows mass upon all particles. This particle is very crucial to physics because it is [our final understanding of the structure of all matter](#). Albert Einstein's great equation $E=mc^2$ (where E is for energy, m for mass and c is the speed of light) describes the awesome power and energy holding all atoms together. Surprisingly, the Bible supports Einstein's equation when it declares that "[God is the invisible power holding all things together.](#)" This transcendent view of consciousness is the basis for major world religions. So it shouldn't be surprising that top quantum physicists were influenced by religion. [Erwin Schrodinger](#), for example, studied Hinduism; [Werner Heisenberg](#) looked into [Plato's theory](#) of the ancient Greeks; [Niels Bohr](#) was drawn to the Tao; [Wolfgang Pauli](#) to the Kabbalah; and [Max Plank](#) to Christianity.

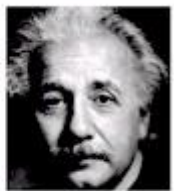
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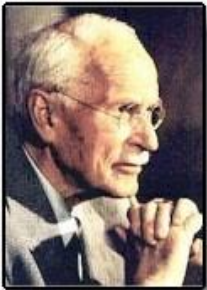
1. The Holistic Merger of Science and Spirituality

"Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind"
Albert Einstein



The scientific discovery of the nature of light is the cornerstone of modern physics and natural law. It is also the cornerstone of near-death studies and modern consciousness research. Over the centuries, science has yielded some very unusual, almost "god-like," properties of light. The recently discovered "[God particle](#)" - the elusive particle which gives mass to every other particle - is one of the greatest discoveries in science. Light was pervasive at the time of the Big Bang. Light is the fastest thing in the universe

and travels at 671 million miles per hour. It takes an infinite amount of energy to move an object to the speed of light. At the speed of light, the past, present, and future all exist simultaneously. If a person could travel at the speed of light, they would become immortal. There is also the quantum theory of **superposition** where matter can exist in more than one dimension at the same time - making anomalous phenomena such as NDEs and OBEs possible. Physicists have experimentally demonstrated that two particles can be separated, and no matter by how far apart they are (even a billion miles apart), a change in one particle instantly creates a simultaneous change in the other as if they were connected. This phenomenon called "quantum entanglement" which Einstein called "**spooky actions from a distance**" and is suggestive of an underlying reality which physicists have not yet been able to explain although there are many theories. Light also has a "dual personality" existing as both a particle and a wave. The reason we can see anything at all is because our mere observation of things converts light waves into light particles thereby making human consciousness the main factor when it comes to reality.



Carl Jung (1875-1961) the Swiss psychologist and near-death experiencer who founded analytical psychology, is best known for his psychological concepts including archetypes, the collective unconscious, dream analysis, and synchronicity. His interest in philosophy and metaphysics led many to view him as a mystic. Following discussions with both **Albert Einstein** and **Wolfgang Pauli**(two founding fathers of quantum physics) Jung believed there were **parallels between synchronicity** and the **relativity of time** and its connection to consciousness.

Scientists are discovering how objective reality is more of an illusion than a reality. At deeper levels, everything - atoms, cells, molecules, plants, animals, and people participate in a connected **flowing web of information**. At the quantum level, the **observer becomes a part of the observed** and the distinction between observer and object disappears. Space and time are concepts we bring with us to the quantum level but they do not seem to exist there. Time flows both forward and backward symmetrically according to relativity - a concept making time travel a possibility. And because all matter, including our brains and bodies, are mostly composed of empty space because of the structure of atoms held together by atomic energy, a metaphysical case can be made that we are mostly composed of non-physical "spirit." At the quantum level, location becomes nonlocal and everything can be thought of as being in no particular place at no particular time. What we "see" out there has more to do with our own consciousness and **subjective experience** than anything that might be "out there". In light of these findings, we must conclude the notion of **objective reality** is in error. Physicists are discovering laws of physics are the laws of our own minds.



One of the most compelling theories is called the **holographic principle** which defines the universe as a single, gigantic hologram where everything is connected to everything else including

our minds. Metaphysically speaking, the brain processes cosmic information in the form of holograms - the "mind's eye." The holographic principle originated from one of the most significant theoretical physicists of the 20th century, [David Bohm](#). Neurophysiologist [Karl Pribram](#) synchronistically arrived at a holographic model of the mind and brain at the same time as David Bohm developed his holographic model of the universe. Surprisingly, these holographic models may be the basis for all mystical experiences including the NDE. These holographic models are part of a new emerging paradigm called "[holism](#)" which is the opposite of reductionism. It is the paradigm where all natural systems - physical, biological, chemical, social, economic, etc. - and their properties, should be viewed as a whole and not the sum of its parts. A corresponding theory of [quantum consciousness](#) was developed by the joint work of theoretical physicist, [Sir Roger Penrose](#), and anesthesiologist [Stuart Hameroff](#). Like David Bohm and Karl Pribram before them, Penrose and Hameroff developed their theories synchronistically. Penrose approached the problem of consciousness from the view point of mathematics, while Hameroff approached it from his career in anesthesia which gave him an interest in brain structures. Quantum consciousness is the theory of an underlying consciousness connecting everyone and everything and is based on the fact that quantum fields can be interpreted as extending infinitely in space.



Carl Jung referred to this connection between all life as the "[collective unconscious](#)" also known as the "collective subconscious." Jung theorized how synchronicity serves a role similar to dreams, with the purpose of shifting a person's egocentric conscious thinking to greater wholeness. Jung was transfixed by the idea of life not being a series of random events but rather an expression of a deeper order, which he and Wolfgang Pauli referred to as "[one world](#)" - a term referring to the concept of an underlying unified reality of the universe from which everything emerges and returns to. Jung believed this principle of an underlying "world" can express itself through synchronicity and is the basis for [quantum mysticism](#). Quantum theories such as the [many-worlds interpretation](#) of quantum mechanics and its corresponding [many-minds theory](#) supports this new paradigm. These quantum theories also supports the theory of [quantum immortality](#) which theoretically makes the immortality of a non-physical "soul" possible. If one views consciousness as a fundamental, non-physical, part of the universe, it becomes possible to conceive of consciousness continuing to exist after the death in a parallel universe. These quantum and holographic paradigms assume anomalous phenomena such as NDEs to certainly be within the realm of possibilities.

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2. Quantum Physics and the Near-Death Experience

Just as surprising is how NDE encounters with an otherworldly light correspond with the new paradigm found in the principles of quantum physics. Classical mechanics involving observing, theorizing, and predicting doesn't work very well when it comes to understanding light, consciousness, and subjective experiences - especially when it concerns the NDE. The old paradigm allowed materialists and skeptics to dismiss NDEs as being caused by brain anomalies - even though the cause of NDEs is not relevant to whether the experience is a real afterlife experience or not. Nevertheless, recent [NDE studies have ruled out brain anomalies](#). Anyway, brain anomalies are *side-effects* of the near-death experience and not the *cause* of them. Skeptics must confront their unscientific logical fallacy of claiming that NDEs are either hallucinations or are impossible since the brain is the origin of consciousness and a dead brain produces nothing. Even if one assumes NDEs to be merely a chemical reaction in the brain, there is no human experience of any description that can't simply be reduced to a biological process, but this in no way offsets the meaning these experiences have for those who have them - whether it's falling in love, or grieving, or having a baby, or coming close to death and having a

transcendental experience.

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3. Quantum Interconnectivity and the Near-Death Experience



Theoretical quantum physics supports the notion of our universe as being a **conscious universe** of which all other consciousness is a **fractal**. Many scientists no longer believe in a randomly generated universe from some sort of primal dust. Nobel prize winning molecular biologist **Christian de Duve** describes the universe as having a cosmic imperative to develop conscious life. The very structure of molecules composing living creatures dictates the evolution of conscious life. Astrophysicist **Fred Hoyle** agreed how the fundamental laws of the universe governing the creation of planets, suns and galaxies implies conscious life will be the end result of those universal laws. Evolutionary biologist **Rupert Sheldrake** goes even further, describing how "morphic forms" - patterns of energy which first exist in the universe - results in life. If these compelling theories are true, then it is possible to apply them to other dimensions of reality made up of other elementary subatomic particles. Anomalous phenomena such as NDEs then becomes less like "fantasy" and more like the perceptions of conscious beings in other realities which can be predicted by modern science. NDEs may simply be clinical applications of the experiments physicists have discovered in the lab.

For example, a European astrophysicist by the name of **Metod Saniga used NDE research** to develop a mathematical model of time which seems to offer solutions to problems vexing scholars since Einstein. In brief, Dr. Saniga takes seriously the testimony of NDErs when they describe experiences in a realm where "time stops" and where some of them "see the past, present, and future all at once." Dr. Saniga describes this realm as "the Pure Present." Dr. Saniga used these anomalous experiences to describe a single mathematical model which can account for both the conventional and the extraordinary ways humans experience time.

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4. The Holographic Universe and the Near-Death Experience



The father of the new paradigm, Albert Einstein, may have had the old paradigm in mind when he said, "All knowledge of reality starts from experience and ends in it." The old paradigm denies a whole range of valid subjective experiences such as NDEs, OBEs, and mystical experiences. Severe cracks in the old paradigm began to appear when, in 1982, a research team led by physicist **Alain Aspect** performed what may turn out to be one of the most important experiments of the 20th century. They discovered subatomic particles were able to remain in contact with one another regardless of the distance separating them - even if the distance is billions of miles. Aspect's findings seemed to violate the long-held theory of the impossibility of faster-than-light travel. These findings are suggestive of a deeper level of reality where all things in the universe are infinitely interconnected. Aspect's findings influenced one of the most significant theoretical physicists of the 20th century, **David Bohm**, to develop a profound mathematical theory where all the apparent separateness in the

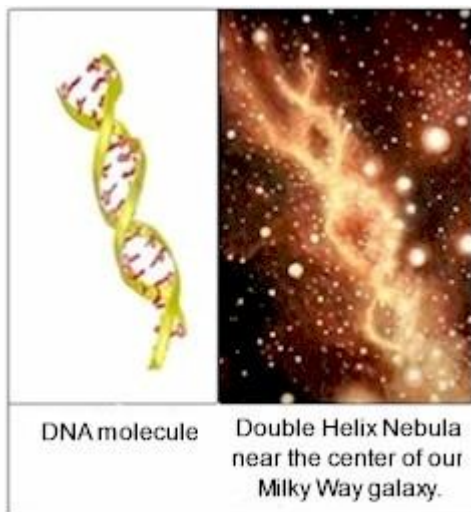
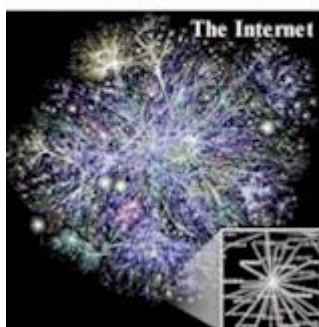
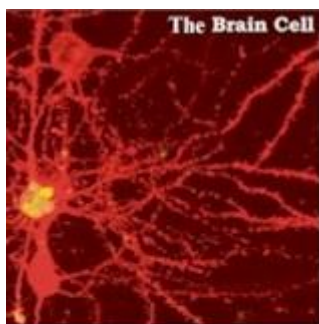
universe to be an illusion. Bohm's theory, known as the **Holographic Principle**, describes the universe to be a gigantic and splendidly detailed hologram.

An example of a **hologram** appears in the movie "Star Wars" when an illusionary holographic image of Princess Leia was projected by the robot R2D2. The notion of reality as illusionary goes back to ancient indigenous people who believed existence to be a dream or an illusion. Modern developments in science have led theoretical physicists to view reality in a similar manner - a reality composed of a matrix, grids, virtual reality, simulation and holograms.

