Keith Roby Memorial Lecture

DISCOVERERS WELCOME
The Science of Oneness

A worldview for the twenty-first century
A ‘worldview’ is a set of beliefs about ‘life, the universe and everything’

- It enables us to understand the world and our place in it
- It determines the meaning and purpose of life
- It affects the ‘reality’ we perceive and how we interpret our perceptions
- It strongly influences how we act
- It is largely unseen; simply the way things are
Some key beliefs in the modern worldview

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- The cosmos is godless and soulless; there is no life force
- Our lives have no meaning or purpose beyond what we choose to give them, and there is nothing beyond death
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- Life has no meaning or purpose, and there is nothing beyond death
- Mind and consciousness are byproducts of complex matter with no independent existence
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- Life has no meaning or purpose, and there is nothing beyond death
- Mind and consciousness are by-products of complex matter with no independent existence
- We can understand matter by studying its smallest components rather than whole systems.
  - The search for the fundamental particles of matter
  - The emphasis on genetics v. integrated organisms
  - The emphasis on the individual v. society
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- We can understand matter by studying its smallest components rather than whole systems
- Humans are different to and separate from the rest of nature
- Objective science is the way to true knowledge
In other words:

- My existence is an accident
- My thoughts and feelings are illusions
- I am an isolated, lonely being
- My life has no meaning or purpose
- My subjective experiences, relationships and intuition are worthless
- This life is all there is!
- Non-human beings are there to be exploited
Is it any wonder that so many people:

- Succumb to despair, depression, apathy, and alienation?
- Don’t care about other people and nature?
- Fill the void with hedonism, drugs and retail therapy?
- Are drawn to the certainties of fundamentalism?
- React with violence to the black joke the cosmos has played on them?
BUT
integrating modern sciences with spiritual traditions into a Science of Oneness reveals a cosmos that is:

- One interactive Whole
- Sentient
- Loving
- Creative
- Co-created by all objects and beings in it
- Purposeful and Meaningful
The ‘Science of Oneness’ has two aspects:

- A holistic way of knowing
- A body of knowledge about the universe, and our place within it
Towards Holistic Knowing

The Science of Oneness seeks to:

🌿 Retain the strengths of the scientific method
Towards Holistic Knowing

The Science of Oneness seeks to:

🌱 Retain the strengths of the scientific method

🌱 Whilst accepting the validity of, and integrating it with, other ways of knowing including:

🌱 Direct sensory experience and kinaesthetic learning

🌱 Relationship

🌱 Intuition

🌱 Inspiration

🌱 Non-western forms of logic, eg both-and as well as either-or
Towards Holistic Knowing

The Science of Oneness seeks to:

- Retain the strengths of the scientific method
- Whilst accepting the validity of, and integrating it with, other ways of knowing
- And seeking to go beyond knowledge to the wisdom to use it well
The Science of Oneness as a body of knowledge:

Systems Sciences:
- The One from the Many

Development and evolution:
- The Many from the One
The One from the Many

Everything is connected to everything else

“If you are a poet, you will see a cloud floating in this sheet of paper.”

Thich Nhat Hanh
The One from the Many

- Everything is connected to everything else: systems sciences
- Quantum entanglement
The One from the Many

- Everything is connected to everything else: systems sciences
- Quantum entanglement
- Matter, energy, space, time and consciousness are interconnected and interactive.

They are all aspects of a deeper reality.
All things by immortal power
Near or far,
Hiddenly
To each other linked are,
Thou canst not stir a flower
Without troubling of a star.

Francis Thompson
The Many from the One

The many objects in the universe are linked into One interactive whole

But from another perspective:
- The diversity and complexity of the universe originated in a simple unity

Hence
- The Many emerged from the One.
The Many from the One

The universe began as pure energy which

> Condensed into particles and simple atoms which
> Were drawn together by gravity
> To form galaxies and stars which
> Forged the elements which
> Combined into molecules from which
> Life emerged
> ..................
We do not know:

- Where the fireball of energy at the big bang came from, nor
- How life began

BUT

- When the universe came into existence, a process of development and growth began
- Once life existed, a process of evolution began
The Universe seems to move towards increasing complexity and diversity

Is there a ‘law of complexification’?

Does the universe develop according to some ‘cosmic’ purpose?
Three big questions:

- Was the emergence of life ‘inevitable’?
- Is the evolution of life random?
- Where do mind and consciousness come from?
The Emergence of Life

Life used to be seen as rare and delicate

But

‘Extremophiles’ thrive in very hostile environments

Hence

Life is robust and adaptable
Perhaps life is common in the universe?
The Evolution of Life

Darwin in a nutshell:

- Chance genetic changes create variations
- Competition for survival weeds out variants less suited to their environment

Hence

- Organisms and species are powerless victims of this process
BUT many mutations are not chance events

Organisms:
- Modify their own genes
- Switch genes on and off

Some learned behaviours may become encoded in the genes and inherited
AND evolutionary success depends on more than genes and competition

How an organism develops depends on:
- Genes and gene expression
- Structure
- Biochemistry
- Environment and experience
- (and possibly) morphic fields

Organisms modify their environment and pass this heritage to their offspring

Social learning enables the transmission of adaptive behaviours

Cooperation is at least as important as competition
Life is not at the mercy of blind forces.

It is significantly master of its own destiny.
The Source of Consciousness

Mainstream science claims:
- Matter is fundamental
- Mind and consciousness are simply byproducts of complex matter

These are unproven beliefs
The challenge of consciousness

1: The ‘Hard Problem’

How do our subjective experiences arise from biochemical and neurological processes?

