**Post-materialist Science**

In 2021 more than 400 scientists affirmed a *Manifesto for a Post-Materialist Science*, which includes these assertions:

1. Scientific methods based upon materialistic philosophy have been highly successful in not only increasing our understanding of nature but also in bringing greater control and freedom through advances in technology.

2. However, the nearly absolute dominance of materialism in the academic world has seriously constricted the sciences and hampered the development of the scientific study of mind and spirituality. Faith in this ideology, as an exclusive explanatory framework for reality, has compelled scientists to neglect the subjective dimension of human experience. This has led to a severely distorted and impoverished understanding of ourselves and our place in nature.

3. Conscious mental activity can be experienced in clinical death during a cardiac arrest (this is what has been called a "near-death experience” (NDE). Some near-death experiencers (NDErs) have reported veridical out-of-body perceptions (i.e., perceptions that can be proven to coincide with reality) that occurred during cardiac arrest. NDErs also report profound spiritual experiences during NDEs triggered by cardiac arrest. It is noteworthy that the electrical activity of the brain ceases within a few seconds following a cardiac arrest.

4. Controlled laboratory experiments have documented that skilled research mediums (people who claim that they can communicate with the minds of people who have physically died) can sometimes obtain highly accurate information about deceased individuals. This further supports the conclusion that mind can exist separate from the brain.

<https://opensciences.org/about/manifesto-for-a-post-materialist-science>

Nobel prize winning physicist Max Planck (1858-1947) famously said: “I regard consciousness as fundamental. I regard matter as derivative from consciousness. We cannot get behind consciousness. Everything we talk about, everything that we regard as existing, postulates consciousness.”

Psychologist William James (1842-1910) proposed from his research that consciousness has many levels, which may even include a level of reality after death. James thought that the brain was not creating consciousness but was receiving consciousness like a radio receiving multiple frequencies. Damage to the brain often leads to loss of some aspects of consciousness but this is also true of damage to a radio.

I suggest that a post-materialist science allows a wider spectrum of human experience to be considered in our search for understanding ourselves, the earth’s biosphere, and the universe. Our ability to learn more about the natural world is an act of consciousness that verifies its significance in the universe, as without consciousness somewhere in the universe there would be no awareness of its creativity.

Materialist science relies on a method of research that rules out any evidence of purpose or meaning in the universe. Philosopher Mary Midgley (1919-2018) wrote just before her death that: “this mindless materialism, this belief in something called ‘matter’ as the answer to all questions – is not really science at all. It is, and always has been, just an image, a myth, a vision, an enormous act of faith. As Karl Popper said, it is ‘promissory materialism’, an offer of future explanations based on boundless confidence in physical methods of enquiry. It is a quite general belief in ‘matter’, which is conceived in a new way as able to answer all possible questions. And that belief has flowed much more from the past glories of science than from any suitability for the job in hand. In reality, not all questions are physical questions or can be usefully fitted to physical answers.” (*What is Philosophy For?)*

**I suggest paying attention to post-materialist scientific inquiries is now an eco-choice, for it embraces a wider living-world of both objective and subjective evidence.**