A holographic universe explains the **supersymmetry** found in the universe and suggests how, at the quantum level, everything - atoms, cells, molecules, plants, animals, and people participate in a connected flowing web of information. For example, the electrons in a carbon atom in the human brain are connected to the subatomic particles comprising every other human brain - even with every star in the sky. All of nature can ultimately be viewed as one seamless web. In a holographic universe, time and space become an illusion. The past, present, and future all exist simultaneously suggesting the possibility of science to someday be able to reach into the holographic level of reality and extract scenes from the long-forgotten past - a phenomenon which has already been documented in NDE research from the **life review**.



Another aspect of a holographic universe is the mathematical proof of **every part of a hologram contains all the information possessed by the whole**. If we try to take apart something constructed holographically, we will not get the pieces of which it is made, we will only get smaller wholes. This "whole in every part" nature of a holographic universe may be the basis for mystical experiences such as the NDE. It also agrees with the view of Eastern mysticism that all consciousness existing as a part of one Whole and the Whole within all consciousness. This holographic paradigm supports mathematical principles found in **fractal geometry** and the metaphysical concept of non-physical fractal souls existing in a fractal universe. A holographic universe could theoretically be viewed as a **Matrix** bringing into existence everything else in our universe: all matter and energy - from atoms, to solar systems, to galaxies, etc. Such a Matrix could be viewed as a kind of cosmic storehouse of "All That Is" or the metaphysical concept of an "**akashic field**." Such a Matrix of "all information" could also be the basis for the NDE life review. David Bohm believed a holographic level of reality may be a "mere stage" beyond which lies "an infinity of further development." According to physicist **Fred Alan Wolf**, NDEs can be explained **using a holographic model** where death is merely a shifting of a person's consciousness from one dimension of the hologram to another. Craig Hogan, a physicist at Fermilab, generated even more interest in a holographic universe when he discovered **proof of a holographic universe** in the data of a gravitational wave detector.



Profound evidence supporting the fractal nature of consciousness within a fractal universe can be seen the images on the right and left. On March 16, 2006, the journal *Nature* published a report of [the discovery of an unprecedented elongated double helix nebula](#) (see the image on the right) near the center of our Milky Way galaxy using observations from NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope. According to Mark Morris, a UCLA professor of physics and astronomy, said, "Nobody has ever seen anything like that before in the cosmic realm. Most nebulae are either spiral galaxies full of stars or formless amorphous conglomerations of dust and gas - space weather. What we see indicates a high degree of order." Notice how closely the DNA molecule looks like a fractal of this nebula.

Other evidence supporting the fractal nature of consciousness can be seen in the images on the left. [Mark Miller](#), a doctoral student at Brandeis University, researched how particular types of neurons in the brain are connected to one another. By staining thin slices of a mouse's brain, Miller could then identify the connections visually. The result can be seen in the image on the left labeled "[The Brain Cell](#)" (courtesy of [Dr. Clifford Pickover](#)) showing three neuron cells on the left (two red and one yellow) and their connections. By comparing The Brain Cell image with The Universe image, we can easily see how these objects have the same structure. This begs the questions, "Do we exist within a gigantic brain?" and "Is the law of physics merely the laws of our own minds?" Learn more about the fractal nature of reality in Dr. Pickover's outstanding book [The Physics Book: From the Big Bang to Quantum Resurrection](#). His other books, [The Math Book](#) and [The Medical Book](#), are equally outstanding. Visit his [main website](#) and [Twitter site](#).

The Universe image on the left was created by an international group of astrophysicists called [The Virgo Consortium](#) using a [computer simulation](#) to recreate how the universe grew and evolved. The image is a snapshot of the present universe featuring a large cluster of galaxies (bright yellow) surrounded by thousands of stars, galaxies and [dark matter](#). There are several theories of the universe within particle physics called "[brane cosmology](#)" where "brane" is a reference to "membrane" in [M-Theory](#). In theoretical physics, a "brane" is a mathematical concept where our four-dimensional universe is restricted to a "brane" inside a higher-

dimensional space composed of eleven theoretical dimensions - the three dimensions we can see, plus the dimension of time, plus the **seven extra dimensions** we can't see but M-theory theorizes are all around us. Surprisingly, the number of these dimensions agree with the number of "**afterlife realms**" described by NDEs and the major ancient religions of the world.

The Internet image on the left is a visualization of the Internet showing the various routes through a portion of the Internet. Notice how the structure of a brain cell is the same as the structure of the Internet and the universe. Is this merely a coincidence? Or do these images graphically demonstrate the ancient principle of "as above, so below." The Internet image was generated by **The Opte Project** (pronounced op-tee which is Latin word for "optical") started by **Barrett Lyon** whose goal was to make an accurate representation of the extent of the Internet using visual graphics. The project was started in October 2003 in an effort to provide a useful **network mapping** of the Internet for the purposes of helping students learn more about the Internet. This map can also be used to visualize sites of disasters in the world by citing the significant destruction of Internet capabilities after a disaster. It can also be used as a gauge for the growth of the Internet and the areas of growth. But it also shows how the structure of the Internet is developing along the same lines as the structures of the human brain and the universe. The Universe image is featured at the Boston Museum of Science, the Museum of Modern Art and the Louvre.

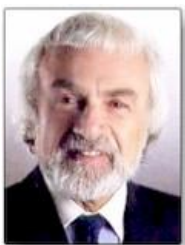
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5. The Holographic Brain and the Near-Death Experience



This "holistic" view of reality (as opposed to reductionist theories) can also be applied to the human brain. The holographic principle was a catalyst towards a theory of quantum consciousness called the "**holonomic brain theory**" which explains how the brain encodes memories in a holographic manner. This theory originated from neurophysiologist **Karl Pribram** who synchronistically arrived at a holographic model of the mind at the same time David Bohm was developing a holographic model of the universe. Taken all together, this holographic model is part of a new emerging paradigm called "**holism**." Holism is the principle of a whole system being more than just the sum of its parts. The best way to study the behavior of many complex systems is to treat it as a whole.

One of the most amazing things about the human thinking process is that every piece of information seems instantly cross-correlated with every other piece of information within the brain - another feature intrinsic to the hologram. Because every portion of a hologram is infinitely interconnected with every other portion, the human brain is perhaps nature's supreme example of a cross-correlated, holistic system.



A holistic storage of memory in the brain becomes more understandable in light of Pribram's **holographic model of the brain**. Another holistic property of the brain is how it is able to translate the avalanche of frequencies it receives via the senses (light frequencies, sound frequencies, etc.) into the concrete world of our perceptions. Consciousness and perception processes sources of light energy. Encoding and decoding light frequencies is precisely what a hologram does best. Just as a hologram functions as a lens which translates meaningless blurs of frequencies into a coherent image, Pribram theorizes the brain also comprises

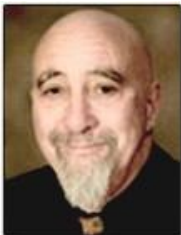
a lens (e.g., the eye) and uses holographic principles to mathematically convert frequencies received by the senses into the inner world of our perceptions. An impressive body of evidence suggests the brain uses holographic principles to perform its operations. Pribram's theory, in fact, has gained increasing support among neurophysiologists.

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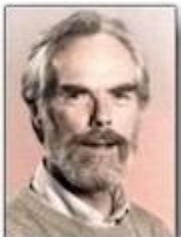
6. Quantum Consciousness and the Near-Death Experience




A corresponding theory of quantum consciousness known as **Orchestrated Objective Reduction** (Orch-OR) was developed by the joint work of theoretical physicist, was developed by the joint work of theoretical physicist, **Sir Roger Penrose**, and anesthesiologist **Stuart Hameroff**. Like David Bohm and Karl Pribram before them, Penrose and Hameroff developed their theories synchronistically. Penrose approached the problem of consciousness from the view point of mathematics, while Hameroff approached it from his career in anesthesia that gave him an interest in brain structures.




Mainstream theories assume consciousness emerged from the brain, so they focus particularly on complex computation at synapses allowing communication between neurons. Orch-OR assumes classical physics cannot fully explain consciousness. In the June 1994 issue of Discover Magazine, an article ran called "**Quantum Consciousness**" about how consciousness and quantum physics are intimately connected. The theory of quantum consciousness suggests that consciousness can be found inside the **microtubules** of brain cells. At death, the information energy inside these microtubules - what some people refer to as the "soul" - doesn't disappear; but instead, is retained in the universe. One of the fundamental laws in physics, **the first law of thermodynamics**, states that energy cannot be created nor destroyed - it can only be converted. So if it is true that consciousness is a form of energy, then according to the first law of thermodynamics, consciousness cannot be created nor destroyed. Instead, it is converted into something else.



On September 6, 2011, National Geographic published the article, "**9/11 and Global Consciousness**" about how random number generators at **Princeton University's Global Consciousness Project** detected a dramatic spike around the world before the time of the terrorist attack - an indication of global consciousness. The director of the project, **Dr. Roger D. Nelson**, describes in **a YouTube video** the details of this event. The media paid relatively little attention to this project until Nelson published his paper, "**Coherent Consciousness and Reduced Randomness: Correlations on September 11, 2001.**" 



These findings of a global consciousness are also supported NDE experiencers such as **Ned Dougherty**. During his NDE, Dougherty received visions of the future and were published six months before the September 11th terrorist attack. Here is what the prophecy stated as published in his book "**Fast Lane to Heaven**":

 "A major terrorist attack may befall New York City or Washington, DC, severely impacting the way we live in the United States." (**Ned Dougherty**)

This prophecy given to Ned Dougherty is just one of the visions of the future he received during his NDE. Other near-death experiencers, such as **Dannion Brinkley**, were also visions of terrorist attack in New York and Washington. In fact, **a great number of NDEs involve visions the future.**



The old materialistic paradigm, prevalent mostly in the West, disregards the possibility of out-of-body dimensions; whereas, the new paradigm supports them. For this reason, open-minded scientists have acknowledged the time is now to abandon the old paradigm and focus on the new one. Disregarding the old paradigm became even more reasonable when, in December of 2001, *The Lancet* (*the United Kingdom's highly respected journal of medicine*) published the results of a study by [Dr. Pim van Lommel](#) showing 18 percent of clinically dead patients having NDEs. [Lommel's study](#) documented verified events observed by such patients from a perspective removed from their bodies - called "[veridical perception](#)" - suggesting the existence of a transcendent consciousness. Such studies beg the question of why the scientific community at large remains mostly silent about these facts. Perhaps [this is the reason why](#).



Science may never be able to answer the question of whether or not consciousness survives bodily death; but current near-death studies, such as [The AWARE Study \(AWAreness during REsuscitation\)](#) is trying to find out. The director of this study, [Dr. Sam Parnia M.D.](#), is a critical care physician and director of resuscitation research at the [Stony Brook University School of Medicine](#) in New York. Dr. Parnia is recognized as an authority on the scientific study of death, the human mind-brain relationship, and near-death experience. Dr. Parnia is also the author of [What Happens When We Die](#) (2006) and [Erasing Death: The Science That is Rewriting the Boundaries Between Life and Death](#) (2013). In the late 90s, Dr. Parnia and [Dr. Peter Fenwick](#) he set up the first study of NDEs in the UK. Since then, they have published several articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals [\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#) [\[3\]](#) in the field of [near-death studies](#). Since Dr. Parnia has been part of the AWARE study, launched by [The Human Consciousness Project](#), twenty-five participating hospitals across Europe and North America have been examining reports of patients after their clinical death, several of whom are expected to have an [out-of-body experience](#) with physical perceptions of their surroundings. A major objective of the AWARE study is to test whether the perceptions reported by these patients can be verified. One method involves a visual target being placed near the ceiling where it can only be seen by someone reading it from above; patients who report OBEs are then asked to describe it. [Read about the latest update of this study](#) which was in January 2013.

