

RCPsych NI Masterclass: Consciousness – the evidence for non-localisation and non-duality

Friday 25 February 2022

10:00am – 11:30am

Online Via Zoom

09:55am – 10:00am	Registration
10:00am – 10:10am	Welcome and opening remarks - Dr Elizabeth Dawson
10:10am – 10:15am	Introduction to Dr Peter Fenwick MB, Bchir (Cantab), DPM, FRCPsych - Professor Roy McClelland OBE, MD, PhD, FRCPsych
10:15am – 11:15am	Consciousness – the evidence for non-localisation and non-duality - Dr Peter Fenwick MB, Bchir (Cantab), DPM, FRCPsych
11:15am – 11:30	Q&A Closing Remarks - Dr Elizabeth Dawson & Professor Roy McClelland OBE, MD, PhD, FRCPsych

One of the most important growth areas in our understanding of human consciousness is the recognition of the progress in science behind non-locality and non-duality. But first let us clear away the undergrowth. Our current reductionist science points to an objective outside world and an isolated inner experiencer. What we know about the outside world is delivered to us by the senses and the brain creates a model. We can never know the outside world in itself. We can only know our model. According to reductionist science the outside world is chunks of matter of different configurations. It is devoid of consciousness, which is an epiphenomenon of the brain. Thus all experiences are in and of the brain. Damage the brain and you degrade experience. But this does not always happen; some

types of brain damage result in a highly 'gifted' brain, e.g. Savant syndromes etc. Wide and very strong experiences also result in less brain activity not more, as also seen with psychedelic drugs. This and the wider evidence suggests that the brain does not create consciousness but rather is a filter of the ocean of surrounding consciousness, (see William James). Indeed consciousness appears to be spread throughout the universe, although we never 'see' it only models of it created by the brain.

So what is non-locality? The term is used for phenomena such as telepathy, remote viewing, psychokinesis, action at a distance, and prayer which have no apparent genesis within the reductionist brain model and also those phenomena which suggest the continuation of consciousness after death. (See the Bigelow prizes). Using the brain as a filter model allows the possibility of explanations for these phenomena apart from the reductionist interpretation of fraud and misinterpretation. If we are set in a sea of consciousness then distant communication is no longer the problem as it is with physical reductionism.

So then what is non-duality? When you see the outside world, you feel that you have an inner experiencer, the two are separate. This is the state of duality. Experiencer and outside world are separate. Recent studies suggest that the form of the individual's conscious state can be changed by psychological means. For many years meditation seemed to be the best path to enhanced consciousness. And the stereotypic picture is of the enlightened monk in a Himalayan cave. But nowadays there are specific courses that can be studied to change our form of consciousness. The most popular, and successful, of these are those of Jeffrey Martin, a psychology teacher who lives in California, whose Finders course is said to have enhanced the level of consciousness in over 70% of students. Over 5000 people have taken his courses.

The best description of the change of levels (locations) of consciousness is given by Jeffrey Martin. Location 0 is the ordinary non-dual state, an inside perceiver looking out – here you suffer. In Location 1 you know everything is OK 'right down at the bottom' and the ego is less prominent. In Location 2 you are part of the universe, truly non-dual. The ego has almost gone, you no longer suffer. Location 3 is the area of the Christian Mystics where you are very much part of the transcendent and experience divine rapture. In Location 4 few or no egoic structures remain, you have no will and are the actor of the moment. There is also reduction in the experience of emotion. These locations go on up to 15 + although people in these advanced locations are very rare.

This masterclass is designed to give an overview of the area of non-locality and of non-duality. It would be helpful if participants have read Jeffrey Martin 'The Finders' and Bernardo Kastrup Ph.D Ph.D 'A Rational, Empirical case for post-mortem survival based solely on mainstream science'.

https://www.bigelowinstitute.org/contest_winners3.php

'The Finders', Jeffrey Martin can be bought from Amazon.

Do look up Sailor Bob who is a non-dual teacher as are Harding and Lang with The Headless Way.

<https://www.headless.org/workshops/workshops-richard-lang>

Dr Peter Fenwick MB, Bchir (Cantab), DPM, FRCPsych

Bio for Dr Peter Fenwick MB, Bchir (Cantab), DPM, FRCPsych

Dr Peter Fenwick was Consultant Neuropsychiatrist Emeritus to the Epilepsy Unit at the Maudsley Hospital, which he ran for twenty years. From 2000 to 2009 he spent several months a year working in the field of magnetoencephalography in a neuroscience research laboratory in Japan.

Dr Fenwick has a long-standing interest in brain function and the problem of consciousness and has published a large number of research papers related to altered states of consciousness, and abnormalities of consciousness and behaviour,

NDEs and end of life experiences. He has researched into meditation and continues to be interested in the relationship between meditative states, cognition and brain function.

Present interests: The development of non-dual consciousness and anomalous mental states.