- Identity: What it is like to be me
- Sensation: The redness of a rose
- Emotion: The feeling of love
The challenge of consciousness
2: Mind over Matter

How can thoughts which are non-material epiphenomena influence material objects?

But clearly they do:
- Observer influence on quantum experiments
- Multiple personality disorder
- False pregnancy
- Remission of cancer through meditation
The challenge of consciousness
3:
The Paranormal

How can the evidence for paranormal phenomena be explained?

- Telepathy, remote viewing, precognition
- Transpersonal experiences, including:
  - Before birth memories
  - Near-death experiences
  - Union with the consciousness of other animals
  - Experience of Cosmic Consciousness
But what if material reality emerged from ‘Cosmic Consciousness’?

The ‘hard problem’ dissolves

The observer effect in quantum physics suggests that explaining how matter is created by consciousness may be easier than explaining how consciousness emerges from unconscious matter.
But what if material reality emerged from ‘Cosmic Consciousness’?

- The ‘hard problem’ dissolves
- There are potential explanations for:
  - The ‘law of complexification’
  - Transpersonal experiences and the paranormal
  - Human spiritual hunger and inner awareness
  - The role of consciousness in quantum physics
But what if material reality emerged from ‘Cosmic Consciousness’?

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  - Transpersonal experiences and the paranormal
  - Human spiritual hunger and inner awareness
  - The role of consciousness in quantum physics
- There is consistency between science and spiritual traditions
What evidence is there that this may be correct?
The Zero-Point Field

Underlying the material universe is an intense energy field which is the source of matter.
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The Zero-Point Field

- Underlying the material universe is an intense energy field which is the source of matter.
- This field may hold a ‘memory’ of everything that has ever happened or ever will happen.
- Human consciousness may have access to the information in this field.
- This may explain transpersonal and paranormal phenomena, and mind over matter.
- This ‘memory’ may help the universe learn from experience.
Where does this leave us?

There is a deep Oneness to Reality according to:
- Quantum & relativity physics
- Systems sciences
- Mystical traditions
Where does this leave us?

- There is a deep Oneness to Reality
- Complexification appears to be a fundamental law of the universe
Where does this leave us?

- There is a deep Oneness to Reality
- Complexification is a basic law
- Life influences its own evolution
Where does this leave us?

- There is a deep Oneness to Reality
- Evolution is a basic principle of the cosmos
- Life influences its own evolution
- Consciousness may be the deepest Reality
Where does this leave us?

- There is a deep Oneness to Reality
- Evolution is a basic principle of the cosmos
- Life is not a victim of chance and necessity
- Consciousness may be the deepest Reality
- The zero-point field may hold the answers to many questions about consciousness and cosmic evolution
BUT

No matter how deeply science penetrates it will always face two questions:

- Why does anything exist rather than nothing?
- Where did THAT come from?

Ultimate reality will always remain a Mystery
What can we deduce about the nature of this Mystery, or the One?
The Nature of the One

- It is a potential beyond time and space that unleashes its own potential in the act of creation
  - This still leaves the unanswerable question: “Where did that come from?”
The Nature of the One:

- It is a potential beyond time and space that unleashes its own potential.
- It can create only what is latent within itself - unlimited from our perspective.
The Nature of the One:

- It is a potential beyond time and space that unleashes its own potential.
- It can create only what is latent within itself.
- Its creativity is constrained by the need for inner consistency if the universe is to be stable.
  - Stability is enhanced by love, harmony, empathy, compassion, cooperation and related qualities.
  - Instability is promoted by hatred, conflict, callousness, greed, competition etc.
The Nature of the One:

- It is a potential beyond time and space that unleashes its own potential
- It can create only what is latent within itself
- Its creativity is constrained by the need for inner consistency
- It is the source of space, time, energy, matter, life, and individual consciousness
The Nature of the One:

- It is a potential beyond time and space that unleashes its own potential in the act of creation.
- It can create only what is latent within itself - unlimited from our perspective.
- Its creativity is constrained by the need for inner consistency in a stable universe.
- It is the source of space, time, energy, matter, life, and individual consciousness.
- It is beyond full human understanding or expression in words.
If the One is the source of all existence:

It must permeate everything
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- It must permeate everything

Hence

- All that we are, perceive, experience, think and do is the One made manifest
I am a fragment of the Mystery with the same qualities as every other fragment in the cosmos.
If we are the One made manifest:

- We share the creative urge and power of the One
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- We are free to create what we will, just as the One is free
If we are the One made manifest:

- We share the creative urge and power of the One
- We are free to create what we will, just as the One is free
- We may:
  - Experiment and innovate
  - Make mistakes and learn from them
  - Create evil, suffering and hatred
  - Create good, happiness and love
If we are the One made manifest:

- Our creative power and freedom are real
- We are free to create what we will
- We are free to:
  - Experiment and innovate
  - Make mistakes and learn from them
  - Create evil, suffering and hatred
  - Create good, happiness and love
- We share responsibility as co-creators for guiding our world towards love, truth, compassion, wisdom, justice, and other universal values that foster a stable planet and universe
The Meaning and Purpose of Life are found in:

- Becoming loving, harmonious components of the planetary and cosmic whole
- Entering fully into the creative richness of life with all its joys and woes
- Co-creating the future of our community, society, and planet
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