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7. Nonlocal Consciousness and the God Spot



Consciousness and the possibility of its survival after death is perhaps the final frontier of science. Although a large body of knowledge exists about the brain, "[The brain has not explained the mind fully](#)" according to renowned brain surgeon [Wilder Penfield](#). Materialistic science has yet to produce a conclusive model of consciousness. This is mainly due to its inability to quantify first-person, subjective experiences. [Materialism](#) views only objective, observable experiments verifiable by third parties to be valid. The current scientific method relies only upon repeatable experiments to verify a hypothesis; but its limit is reached when quantifying consciousness. Mainstream materialistic scientists claim consciousness is produced entirely by the brain. This is analogous to claiming television sounds and images are produced entirely by television sets, despite the fact [television sounds and images](#) are produced by TV stations transmitting [nonlocal](#) radio waves. This analogy describes consciousness based not upon the brain, but the brain based upon consciousness. There are a multitude of anomalous phenomena including NDEs which

cannot be explained using the scientific method. These anomalous phenomena provides a theoretical basis for **anonlocal model of consciousness** while materialistic scientists are unable to explain how immaterial, conscious, subjective experiences can arises from a material brain.

Medical scientists have discovered areas within the brain collectively known as the "**God Spot**" which permits communication with cosmic information outside of material bodies. Theoretical physicists call this "**quantum nonlocality**." Psychologists call it the "**collective unconscious**." Hindus call it "Brahman." Buddhists call it "Nirvana." Jews call it "Shekinah." Christians call it the "Holy Spirit"; Christ and his disciples are called the "light of the world." New age adherents call it the "Higher Consciousness." According to **Dr. Melvin Morse**, the children he has resuscitated from death simply call it "God."

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8. Quantum Superposition and the Near-Death Experience



Atoms and sub-atomic particles can exist in two or more locations simultaneously as multiple coexisting possibilities known as **quantum superposition**. The reason why we do not see quantum superpositions on a large scale in everyday life is known as the "**measurement problem**" which has led to various interpretations of quantum mechanics. Early experiments by quantum pioneer **Niels Bohr** and others seemed to show that quantum superpositions, when measured by a machine, stayed as multiple possibilities until a conscious human observed the results. Bohr concluded that "**conscious observation collapses the probability wave function**" and that unobserved superpositions continue to exist until being observed, at which time they too are collapsed to particular random states. According to Bohr, this "consciousness causes the collapse" of quantum possibilities places consciousness within the realm of science. But materialistic science views consciousness strictly on classical physics rejecting the possibility of quantum nonlocality in consciousness and equates the mind with the brain. Perhaps this is the reason Bohr made his famous statement, "Anyone who is not shocked by quantum theory has not understood it."



However, **recent evidence linking biological functions to quantum processes** supports the possibility of consciousness having **nonlocal quantum functions in the brain**. This suggests the nature of conscious experience requires a world view in which consciousness has irreducible components of reality. This interpretation defines superpositions becoming separations in reality with each possibility evolving its own distinct universe - giving a multitude of universes. The difference between this theory and Bohr's interpretation is that the separations are randomly selected from among the superpositioned possibilities. The superposition of these locations can then viewed as separations in the very fabric of reality. This theory posits that such conditions have evolved within the brain - inside brain neurons - where microtubules process quantum superpositions giving us our subjective reality. This quantum process within the brain may be the basis for consciousness transcending and surviving physical death as revealed in NDEs. In such altered states, the quantum process of superpositions may shift consciousness to different dimensions of higher frequencies. When NDEs occur, it is possible the quantum information of which consciousness is made of could shift to an existence outside the brain nonlocally. This supports the idea that the mind is not a material brain.

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9. The MANY-WORLDS Theory and the Near-Death Experience



An important principle of quantum physics is how human observation cannot be predicted absolutely. Instead, there's a range of possible observations to choose from in the form of probability waves each having a different probability and reality. With every thought, observation and action we make, we are constantly choosing just one of these possible probabilities of reality. One mainstream explanation for this is the "[many-worlds interpretation](#)" where each of these possible observations corresponds to a different universe within a "[multiverse](#)." This theory describes the existence of an infinite number of universes - including our own - which comprises all reality. This theory includes possible universe(s) where death doesn't exist, for example. The theory includes all possible universes existing at the same time despite what happens in any of them. Many-worlds theorizes our continuous choice of reality from possible probabilities does not collapse the universal wave function of all the other possible probabilities. Many-worlds implies that all possible alternative histories and futures are real. Before the many-worlds interpretation, reality had always been viewed as a single unfolding history. Many-worlds, however, views reality as a many-branched tree, wherein every possible quantum outcome is realized. In many-worlds, every possible outcome of every event defines or exists in its own universe.

This many-worlds interpretation supports the NDE phenomenon called "[flash-forward](#)" where the experiencer is shown visions of possible futures should the experiencer decide to remain in the light or return to life. This phenomenon has been reported to occur to convince the experiencer to return their life because of an incomplete mission in life. One great example is found in the NDE testimony of [Karen Schaeffer](#):

✚ "I could feel myself becoming lighter each moment. In a fit of fear and panic I began crying. No, I couldn't be dead. What would happen to my son? ... In an embrace of love, they calmed me by showing me that my son, my entire family would be okay after my death. My mother could lean on my grandmother. It would take time, but she would heal. My husband, hurt, sad, and lonely would also heal and eventually find love once again ... I was shown my funeral ... But wait, my son. I couldn't leave my son ... I was told others would be a mother for me. First grandparents, and then they showed me Jake's life ... I saw a new mom for Jake when he was about 7 or 8 ... I couldn't let go of my human life ... Finally, my hysteria was calmed by a higher spirit who seemed to envelop me in love. My guides were instructed to allow me to return." ([Karen Schaeffer](#))



[Dr. Kenneth Ring](#) described two kinds of precognitive visions in the NDE: (1) the personal "flash-forward" and the (2) "[prophetic vision](#)." A third category, defined by NDE researcher Craig Lundahl is the "otherworld personal future revelation (OPFR). The OPFR resembles the personal flash-forward in that it previews the experiencer's personal future, but differs from the personal flash-forward in that it is delivered to the experiencer by another personage in the otherworld rather than appearing in the visual imagery of a life review. The OPFR differs from the prophetic vision in having a personal rather than planetary focus. Lundahl cites four historic accounts to illustrate major features of the OPFR: (1) entrance into the otherworld, (2) encounter with (3) others who foretell the experiencer's future, and (4) later occurrence of the foretold events.

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10. The MANY-MINDS Theory and the Near-Death Experience



The **many-minds interpretation** of quantum mechanics is an extension of the **many-worlds interpretation** by proposing that the distinction between worlds should be made at the level of the mind of an individual **observer**. This is the principle supporting the theory of **quantum immortality** - an interpretation of quantum mechanics which theoretically makes it possible for a human observer to have a continuous infinity of minds in **parallel universes**. These observer states may then be assumed to correspond to definite states of awareness (i.e., many minds) as in the classical description of observation. In order to make this theory work, the mind must be a property which can **separate from the body as suggested in NDEs and OBEs**.

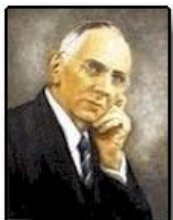
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11. The Zero-Point Field and the Near-Death Experience

In quantum theory, the "**zero-point field**" is a quantum vacuum state or "**void**" which generally contains nothing but electromagnetic waves and particles popping into and out of existence. A zero-point field of the universe is supportive of the **holographic principle** where consciousness and memories are not localized in the brain but are distributed throughout a holographic universe. Brains, acting as receivers, access certain frequencies of quantum information to process. This universal zero-point field describes the world and universe as a **dynamic web** where everything is connected, where consciousness influences matter and creates reality, and where all things are possible. According to Einstein, "**Space and time are modes in which we think, not conditions in which we live.**"



Dr. Ervin Laszlo, twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, is an **integral theorist** and champion of this zero-point field as instrumental when understanding consciousness and the universe. Laszlo is generally recognized as the founder of **systems philosophy** who emphasizes the importance of establishing a holistic perspective on the world and man through **quantum consciousness**. Laszlo's groundbreaking book, "**Science and the Akashic Field: An Integral Theory of Everything**" makes a compelling case for the zero-point field to be the substance of the entire universe. It can theoretically be viewed as the source for all consciousness and matter in the universe. Using the Hindu concept of a "cosmic memory" called the "**akashic records**," Laszlo theorizes the zero-point field to be the fundamental energy and information-carrying field of the universe, past and present, including all possible parallel universes. Laszlo describes how such an informational field explains why the universe appears to be fine-tuned as to form conscious life forms. Laszlo's zero-point akashic field theory solves several problems from quantum physics such as **nonlocality** and **quantum entanglement**.



Laszlo's theory agrees with revelations from the Christian mystic **Edgar Cayce**. When Cayce was asked where he received his psychic information, he answered it was from "the intelligent infinity is brought into intelligent energy" as a gateway to view the present. Cayce acknowledged this "gateway" to be the Hindu concept of the "**akashic records**." Cayce revealed these metaphysical records to be the same as the Christian concept of the "**Book of Life**." Cayce revealed these otherworldly records are stored in a heavenly "Hall of

Records" which corresponds to the so-called "Temple of Knowledge" or the "Temple of Wisdom" appearing in many NDE testimonials.



Dr. Laszlo's theory is supported by important scientific research. For example, biologist **Paul Pietsch** experimented with salamanders to locate where memories are stored in the brain. He removed their brains, grinded them up, even shuffling their brains around, and then placed them back in their heads. The astonishing result was their **memories where unaffected although their brains were demolished**. Pietsch's conclusion was that memory was not a local phenomenon, but is linked to something outside their bodies. His findings were published in his book, **Shufflebrain: The Quest for the Hologramic Mind.**"



Neuroanatomist **Harold Burr** conducted similar experiments with salamanders and discovered a field of light surrounding their unfertilized eggs in the shape of an adult salamander. Burr also noticed fields of light surrounding plant seeds taking the shape of mature plants. Burr's research supports Pietsch's findings of physical bodies being connected to a surrounding energy field. Burr's findings were published in his book, **"The Fields of Life: Our Links with the Universe."** This energy field may account for the fact that salamander parts grow back when they are removed. This energy field may also explain why human amputees sometimes feel **"phantom pain"** from their amputated body part as described by NDE expert **Robert Mays**. This energy field also supports the phenomenon of people having undergone organ transplants taking on certain "memories" from the organ donor. The discovery of an "electromagnetic zero-point field" lends credibility to the possibility of having vast memory storage capabilities outside of the physical body. Phenomena such as these can be best understood if the zero point field can be "tapped" as a storage location for information and energy which can be accessed at any time.



This zero point field has parallels to the "void" and the "Omega Point" described in near-death research and championed by the near-death expert **Dr. Kenneth Ring** in his book, **"Heading Toward Omega: The Search for the Meaning of Near-Death Experiences."** One example is the Omega Point is found in the NDE of **Olaf Swenson** who experienced a timeless spaceless realm when he nearly died of a botched tonsillectomy at age 14. He states that:

✚ "Suddenly I rolled into a ball and smashed into another reality. The forces that brought me through the barrier were terrific. I was on the other side. I realized that the boundary between life and death is a strange creation of our own mind, very real (from the side of the living), and yet insignificant."

Swenson felt he was floating in a universe with no boundaries.

"I had total comprehension of everything. I stood at the annihilation point, a bright orange light. As I felt my mind transported back to my body, I thought, please let me remember this new theory of relativity."

The information Swenson gained during his NDE inspired him to develop over 100 patents in molecular chemistry. (**Dr. Kenneth Ring**)

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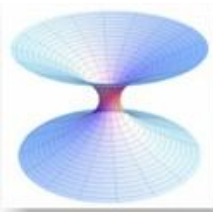
12. Black Hole Physics and the Near-Death Experience



In the 1970s, **Stephen Hawking** put forward a theory of **black holes** which appeared to violate a major principle of physics - the **law of the conservation of information** - because it implied that quantum information can permanently disappear within a black hole with the exception of "Hawking radiation." Hawking's inconsistent theory led to what was called the "**Black Hole Information Paradox**." Physicist **Leonard Susskind** (pictured on the left) later solved this paradox with his development of **M-theory** using the **holographic principle** to show how information entering the edge of a black hole is not lost, but can entirely be contained on the surface of the horizon in a holographic manner. Susskind's theory solved the paradox because the nature of a hologram's two-dimensional information structure can be "painted" on the edge of the black hole thereby giving a three-dimensional black hole where quantum information is not lost. Susskind's solution to the information paradox led to wide-spread acceptance of the holographic principle.



David Bohm was convinced that all matter in this universe, including our physical body, is composed of light in a condensed "frozen" state. NDE experiencers have often described their spirit bodies as "bodies of light." During a NDE the experiencer transitions from the material world which operates at speeds less than the speed of light to a dimension which operates at faster-than-light speed. The NDE experiencer may first observe the Earth or the universe from space before this transition. In transitioning from the material to the spiritual dimension, the experiencer may first enter a "**NDE tunnel**" much in the same way a "body of light" might experience what astrophysicists call a "**black hole**." As previously mentioned, Leonard Susskind's theory of black holes allows for light particles to travel through a black hole without being destroyed. At faster-than-light speed, a "body of light" could enter into a time and spaceless dimension where this body of light can move forward and backward through space-time. This NDE tunnel, like a black hole, appears to be a "portal" to another dimension of reality.



In the late 1980's, theoretical physicist **Kip Thorne** described how objects known as **wormholes** can exist in space which theoretically allows for time travel. Such wormholes could essentially be two connecting black holes whose mouths make up a tear in the fabric of space-time. NDE experiencers have observed such a tunnel described as "two huge tornadoes appear in the form of an immense hourglass" (**P.M.H. Atwater, Beyond the Light**.) The upper tornado spins clockwise and outward, while the lower tornado spins counter-clockwise and inward which is an excellent description of a wormhole. The Science Channel documentary "**Through The Wormhole: The Near-Death Experience**" has an excellent segment on NDEs. **Rev. George Rodonaia**'s also has an excellent description of this NDE/Black Hole:

✚ "I was so happy to be in the light. And I understood what the light meant. I learned that all the physical rules for human life were nothing when compared to this unitive reality. I also came to see that a black hole is only another part of that infinity which is light. I came to see

that reality is everywhere. That it is not simply the earthly life but the infinite life. Everything is not only connected together, everything is also one. So I felt a wholeness with the light, a sense that all is right with me and the universe." (Rev. George Rodonaia)

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13. Biocentrism and the Near-Death Experience



Dr. Robert Lanza is considered one of the leading scientists in the world. He is a medical researcher at the forefront of developments in cloning, organ transplantation, and stem-cell transplantation. His mentors described him as a "genius" and the "Bill Gates of Science." As a young preteen, Lanza caught the attention of Harvard Medical School researchers when he successfully altered the genetics of chickens as a class project. Eventually, he was discovered and mentored by such scientific giants as psychologist B.F. Skinner, immunologist Jonas Salk, and heart transplant pioneer Christiaan Barnard. A Fulbright Scholar, Lanza was part of the team that cloned the world's first human embryo for the purpose of generating stem cells. Dr. Lanza's work has been crucial to our understanding stem cell biology. A year after receiving his medical degree Lanza published a book on heart transplantation. In 2009, he published a book entitled, "Biocentrism: How Life and Consciousness are the Keys to Understanding the True Nature of the Universe." Reviews of his work include Nobel laureate E. Donnall Thomas who stated "Any short statement does not do justice to such a scholarly work. The work is a scholarly consideration of science and philosophy that brings biology into the central role in unifying the whole."

Biocentrism's main tenet is that biology is the most important science in understanding life and the universe. Other sciences require a more deeper understanding of biology - specifically life and consciousness - to make their theories of everything complete. The areas of biological research playing a central role in understanding life and consciousness must include neuroscience, brain anatomy, NDE and OBE consciousness studies, and even artificial intelligence - all of which will eventually force materialistic scientists to seriously confront the issues biocentrism raises. Robert Lanza also uses his theory of Biocentrism to explain the possibility of consciousness surviving death by such articles as: (a) "What Is It Like After You Die?," (b) "Is Death the End? Experiments Suggest You Create Time," (c) "Does Death Exist?: Life Is Forever, Says Theory," and (d) "What Happens When You Die? Evidence Suggests Time Simply Reboots."



Biocentrism also explains a major scientific paradox of how the laws of physics fits so precisely allowing for conscious life to exist. There are over 200 precise parameters in physics describing the universe which suggests the universe is fine-tuned for an environment which life and consciousness requires. There are four explanations for this paradox: (1) it is an astonishingly improbable coincidence, (2) God created it - an explanation which science cannot quantify even if it is true, (3) the "Anthropic Principle" which assumes a fine-tuned universe exists because that is just the way it is, and (4) Biocentrism's theory of a biologically aware universe created by biologically aware life. Physician Deepak Chopra agrees that biocentrism "is consistent with the most ancient wisdom traditions of the world which says that consciousness conceives, governs, and

becomes a physical world. It is the ground of our Being in which both subjective and objective reality come into existence."

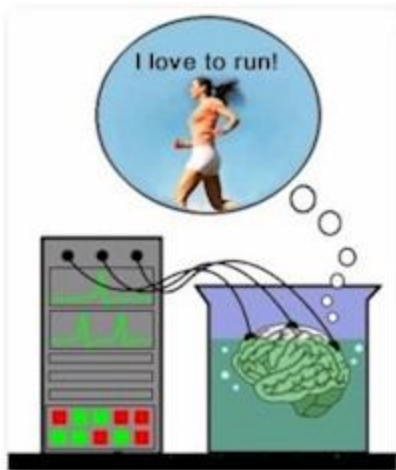
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14. Subjective Experiences and the Near-Death Experience

Physicalism is a theory positing that nothing exists other than physical things. **Materialism** is a related theory positing that nothing exists but matter and energy; and that all things are composed of these materials; and all phenomena are the result of physical interactions. In other words, reality is limited to states of energy and matter. Applied to consciousness, it is the concept that all aspects of subjective experience can be explained purely by objective states within a physical brain. But the **problem with materialism**, as applied to the consciousness, is that it does not distinguish between **mind and brain**. This **explanation problem** of materialism suggests there exists a metaphysical, non-physical component to subjective experiences philosophically known as "**qualia**".



The person who has arguably done more to support the subjective nature of consciousness is **Dr. David Chalmers**, the distinguished **Professor of Philosophy** and **Director of the Centre for Consciousness** in Australia, who specializes in the area of **philosophy of mind** and **philosophy of language**. Chalmers has authored an amazing number of resources on topics related to consciousness and philosophy. He is the author of **MindPapers** (a comprehensive online bibliography of philosophy), and the author of **a directory of online philosophy papers**, and co-directed the development of a wealth of online philosophy articles called **PhilPapers**. Chalmers is also the blogmaster of **Fragments of Consciousness** and the author of the book, "**The Conscious Mind: In Search of a Fundamental Theory**."



Chalmers defined this explanatory problem of materialism as the "**hard problem of consciousness**." Chalmers illustrated this problem using the thought experiment of a "**brain in a vat**" (see the graphic on the left). If a person's brain is suspended in a vat of life-sustaining liquid and its neurons connected to a supercomputer providing it with electrical impulses identical to those the brain normally receives, the computer could then simulate reality and the person with the "disembodied" brain could continue to have perfectly normal conscious experiences without being related to objects or events in the real world. In this case, because the experience of being in a vat and the experience of being in a skull would be identical, it would be impossible to tell from the brain's perspective of whether it is in a skull or a vat. Yet when the brain is in a skull and running on a beach, most of that brain's beliefs may be true. But when the brain is in a vat, the brain's beliefs are completely false. Therefore, because the brain cannot make such a distinction, there cannot be solid ground for the brain to believe anything it believes.

This Brain-in-a-Vat Argument is similar to the "**Dream Argument**" which suggests the brain's ability to create simulated realities during REM sleep means there is a statistical likelihood of our own reality being


simulated. **Lucid dreams** also supports this. There is also a long philosophical and scientific history to the underlying thesis of **reality being an illusion** which is centered on the assumption we do not experience the environment itself but rather a projection of it created by our own minds. A serious academic debate within the field of **transhumanism** centers around a related argument called the "**Simulation Argument**" which proposes reality to be a simulation and our current paradigm of reality to be an illusion. Physicists have even developed **a scientific experiment** to determine if our universe is a computer simulation. Also, as previously mentioned, several interpretations of quantum mechanics, such as the **Holographic Principle**, suggests our perception of reality to be holographically an illusion.



Near-death studies supports these arguments and goes even further. The **life review** process is often described by NDE experiencers in terms of viewing "television-like" screen(s) where they review every second of their life instantaneously - including the perceptions of everyone on Earth they ever came into contact with throughout their life. Another aspect of NDEs supporting simulism is the **out-of-body component to the NDE**. Experiencers have described out-of-body conditions where they view their physical body from above in a different "body" - a phenomenon known as **autoscopy**. Sometimes these perceptions are verified later by third-parties - a phenomenon known as **veridical perception**. Veridical dreams have also been reported. See [1][2][3]. Veridical NDEs are reports of veridical perception during the out-of-body component of the NDE which are later confirmed to be accurate. See [4][5][6][7][8]. Often, these perceptions are very detailed and specific. Some reports of veridical out-of-body perception involve detailed observation of events too distant for the physical body to perceive. See [9][10][11]. Also, while some NDE experiencers are having their out-of-body component, they may become aware of an even "higher" version of themselves (see **Dr. Dianne Morriseey's NDE** for a good example). This also explains why some NDE experiencers have reported seeing "higher versions" of living people on Earth. See **Carl Jung's NDE** for the ultimate example where he sees the "**avatar**" of his friend during his NDE. While such evidence may not persuade the skeptics, the millions of individuals who have experienced a NDE are **absolutely convinced of consciousness surviving bodily death**.



Near-death studies contain multiple reports of veridical perception of events which were outside the range of the NDE experiencer's sensory perception and, therefore, of brain mediation (See **Sabom, 1998; Ring, 2006; Sharp, 2003; Ring & Cooper, 2008; and van Lommel, van Wees, Meyers, & Elfferich, 2001**). In some cases, such perceptions occur while the NDE experiencer is experiencing the brain inactivity following within 10 seconds of cessation of heartbeat (**van Lommel et al., 2001**). Over 100 such cases are published on www.iands.org, www.nderf.org, www.oberf.org and www.near-death.com. More

discussion of veridical perception is presented in a response to the article entitled, "[Does the Arousal System Contribute to Near-Death Experience?: A Response](#)"  in the [Journal of Near-Death Studies](#). Taken altogether, the evidence strongly suggests the possibility of NDE and OBE perception occurring without the help of the physical senses or the brain. Therefore, for skeptics to refer to NDEs and OBEs in general as "illusions" or "delusions" is jumping the gun. Mainstream materialistic scientists have yet to fully quantify the mind; while near-death researchers provide veridical evidence reported in NDEs and OBEs as examples suggesting the mind can function independent of the physical brain. According to [veridical NDE experts Jan Holden and Jeffrey Long](#):

✚ "Even if future research convincingly demonstrated that electrical stimulation of a particular area of the brain consistently induced typical OBEs, this finding would not explain veridical perception associated with OBEs." ([Jan Holden and Jeffrey Long](#))



One particular NDE experiencer, a neurosurgeon by the name of [Eben Alexander III, MD, FACS](#), (www.lifebeyonddeath.net and www.eternea.org) has a profound understanding of the physiological aspects to the NDE he experienced. Dr. Alexander currently practices with a private neurosurgical group in Lynchburg, Va., and travels extensively, making presentations about revelations from his coma experience that elucidate the nature of consciousness. According to Dr. Alexander:

✚ "... the [reductive materialist](#) (physicalist) model, on which conventional science is based, is fundamentally flawed. At its core, it intentionally ignores what I believe is the fundament of all existence - the nature of [consciousness](#) ... From their [Albert Einstein, Neils Bohr and Erwin Schrodinger] experiments one could infer that consciousness has a definite role in creating reality. And those experimental results have only become more bizarre in recent years. (Witness the "[quantum eraser](#)" experiment performed in 2000.) I believe that the core of that mystery is that [consciousness itself is deeply rooted in quantum processes](#).

"Even the physicists and scientists who proselytize the materialistic model have been forced to the edge of the precipice. They must now admit to knowing just a little bit about 4% of the material universe they know exists, but must confess to being totally "in the dark" about the other 96 percent. And that doesn't even begin to address the even grander component that is home to the "consciousness" that I believe to be the basis of it all.

✚ "That we can know things beyond the [ken](#) of the "normal" channels is incontrovertible. An excellent resource for any scientist who still seeks proof of that reality is the rigorous 800-page analysis and review of all manner of extended consciousness, "[Irreducible Mind: Toward a Psychology for the 21st Century](#)." This magnum opus from the [Division of Perceptual Studies at the University of Virginia](#) catalogues a wide variety of empirical phenomena that appear difficult or impossible to accommodate within the standard physicalist way of looking at things. Phenomena covered include, in particular, NDEs occurring under conditions such as deep general anesthesia and cardiac arrest that - like my coma - should prevent occurrence of any experience whatsoever, let alone the profound sorts of experiences that frequently do occur. Also noteworthy, the [American Institute of Physics](#) sponsored meetings in 2006 and 2011 covering the physical science of such extraordinary channels of knowledge." ([Dr. Eben Alexander III](#))

Such [quantum eraser experiments](#) mentioned by Dr. Alexander reveal an astonishing fact about how consciousness is the supreme factor in quantum physics. These experiments reveal how an experimenter is able to successfully chose and predict the random outcome of an event even after the outcome has already taken place. They prove how the outcome of such experiments - whether a photon of light is a wave or a particle - can be predicted after the fact by the experimenter making a random mental choice of the

experiment's outcome. In other words, the experimenter's after the fact choice of the outcome actually determines the experiment's outcome. These astonishing findings dramatically suggests that the possibility of our choices made today may determine the outcome of the past.

For these reasons and more, consciousness cannot be explained entirely as objective events experienced the brain. Consciousness must also be explained in terms of the subjective events experienced in the brain. This leads to such questions as, "Why is there a personal, subjective component to experience?" and "Why aren't we all **philosophical zombies**?" This "brain in a vat" argument shows how subjective experience cannot be reduced to the functional properties of physical processes in the brain. A complete definition of consciousness must include a component describing subjective, conscious experiences which have not been explained in materialistic terms. This brain in a vat argument is a contemporary version of the argument given in **Plato's Allegory of the Cave**.



The dream argument also applies to the **subjective nature of NDEs and OBEs** championed by **Dr. Vernon Neppe**, Director of the **Pacific Neuropsychiatric Institute**. In his book, "**Reality Begins with Consciousness: A Paradigm Shift that Works**," Neppe uses a hypothesis on the neurophysiological implications of parapsychology of:

✚ "... a **timeless, spaceless universe** in which all things or events exist but in a more dormant sense, where drugs such as LSD may free the cerebral cortex from the 'modulating effect of the brain stem reticular activating system,' allowing the cortex to run free." (Dr. Vernon Neppe)

Neppe described the possibility where, under such circumstances, an individual exposed to a purely mental universe, independent of matter, containing all mental events, may experience overlap or be entangled with the physical universe. This is supported by the fact that similarities exist between elements of NDEs and the **quantum field concept of subjectivity**. They suggest that all events are related and influence each other instantaneously and in reciprocity, and only subjectivity remains..

These arguments of **subjectivity** support the holistic paradigm of the illusionary "separation" between the subjective observer's experience and the objective object being observed. Because the old materialistic paradigm is unable to explain conscious experiences, it leads many scientists to simply ignore it altogether as being a problem. This ignorance is demonstrated by **pseudoskeptics** (such as "**old paradigm cops**") of anomalous conscious experiences and by **materialistic critics of subjective experiences including NDEs and OBEs**. Materialism cannot explain how consciousness arises from "goo" or how atoms in the brain comprises consciousness. The new holistic paradigm views reality to be in the eye and mind of the observer/beholder. Philosopher **Thomas Nagel** also makes a compelling case that materialism can never, in principle, develop an objective explanation of consciousness.

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3. K kumar Mukherjee (2012). **Three Cases of NDE. Is it Physiology, Physics or Philosophy?** Annals of Neurosciences.
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9.	B Greyson. (2011). Cosmological Implications of Near-Death Experiences . Journal of Cosmology.
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16. Scientific Discoveries Resulting from Near-Death Experiences

- a. Near-death experiences have been proven to be real experiences and not fantasies:
Gravitational forces exerted upon fighter pilots in a centrifuge has revolutionized the field of consciousness studies by providing experimental proof of NDEs being real events because they can be replicated in the laboratory. (Dr. Jim Whinnery)
- b. Near-death experiences can cured people from cancer:
Dr. Ken Ring documented the case of Ralph Duncan who died of leukemia and had a NDE. During his NDE, Jesus cured him and told him he no longer had leukemia. Duncan returned from death cancer-free. (Howard Mikel). Another case involves a Muslim woman by the name of Anita Moorjani who was completely cured from her Stage V cancer after her NDE. Doctors at the hospital had given Anita just hours to live when she arrived at the hospital, unable to move as a result of the cancer that had ravaged her body for over three years. Anita shares her experience of entering another dimension and being given a choice of whether to return to life or not in her book entitled "[Dying To Be Me: My Journey from Cancer, to Near Death, to True Healing](#)."
- c. A near-death experience cured a person's congenital blindness:
A blind and mute 67 year-old diabetic woman with severe heart problems was about to undergo open-heart surgery when a Being of Light appeared and healed her of all her illnesses. The cardiologists could offer no explanation for her cure. (Dr. Kenneth Ring)

- d. A near-death experience healed a person's abdominal sickness:
Five days after abdominal surgery, an English patient had complications and died. During his NDE, a Being of Light healed him. The patient returned from death healed. (Margot Grey)
- e. A near-death experience advanced biological and medical research: After his NDE, Mellen-Thomas Benedict brought back a great deal of scientific information concerning biophotonics, cellular communication, quantum biology, and DNA research. Mellen-Thomas Benedict currently holds six U.S. patents. (Dr. Kenneth Ring)
- f. A near-death experience supports astrophysical research:
Mellen-Thomas Benedict's NDE supports a number of scientific theories such as: an infinite number of Big Bangs, the reality of zero-point space, a better understanding of black holes. Mellen-Thomas Benedict believes in the future science will be able to quantify spirit. (Dr. Kenneth Ring)
- g. A near-death experience advanced molecular chemistry:
Olaf Swenson had a NDE from a botched tonsillectomy at the age of 14 for which he experienced a timeless space-less dimension which physicists call the "Omega Point". Because of the information gained from his NDE, he later went on to develop over 100 patents in molecular chemistry. (Dr. Melvin Morse)
- h. Near-death experiences support Einstein's theory of time travel:
Albert Einstein's theory of relativity allows for the possibility of time travel. During a NDE, some people have reported traveling back in time and some have reported traveling into the future.
- I. "I see myself in the midst of a huge crowd. It's not a modern crowd. They are dressed in the clothes of Bible times I watch in horror as Jesus is nailed to the cross." (Don Brubaker)
 - II. "I explored the Roman Empire, Babylon, the times of Noah and Abraham. Any era you can name, I went there." (Dr. George Rodonaia)
 - III. "The light replied, 'Let us go back in time, as far back as possible, and tell me how far back we should go.' I was thinking for some time. Eventually I blurted out, 'Stone Age?' I did not have much time to think about all this, because, all of a sudden, I saw human beings back on Earth. I was looking down on a group of people, men and women, who were dressed in furs, sitting around a camp fire." (Guenter Wagner)
 - IV. "The box opened to reveal what appeared to be a tiny television picture of a world event that was yet to happen. As I watched, I felt myself drawn right into the picture, where I was able to live the event. This happened twelve times, and twelve times I stood in the midst of many events that would shake the world in the future." (Dannion Brinkley)
- i. Near-death experiences support a theory of consciousness:
One particular theory of consciousness is supported by NDE research and involves consciousness expansion after death. Stanislav Grof explains this theory:
- 🚩 "My first idea was that it [consciousness] has to be hard-wired in the brain. I spent quite a bit of time trying to figure out how something like that is possible. Today, I came to the conclusion that it is not coming from the brain. In that sense, it supports what Aldous Huxley believed after he had some powerful psychedelic experiences and was trying to link them to the brain. He came to the conclusion that maybe the brain acts as a kind of reducing valve that actually protects us from too much cosmic input ... I don't think you can locate the source of consciousness. I am quite sure it is not in the brain not inside of the skull ... It actually, according to my experience, would lie beyond time and space, so it is not localizable. You actually come to the source of consciousness when you dissolve any categories that imply separation, individuality, time, space and so on. You just experience it as a presence." (Stanislav Grof)
- j. The expansion of consciousness reported during NDEs accounts supports a theory of

consciousness:

The following NDE descriptions of consciousness expansion supports the theory of consciousness described above by [Stanislaw Grof](#). It theorizes that the brain acts as a reducing valve of cosmic input to produce consciousness. At death, this reducing-valve function ceases and consciousness is then free to expand. The following NDEs support this:

- I. "I realized that, as the stream was expanding, my own consciousness was also expanding to take in everything in the Universe!" ([Mellen-Thomas Benedict](#))
- II. "My mind felt like a sponge, growing and expanding in size with each addition ... I could feel my mind expanding and absorbing and each new piece of information somehow seemed to belong." ([Virginia Rivers](#))
- III. "In your life review you'll be the universe." ([Thomas Sawyer](#))
- IV. "This white light began to infiltrate my consciousness. It came into me. It seemed I went out into it. I expanded into it as it came into my field of consciousness." ([Jayne Smith](#))
- V. "My presence fills the room. And now I feel my presence in every room in the hospital. Even the tiniest space in the hospital is filled with this presence that is me. I sense myself beyond the hospital, above the city, even encompassing Earth. I am melting into the universe. I am everywhere at once." ([Josiane Antonette](#))
- VI. "I felt myself expanding and expanding until I thought, "I'm going to burst!" The moment I thought, "I'm going to burst!", I suddenly found myself alone, back where this being had met me, and he had gone." ([Margaret Tweddell](#))
- VII. Susan Blackmore had an out-of-body experience where she left her body and grew very big, as big as a planet at first, and then she filled the solar system and finally she became as large as the universe..([Susan Blackmore](#))

k. Near-death experiences affirm the reality of psychic phenomena:

- I. After [Dr. Yvonne Kason's NDE](#), she receives psychic visions of the health status of people. She successfully diagnosed a friend with meningitis although there were absolutely no signs of it. ([Tom Harper](#))
- II. Visit the [NDE and the Future](#) web page for a complete list..

l. Near-death experiences have influenced some of humanity's greatest philosophies and religions:

- I. The famed Greek philosopher, Plato, described in his legendary work entitled Republic, the [NDE account of a soldier named Er](#). Plato integrated at least three elements of this NDE into his philosophy:
 - (1) The departure of the soul from the cave of shadows to see the light of truth.
 - (2) The flight of the soul to a vision of pure celestial being.
 - (3) Its subsequent recollection of the vision of light, which is the very purpose of philosophy.
- II. The man responsible for making Christianity a world religion, the [Apostle Paul](#), described his own NDE as follows:

✚ "I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know - God knows. And I know that this person - whether in the body or apart from the body - was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that people are not permitted to tell." ([2 Corinthians 12:2-4](#))

In this letter, Paul based his authority as an Apostle of Christ on this NDE. The phrase "I know a person" is a humble way of referring to himself. Some or all of his revelations of Jesus certainly came from this NDE. The inspiration of much of the New Testament can be attributed in some way to Paul's NDE.

17. Scientific Theories Explaining Near-Death Experiences

a. Dying Brain Theory

PRO: Because NDEs have many common core elements, this shows that they are not spiritual voyages outside of the body, but are a function of the dying brain. All brains die in the same way and that is why all NDEs have essential core elements which are the same. They are the result of neurotransmitters in the brain shutting down which creates lovely illusions. ([Susan Blackmore](#))

CON: Because NDEs have many common core elements, this suggests that they are spiritual voyages outside of the body. Also, if the dying brain creates NDE illusions, what is the purpose for doing it? If our brains are only a high-tech computer-like lump of tissue which produces our mind and personality, why does it bother to create illusions at the time of death? If everything, including the mind and personality, are about to disintegrate, why would the brain produce a last wonderful Grand Finale vision? Even if NDE elements can be reduced to only a series of brain reactions, this does not negate the idea that NDEs are more than a brain thing. Read this article on [the errors of the pseudo-skeptics of NDEs](#).

b. Lack of Oxygen Theory

PRO: Neurologist [Ernst Rodin](#) offers cerebral anoxia as a possible cause of NDEs of the dying brain. Such anoxia produces a confusing dream-like state of delusions and hallucinations. ([Susan Blackmore](#))

CON: Cardiologist [Dr. Michael Sabom](#) responded that the NDE involves a clear awareness and a more mystical content, and NDEs have also occurred in people without anoxia. [Pim van Lommel](#) led a study concerning NDEs during cardiac arrest. In our study all patients had a cardiac arrest, they were clinically dead, unconsciousness that was caused by insufficient blood supply to the brain, and the EEG has become flat. In patients cardiac arrest (ventricular fibrillation) is sometimes induced for testing internal defibrillators. In these patients the EEG becomes usually flat within 10-15 seconds from the onset of syncope due to the (reversible) total loss of function of the brain. According to the physiologic theory, all patients in our study should have had NDE, but only 18% reported NDE.

c. Right Temporal Lobe Theory

PRO: Neurologist [Dr. Michael Persinger](#) argues that instability and activity in the brain's right temporal lobe is responsible for religious experiences of deep meaningfulness, early memories, and out-of-body experiences (see this [Temporal lobe theory page](#).)

CON: [Dr. Melvin Morse](#) agrees that the right temporal lobe shows NDE-like activity, but he sees it as the mediating bridge for a spiritual experience, not reductionistically as nothing but brain activity (Morse, 1992). Also, the characteristic emotions that result from temporal lobe stimulation are fear, sadness, and loneliness, not the calm and love of a NDE. While scientists may be discovering a mechanism associated with NDEs, this does not mean NDEs are strictly produced by this mechanism. A mechanical function associated with NDEs does not negate the idea that NDEs might be more than a mechanical function.

d. Cortical Disinhibition Theory

PRO: [Susan Blackmore](#) interprets the tunnel and the light as an optical illusion created by the effects of anoxia and drugs, creating cortical [disinhibition](#), with the effect of random light spots radiating from the center of a dark internal visual field.

CON: [Dr. Michael Sabom](#) tested and rejected this brain-only argument. While brain neurology is obviously a part of NDEs, he says, it is not a sufficient explanation because of the verified or veridical aspects found in some NDEs. This aspect suggests the possibility that consciousness can exist outside of the body.

e. Hallucination Theory

PRO: The psychiatrist [Dr. Ronald Siegel](#) interprets NDEs and similar imaginative visions of the afterlife as hallucinations, similar to the effects of psychedelic drugs or anesthesia (see this [Hallucination Theory support page](#).)

CON: Psychologist [John Gibbs](#) states, "NDE accounts from varied times and cultures were found to be more orderly, logical, defined and predictable than comparable accounts from drug or illness-induced hallucination. Impressive data from Tart, Moody and Carl Becker also argue for the objective elements of a NDE, including returning with knowledge later verified and third-party observations of odd death-bed phenomena (such as luminosity or apparitions). [Peter Fenwick](#), a neuropsychiatrist, notes that drug induced hallucinations take place while the subject is conscious. During a NDE the subject is unconscious. While in the state of unconsciousness, the brain cannot create images. Even if they did, the subject would not be able to remember them. NDEs involve clear, lucid memories. Also, drug induced hallucinations distort reality while NDEs have been described as "hyper-reality."

f. Depersonalization Theory

PRO: [Noyes and Kletti](#) theorizes that a defense of the nervous system stalls off mental disorganization during the death crisis by presenting an altered passage of time, vivid and accelerated thoughts, a sense of detachment, unreality, automatic movements, and revival of memories (see this [Depersonalization theory page](#))

CON: [Dr. Michael Sabom](#) argues that depersonalization fails to account for all the elements of NDEs. Some NDE elements do not fit into the depersonalization mode, such as the strong spiritual and mystical feelings, and the increased alertness and awareness. Also, the vast majority of experiencers reject the idea that their NDE is the result of depersonalization. To reduce what was a profound and transforming experience to nothing more than a set of neurotransmitters going on the blink is a bit like seeing Michelangelo's statue of David as nothing more than several tons of marble.

g. Memory of Birth Theory

PRO: [Otto Rank](#) proposed that the birth trauma is behind all neuroses, for all anxiety-producing experiences of separation reactivate the separation from the mother at birth (Brown, 52-53). This theory has been modified to explain the NDE. The cosmologist [Carl Sagan](#) proposed that the tunnel and light are a reliving of the infant's descent down the birth canal (Sagan, 353-68) (also see this [Memory of birth page](#).)

CON: [Carl Becker](#) asserts that the infant descending the birth canal has its eyes closed and its brain too undeveloped to allow memories of birth (Becker, 1982). Similarly, [Susan Blackmore](#) showed that people born by caesarian section have the tunnel experience and OBEs in equal proportion to those born naturally (Blackmore, 1983). Birth is also often an unpleasant experience for babies. In contrast, NDEs are often described as extremely pleasurable.

h. Endorphins Theory

PRO: The brain's naturally produced narcotics, such as the endorphins, have been offered by endocrinologist [Daniel Carr](#) to explain why, at the very moment when the body's death would be expected to bring incredible pain and terror, the NDE surprises us with pleasure, calm, and peace.

CON: [Dr. Melvin Morse](#) responds that patients receiving prescribed narcotics similar to the endorphins experienced no NDEs (Morse, 1989).

i. Denial of Death Theory

PRO: The NDE is seen by some [Freudians](#) as a denial of death, a hallucinatory wish fulfillment defending the ego from its impending annihilation.

CON: A large number of people who have NDEs are initially not even aware they have died. In

these cases death is not even considered or denied (e.g., [Dr. George Ritchie](#), [Rev. Howard Storm](#)).

j. Fear of Death Theory

PRO: Severe anxiety and stress at the time of death creates a [disassociative](#) state.

CON: [Pim van Lommel](#) led a study concerning NDEs during cardiac arrest. Only a very small percentage of patients said they had been afraid the last seconds preceding the cardiac arrest. Also, the medication given to them made no difference.

k. Darwin's Theory of Evolution

PRO: This theory holds that NDE reports are a deliberate ploy of humans to help the human race to adapt better to the inevitable end of their lives. This is based on the survival of the fittest which means that every species has the primary urge to struggle to increase its hold on the planet and guarantee the survival of its descendants.

CON: This theory does not explain why NDEs are erratic, or why we shunted down an evolutionary sidetrack for years by making NDEs something that people are reluctant to talk about.

l. Too Much Carbon Dioxide Theory

PRO: Near-death experiences are tricks of the mind triggered by an overload of carbon dioxide in the bloodstream. During cardiac arrest and resuscitation, blood gases such as CO₂ rise or fall because of the lack of circulation and breathing. Patients who experienced the phenomenon, blood carbon-dioxide levels were significantly higher than in those who did not. ([Zalika Klemenc-Ketis of the University of Maribor in Slovenia](#))

CON: According to [neuropsychiatrist Peter Fenwick](#) of the Institute of Psychiatry at Kings College London, "The one difficulty in arguing that CO₂ is the cause is that in cardiac arrests, everybody has high CO₂ but only 10 percent have NDEs. What's more, in heart attack patients, there is no coherent cerebral activity which could support consciousness, let alone an experience with the clarity of an NDE."

m. Rapid Eye Movement (REM) Intrusion Theory


PRO: [Dr. Kevin Nelson of the University of Kentucky](#) suggests near-death experiences are akin to dreaming and they use the same rapid eye movement (REM) mechanism associated with sleep. In other words, near-death experiences are a part of the dream mechanism and the person having the experience is in a REM state.

CON: [Dr. Jeffrey Long from the Near-Death Experience Research Foundation \(NDERF.org\)](#) disagrees with Nelson on a number of points. First of all, he states that Nelson's comparison group - the non-NDEs - is not typical and many were medical professionals and colleagues of Nelson. Secondly, Nelson's research questionnaire was poorly designed. Thirdly, Nelson failed to recognize dramatic differences between NDE and REM intrusion. Hallucinations stemming from REM intrusion - just before waking or while falling asleep - are often "bizarre and unrealistic" such as seeing objects appear through cracks in a wall or movement in a painting on the wall. By contrast, memories from an NDE are lucid and rooted in the real world. NDEs almost uniformly don't say, "Oh, that must have been a dream." About 75 percent say they were more alert, more conscious than normal. There's also a consistency of elements in NDEs which hallucinations don't have. Fourthly, 98 percent of NDEs encounter deceased relatives, as opposed to dreams where it's common to encounter living people. NDEs also encounter deceased relatives whom they didn't know at the time were dead. Fifthly, the totality of evidence shows there's something going on that's outside the medical evidence. NDEers almost always say that it wasn't a hallucination or dream; it was some different realm, some different aspect of their existence. And finally, REM intrusion - whether sleep paralysis or hallucinations - tends to be frightening or deeply unsettling. By contrast, most people who go through an NDE say the experience is almost supernaturally calm and peaceful, even joyful. Not only anecdotes, but real evidence does support this. In a 2001 study in the medical journal *The Lancet*, of

62 cardiac arrest patients who reported a NDE, more than half said the main emotions they experienced were "positive." Long says these distinctive, positive emotions are powerful evidence that a NDE is not just REM intrusion in disguise.

n. Sharp Increase of Brain Activity After Heart Stops Theory

PRO: Dr Jimo Borjigin of the University of Michigan suggests that the dying brain does not shut down as might be expected, but instead, becomes much more active during the dying process than even the waking state. He bases his findings on a study involving rats where it was discovered that in the 30-second period after the rodent's hearts stopped beating, there was a sharp increase in high-frequency brainwaves.

CON: In a paper entitled, "Seeing Dead People Not Known to Have Died: Peak in Darien Experiences,"  Dr. Bruce Greyson from the Division of Perceptual Studies at the University of Virginia argues that in his collection of 665 NDEs, 138 (21%) included a purported meeting with a deceased person. People on their deathbeds see, and often express surprise at meeting, a recently deceased person, of whose death neither they nor anyone around them had any knowledge. This excludes the possibility that the vision was a hallucination related to the experiencer's expectations. Such NDEs are termed "Peak in Darien" cases, after a book by that name published in 1882 by Frances Power Cobbe. The title is taken from a John Keats poem describing the shock of the Spaniards, who, after scaling a peak in Darien (in what is now Panama), expect to see a continent, but are confronted instead with another ocean. Bruce Greyson reports in his paper, published in the academic journal 'Anthropology and Humanism', many examples, including that of Physician K. M. Dale who related the case of 9-year-old Eddie Cuomo, whose fever finally broke after nearly 36 hours of anxious vigil on the part of his parents and hospital personnel. As soon as he opened his eyes, at 3:00 in the morning, Eddie related that he had been to heaven, where he saw his deceased Grandpa Cuomo, Auntie Rosa, and Uncle Lorenzo. Then Eddie added that he also saw his 19-year-old sister Teresa, who told him he had to go back. His father became agitated, because he had spoken with Teresa, who was attending college in Vermont, just two nights ago. Later that morning, Eddie's parents learned that Teresa had been killed in an automobile accident just after midnight, and that college officials had tried unsuccessfully to reach the Cuomos at their home. Bruce Greyson relates many other examples, including cases in which the deceased person seen was someone whom the experiencer had never known. For example, Greyson reports cardiologist Maurice Rawlings describing the case of a 48-year-old man who had a cardiac arrest. In a NDE he perceived a gorge full of beautiful colours, where he met both his stepmother and his biological mother, who had died when he was 15 months old. His father had remarried soon after his biological mother's death, and this person had never even seen a photo of her. A few weeks after this episode, his aunt, having heard about this vision, brought a picture of his mother with a number of other people. The man picked his mother out of the group, to the astonishment of his father.

o. Consciousness Survives Bodily Death Theory

PRO: There exists strong circumstantial evidence of consciousness surviving bodily death. While this evidence does not constitute conclusive scientific proof, it does make survival after bodily death a possibility which can be upheld in a court of law. The evidence for survival can be found in science, philosophy, history, metaphysics, religion, and anecdotal testimony. Quantum physics (see above) makes some scientific theories of the NDE outmoded while supporting elements of NDEs. Scientific studies support the possible validity of NDEs elements such as being out of the body, the retention of mental images during brain death, veridical experiences of autoscopic events, the ability to accurately foresee the future, receiving information that leads to new scientific discoveries, people born blind being able to see, groups of people sharing a single experience, unbiased children having similar experiences as adults, causing experiencers to be drastically changed and convinced of survival after death, the evidence supporting the objectivity of NDEs, and the affirmation of ancient religious concepts found around the world. Some of the skeptical arguments against the survival theory are often not valid and the burden of proof against survival has shifted to the skeptics. The following is a list of the evidence supporting NDEs as the survival of consciousness:

1. Quantum physics makes some scientific theories of the NDE outmoded: New developments in quantum physics shows that we cannot know phenomena apart from the observer. Arlice Davenport challenges the hallucination theory of NDEs as outmoded because the field theories of physics now suggest new paradigm options available to explain NDEs. [Mark Woodhouse](#) argues that the traditional materialism/dualism battle over NDEs may be solved by Einstein. Since matter is now seen as a form of energy, an energy body alternative to the material body could explain the NDE. This is supported by Melvin Morse who describes how NDEs are able to realign the charges in the electromagnetic field of the human body so that somehow the brain's wiring is renewed. He reports on patients who have NDEs and who recover from such diseases as pneumonia, cardiac arrest, and cancer (1992, 153-54). Perhaps the brain is like a kind of receiver such as a television, radio, or cell phone. What is received (i.e., signals, music, voice) is not produced by the receiver, but exists separately as electromagnetic waves that are processed by the receiver to make them visible or audible to the senses.
2. Quantum physics support elements found in NDEs: Similarities can be found between elements of [NDEs and in quantum field concepts](#) of non-locality, universal interconnectedness, a non-material dimension without our time-space relationship, and in the concept of subjectivity. All events are related and influence each other instantaneously and in reciprocity, and only subjectivity remains.
3. Scientific studies support the out-of-body aspect of NDEs: [Pim van Lommel](#) led a study concerning the NDEs of research subjects who had cardiac arrest. The findings of the study suggests that research subjects can experience consciousness, with self-identity, cognitive function and memories, including the possibility of perception outside their body, during a flat EEG. Those research subjects who had NDEs report that their NDE was a bonafide preview of the afterlife.
4. Memories and images are produced and retained by standstill patients: See [Dr. Michael Sabom's](#) groundbreaking [Atlanta study](#).
5. People see and hear verifiable events far from their bodies during a NDE: See (a) [Dr. Charles Tart's research subject](#), (b) [Pam Reynolds](#), (c) [Dr. George Rodonaia](#), (d) [Dr. George Ritchie](#), and (e) [various NDE experiencers](#).
6. Strange aspects to NDEs cannot be explained by brain chemistry alone: If NDEs are merely hallucinations, why do the vast majority of experiencers report [being told an identical and unusual message](#)? This unusual message is that they must return because their time for death hasn't come, or some variation of this. Assuming that NDEs are merely hallucinations, it is odd that people are having mass hallucinations of receiving similar unusual messages.
7. People born blind are able to see during a NDE: See [Vicki Umipeg's](#) NDE account.
8. Groups of people can share the same NDE at the same time: NDE research [Arvin Gibson](#) documented the account of a group of firefighters who succumbed to a forest fire. During their NDEs they saw each other outside of their bodies and had a most interesting experience. See the [Group NDE](#) web page involving May Eulitt and Jake.
9. People are able to successfully foresee future events during a NDE: Some of these events were the Second World War, Desert Storm, and the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack. See the [NDE and the Future](#) web page.
10. People are declared dead and left for dead for several days during a NDE: A Russian scientist was declared dead and put in the morgue for three days during which he had a NDE. See [Dr. George Rodonaia's](#) NDE account. Also, visit [Emanuel Tuwagirairmana's](#)

NDE account.

11. Unbiased children have NDEs that are similar to adult NDEs: See [P.M.H. Atwater's research on childhood NDEs](#).
12. Scientific discoveries have been made from the direct result of NDEs: See the list of scientific discoveries above.
13. NDEs can be viewed to be archetypal initiatory journeys: [Dr. Ken Ring](#) stated that NDEs can be viewed psychologically as [archetypal initiatory journeys](#) involving a death of one's old ego and a rebirth of a new self. An adequate interpretation must incorporate the spiritual realm of [kundalini experiences](#), the [imaginal realm](#), and the [mind](#) at large. As Ring envisions in an essay in this book, this paradigm can deconstruct our traditional Western worldview. It may lead to a dramatic next step in the evolution of a more ecological and more compassionate consciousness.
14. People are dramatically changed as a result from having a NDE: The philosophy of Positivism, founded by [A. J. Ayer](#), is the philosophy that anything not verifiable by the senses is nonsense. And since NDEs mark the end of the senses, the survival of the senses after death is nonsense. But this philosophy is challenged by its founder A. J. Ayer himself. Later in life, Ayer had a NDE where he saw a red light. His NDE made him a changed man: "My recent experiences, have slightly weakened my conviction that my genuine death...will be the end of me, though I continue to hope that it will be." (Ayer, 1988 a, b).
15. People are absolutely convinced they were out of their body during a NDE: See the [Evidence of NDEs](#) web page.
16. NDEs can be considered an objective experience: The philosopher [Carl Becker](#) examined four ways in which NDEs may be considered objective: examined four ways in which NDEs may be considered objective:
 - a. [Paranormal knowledge](#) that is later verified.
 - b. The similarity of [deathbed events](#) in different cultures. In different cultures.
 - c. Differences between [religious expectations](#) and [visionary experiences](#).
 - d. [Third-party observations of visionary figures](#), indicating that they were not merely subjective hallucinations (Becker, 1984).
17. Other paranormal phenomena supports NDEs to be experiences of the survival of consciousness including: (a) [Deathbed visions](#), (b) [Quantum physics](#), (c) [Dream research](#), (d) [Out-of-body research](#), (e) [After-death communications research](#), (f) [Reincarnation research](#), (g) [Hypnosis](#), (h) [Synchronicity](#), (i) [Remote viewing](#), and (j) [Consciousness research](#).
18. NDEs have been happening for thousands of years and are not a modern phenomenon: See the NDE accounts associated with (a) [Plato](#), (b) the [Apostle Paul](#), and (c) the [Tibetan Book of the Dead](#).
19. Skeptical arguments against the survival theory of NDEs are often not valid: Sociologist [Dr. Allan Kellehear](#) states that some scientific theories are often presented as the most logical, factual, objective, credible, and progressive possibilities, as opposed to the allegedly subjective, superstitious, abnormal, or dysfunctional views of mystics. The rhetorical opinions of some NDE theories are presented as if they were scientific ([Kellehear, 1996, 120](#)). Many skeptical arguments against the survival theory are actually [arguments from pseudo-skeptics](#) who often think they have no burden of proof. Such arguments often based on scientism with assumptions that survival is impossible even though survival has not been ruled out. Faulty conclusions are often made such as, "Because NDEs have a brain chemical connection then survival is impossible." Pseudo-skeptical arguments are

sometimes made that do not consider the entire body of circumstantial evidence supporting the possibility of survival or do not consider the possibility of new paradigms. Such pseudo-skeptical claims are often made without any scientific evidence.

20. Memories of near-death experiences are more real than reality: Researchers at the [Coma Science Group](#), directed by [Steven Laureys](#), and the [University of Liege's Cognitive Psychology Research](#), headed by [Professor Serge Bredart](#) and [Hedwige Dehon](#), have demonstrated that the physiological mechanisms triggered during NDE lead to a more vivid perception not only of imagined events in the history of an individual but also of real events which have taken place in their lives! These surprising results - obtained using an original method which now requires further investigation - are published in [PLOS ONE](#). The researchers looked into the memories of NDE with the hypothesis that if the memories of NDE were pure products of the imagination, their phenomenological characteristics (e.g., sensorial, self referential, emotional, etc. details) should be closer to those of imagined memories. Conversely, if the NDE are experienced in a way similar to that of reality, their characteristics would be closer to the memories of real events. Their results were surprising. From the perspective being studied, not only were the NDEs not similar to the memories of imagined events, but the phenomenological characteristics inherent to the memories of real events (e.g. memories of sensorial details) are even more numerous in the memories of NDE than in the memories of real events.

21. The burden of proof has shifted to skeptics of the survival theory of NDEs: All neurological theories that conclude NDEs to be only a brain-thing, must show how the core elements of the NDE occur subjectively because of specific neurological events triggered by the approach of death. These core elements include: the [out-of-body](#) state, [paranormal knowledge](#), the [tunnel](#), the golden [light](#), the voice or presence, the appearance of [deceased relatives](#), and [beautiful vistas](#). Perhaps the final word should go to [Nancy Evans Bush](#), a NDEr with the [International Association for Near-Death Studies](#), who said: "There is no human experience of any description that can't simply be reduced to a biological process, but that in no way offsets the meaning those experiences have for us-whether it's falling in love, or grieving, or having a baby."

22. A significant amount of support suggestive of consciousness surviving bodily death exists. Although this has not been proven conclusively using the scientific method, the open-minded skeptic include this significant amount of evidence as well as taken into consideration the testimonies of millions of people who have had both objective and subjective NDEs and OBEs constituting very strong circumstantial evidence. Here are some Wikipedia articles dealing with this subject as well: [\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#) [\[3\]](#) [\[4\]](#) [\[5\]](#) [\[6\]](#) [\[7\]](#) [\[8\]](#) [\[9\]](#) [\[10\]](#) [\[11\]](#) [\[12\]](#) [\[13\]](#) [\[14\]](#) [\[15\]](#) [\[16\]](#) [\[17\]](#) [\[18\]](#) [\[19\]](#) [\[20\]](#) and [\[21\]](#).

CON: The survival of consciousness after death has never been proven conclusively using the scientific method.

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18. Near-Death Studies Research Conclusions

📖 Read [current articles](#) of NDE research supporting the survival of consciousness from the body.

📖 [Dr. Raymond Moody](#): Common NDE aspects:

- | | |
|---|---|
| a. Strange sounds | e. Traveling rapidly |
| b. Peace and and painlessness | f. Seeing light beings |
| c. Out-of-body experience | g. Life review |
| d. Tunnel | h. Reluctance to return |

📖 [Dr. Kenneth Ring](#): Research findings:

- Moody's findings Moody's findings [are affirmed](#).
- They happen to people of [all races, genders, ages, education, marital status, and social class](#).

- c. **Religious orientation** is not a factor.
- d. People are **convinced of the reality** of their experience.
- e. Drugs do not appear to be **a factor**.
- f. NDEs are **not hallucinations**.
- g. NDEs often involve **unparalleled feelings**.
- h. People **lose their fear of death** and appreciate life more.
- i. People's lives **are transformed**.

🚩 **P.M.H. Atwater:** The content of the NDE involves an otherworldly awareness that can be brief and consist of only one or two elements, or can be more involved, even lengthy, and consist of multiple elements. Common elements include:

- a. Greatly **enhanced thoughts**.
- b. A **darkness** or **light** that is perceived as alive, intelligent and powerful.
- c. A sensation of **movement and/or presence**.
- d. A sudden sudden overwhelming **flood of emotion**.
- e. **An encounter** with an identified deceased person or animal, or an encounter with an apparently nonphysical entity.
- f. A **life review**.

🚩 **Dr. Melvin Morse:** The brain's connection to a higher power can be validated by indisputable scientific facts such as:

- a. Memories can exist **outside of the brain**.
- b. Scientific evidence supporting **reincarnation**.
- c. Anecdotal evidence that people exist after death **in some form of energy**.
- d. People often exhibit **supernatural powers**.
- e. **Right temporal lobe activity** verifies the reality of them.
- f. The mind/brain **can be induced** to have them.
- g. Brain research is able to support **the reality of an unseen power**.
- h. More conclusions **can be found here**.

🚩 **Dr. Jeffrey and Jody Long:** of 302 near-death experiences:

- a. 29% saw the **Being of Light** as a familiar being.
Of the percentage who saw familiar beings:
 - I. **25.9%** saw blood relatives.
 - II. **22.9%** saw religious figures.
 - III. **25.8%** saw the **Being of Light** as an unfamiliar being.
- b. Of the 166 people who saw beings:
 - I. **53%** saw familiar beings.
 - II. **47%** saw unfamiliar beings.

🚩 **Dr. Jeffrey Long**, in his book, "**Evidence of the Afterlife: The Science of Near-Death Experiences**," documented a study he conducted - the largest scientific study of NDEs ever - based on his research of over 1,300 NDEs shared with NDERF.org. Using his treasure trove of data, Dr. Long explains how NDEs cannot be explained by brain chemistry alone, how medical evidence fails to explain them away and why there is only one plausible explanation - that people have survived death and traveled to another dimension. Dr. Long makes his case using nine lines of evidence and they are:

a.	<u>Crystal-Clear Consciousness</u> . The level of conscious alertness during NDEs is usually greater than that experienced in everyday life - even though NDEs generally occur when a person is unconscious or clinically dead. This high level of consciousness while physically unconscious is medically unexplained. Additionally, the elements in NDEs generally follow the same consistent and logical order in all age groups and around the world, which refutes the possibility that NDEs have any relation to dreams or hallucinations.
b.	<u>Realistic Out-of-Body Experiences (OBEs)</u> : OBEs are one of the most common elements of NDEs. Events witnessed and heard by NDErs while in an out-of-body state are almost always realistic. When the NDEr or others later seek to verify what was witnessed or heard during the NDE, their OBE observations are almost always confirmed as completely accurate. Even if the OBE observations include events occurring far away from the physical body and far from any

	possible sensory awareness of the NDEr, the OBE observations are still almost always confirmed as completely accurate. This fact alone rules out the possibility that NDEs are related to any known brain functioning or sensory awareness. This also refutes the possibility that NDEs are unrealistic fragments of memory from the brain.
c.	<u>Heightened Senses</u> . Heightened senses have been reported by most who have NDEs. Supernormal vision has occurred even in those with significantly impaired vision. This is medically unexplainable.
d.	<u>Consciousness During Anesthesia</u> . Many NDEs occur while the NDEr is under general anesthesia - at a time when any conscious experience should be impossible. While some skeptics claim these NDEs may be the result of too little anesthesia, this ignores the fact that some NDEs result from anesthesia overdose. Additionally, descriptions of a NDEs differ greatly from those people who experiences "anesthetic awareness." The content of NDEs occurring under general anesthesia is essentially indistinguishable from NDEs that do not occur under general anesthesia. This is more strong evidence that NDEs occur independent from the functioning of the material brain.
e.	<u>Perfect Playback</u> . Life reviews in NDEs include real events which previously occurred in the lives of the NDEr - even if the events were forgotten or happened before they were old enough to remember.
f.	<u>Family Reunions</u> . During a NDE, the experiencer may encounter people who are virtually always deceased and are usually relatives of the NDEr. Sometimes they include relatives who died before the NDEr was even born. If NDEs are merely the product of memory fragments, they would almost certainly include far more living people, including those with whom they had more recently interacted.
g.	<u>Children's Experiences</u> . The NDEs of children, including very young children who are too young to have developed concepts of death, religion, or NDEs, are essentially identical to those of older children and adults. This refutes the possibility that the content of NDEs is produced by preexisting beliefs or cultural conditioning.
h.	<u>Worldwide Consistency</u> . NDEs appear remarkably consistent around the world, and across many different religions and cultures. NDEs from non-Western countries are incredibly similar to those occurring in people in Western countries.
i.	<u>Aftereffects</u> . It is common for people to experience major life changes after having NDEs. These aftereffects are often powerful, lasting, life-enhancing, and the changes generally follow a consistent pattern. NDErs themselves are practically universal in their belief that their experience of the afterlife was real.

✚ **Dr. Michael Sabom:** The Atlanta study concluded:

- a. NDEs provide evidence of **veridical perception** (i.e., verified out-of-body vision).
- b. What people see and hear while they are dead **has a factual basis**.
- c. Near-death experiencers **accurately recall events** that are happening around them when their brain isn't functioning.

✚ **Pim van Lommel:** The Dutch study on NDEs involved:

- a. The **replication** of the veridical perception phenomenon reported by Dr. Michael Sabom.
- b. Lommel described a patient who was able to **describe verifiable events** from a vantage point far away from his body.

✚ **Dr. Barbara Rommer:** Less-than-positive NDEs can be classified into four types:

- a. NDEs that are misinterpreted positive NDEs.
- b. NDEs involving **a void** which is very unpleasant.
- c. NDEs that involve **visions of hell**.
- d. NDEs that involve **frightening life reviews**.

✚ **Dr. Karl Jansen:** Ketamine research findings:

- a. NDEs and **the drug ketamine** produce identical visions.

- b. They both induce **real visions of a real god**.
- c. Ketamine **affects parts of the brain** such as the right temporal lobe, the hippocampus and associated structures in the brain.
- d. NDEs are an important phenomenon that can **safely be reproduced by ketamine**.

📌 **Dr. Peter Fenwick:** On the difference between hallucinations and NDEs, Fenwick states in Tom Harpur's documentary **Life After Death** that drug-induced hallucinations are not the same as NDEs:

"The difficulty with those theories is that when you create these wonderful states by taking drugs, you're conscious. In the NDE, you are unconscious. One of the things we know about brain function in unconsciousness, is that you cannot create images and if you do, you cannot remember them ... [During a NDE] the brain isn't functioning. It's not there. It's destroyed. It's abnormal. But, yet, it can produce these very clear experiences ... An unconscious state is when the brain ceases to function. For example, if you faint, you fall to the floor, you don't know what's happening and the brain isn't working. The memory systems are particularly sensitive to unconsciousness. So, you won't remember anything. But, yet, after one of these [NDE] experiences, you come out with clear, lucid memories ... This is a real puzzle for science. I have not yet seen any good scientific explanation which can explain that fact." (Dr. Peter Fenwick)

📌 **Dr. Ian Stevenson:** Stevenson's ground-breaking reincarnation research concluded that birthmarks and congenital deformities have one to five characteristics in common:

- a. The person expresses a wish to be reborn through a particular woman.
- b. A woman has an **after-death visitation** by an apparition who tells her that he/she are to be reborn through her.
- c. In some cultures where reincarnation is a dominant belief, newborn children **are checked for recognizable birthmarks** to determine their past-life identity.
- d. A child, usually between 2 and 4 years, talks about **having memories of a past life**.
- e. A child **feels uncomfortable** with its current family.

📌 **Kevin Williams, B.Sc:** These are statistics of common elements found in 50 NDEs profiled on this website:

69% Experienced overwhelming love	31% Received forgotten knowledge
65% Experienced mental telepathy	27% Experienced fear
62% Had a life review	21% Had a homecoming with deceased loved ones
56% Meet a Being of light	21% Was shown their past lives
56% Felt tremendous ecstasy	19% Saw or experienced hell
46% Learned unlimited knowledge	17% Saw a heavenly city of light
46% Visited numerous afterlife realms	13% Visited a heavenly temple of knowledge
46% Was told they were not ready to die	10% Saw earthbound souls
44% Was shown visions of the future	6% Their NDE was the result of an attempted suicide
42% Traveled through a tunnel	0% Saw a devil
37% Met Jesus Christ	

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19. Events Which Can Trigger an Out-of-Body or Near-Death Experience

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| a. Death | h. After-death vision | o. Relaxation |
| b. Dreams | i. Eye movement | p. Psychic powers |
| c. Stress | j. Sexual orgasm | q. Astral projection |
| d. Brain stimulation | k. Surgery | r. Mirror gazing |
| e. Deathbed | l. Drugs | s. Falling down |
| f. Seizure | m. Gravity | t. Alien abduction |
| g. Coma | n. Meditation | u. Mental illness |

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