



Researches Relevant to Theosophy

Vol. II, N° 1

A quarterly publication devoted to the collection of researches in the sciences and humanities that are relevant to theosophical studies.

- * Anthropology
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The Ancient Science of the Druids

Connecting People's Brains

Homo Sapiens Evolution

What is Life ?

The origin of the Elements

A Case of Karma : Revenge of the Incas

And More . . .



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Editorial

Welcome to the second year of publication of *Researches Relevant to Theosophy*.

Keeping abreast with all new researches and discoveries remain a challenge due to the quantity and diversity of academic disciplines. Open papers and communications are offering a wealth of informations that are reviewed and proposed to enhance understanding and knowledge on subjects relevant to the theosophical teachings.

In this issue, you will find subjects like Telepathy, the Ancient Science of the Druids, a Karma case,... relevant to theosophy, plus other findings and discoveries from the Science Community.

It is hoped that more people will be involved in the gathering of research information. We appreciate your feedback. You may email us at editor@theoscience.org or comment on the website of *Researches Relevant to Theosophy* (theoscience.org).



Researches Relevant to Theosophy

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Contributions to this publication are welcome. Email to the editors the title, date, source and summary of the research report, together with the full citation of the source or sources, wether website, book or article.

Health & Medecine

Date : December, 2018

Source : *Phys.org*

The ancient Science of the Druids

Soil from Ireland long thought to have medicinal properties contains a previously unknown strain of bacteria which is effective against four of the top six superbugs that are resistant to antibiotics, including MRSA. This area was previously occupied by the Druids, around 1500 years ago.

Madame Blavatsky, talking about the Science of the Druids, said (Isis Unveiled, Vol. I, p.18) :

“On the dead soil of the long by-gone past stand their (the druids) sacred oaks, now dried up and stripped of their spiritual meaning by the venomous breath of materialism. But for the student of occult learning, their vegetation is still verdant and luxuriant, and as full of deep and sacred truths, as that hour when the arch-druid performed his magical cures, and waving the branch of mistletoe, severed with his golden sickle the green bough from its mother oak-tree..”

Read more :



Health & Medecine

Date : July, 2016

Source : *Futurism.com*

Could Our Immune System Be Controlling Our Behavior?

We all like to think of ourselves as totally unique, independent individuals, in charge of our own destinies. But new research has found evidence that our behaviour, and maybe even our personalities, could be influenced by something totally unexpected – our immune systems.

Theosophical literature often points out that our personal consciousness is not a single entity but, rather, the sum total of many different influences, including our bodies, elementals, skandhas, the higher consciousness, and more.

Read more :



Health & Medecine

Date : January, 2019

Source : *Science Alert*

Connecting People's Brains

Neuroscientists have successfully hooked up a three-way brain connection to allow three people to share their thoughts.

Mme Blavatsky wrote (The theosophist, Vol. III, N° 4, January 1882) : *“The phenomena of sensation and volition, of intellect and instinct are, of course, all manifested through the channels of the nervous centres, the most important of which is the brain. . . Yet while this physiological office is distinguished, or divided by Science into three kinds – the motor, sensitive and connecting – the mysterious agency of intellect remains as mysterious and perplexing to the great physiologists as it was in the days of Hippocrates. The scientific suggestion that there may be a fourth series associated with the operation of thought, has not helped towards solving the problem; it has failed to shed even the slightest ray of light on the unfathomable mystery. Nor will they ever fathom it unless our men of Science accept the hypothesis of DUAL MAN.”*

Read more :



Anthropology

Date : January, 2019

Source : *Trend in Ecology & Evolution*

Homo Sapiens Evolution

The view that Homo sapiens evolved from a single region/population within Africa has been given primacy in studies of human evolution. However, developments across multiple fields show that relevant data are no longer consistent with this view. A new study shows that Homo sapiens evolved within a set of interlinked groups living across Africa, whose connectivity changed through time.

A manuscript of an essay from Mme Blavatsky was published in *The Theosophist*, Vol. LXXXIII, N° 11, August 1962 – also available in BCW XIII, p.326, where she described the early races of Africa

Read more :



Earth Science Health & Medicine

Date : November 2018

Source : *The Lancet*

Meat Production Affecting the Eco-System

Meat production doesn't just affect the ecosystem by production of gases, and study now question the system of production's direct effect on global freshwater use, change in land use, and ocean acidification. A recent paper in Science claims that even the lowest-impact meat causes "much more" environmental impact than the least sustainable forms of plant and vegetable production.

Another study from the International Agency For Research On Cancer assessment has identified a "strong" link between red meat and the mechanistic evidence for carcinogenicity.

Read more :



Biology

Date : January 2019

Source : New Scientist

What is Life ?

All the signs are you're alive: you respond to stimuli, you're using energy, your cells are reproducing. Yet plenty of things around you obviously aren't alive, despite ultimately being made of the exact same atoms. Physics or biology alone can't explain the difference, and in the first of a new occasional series of "Big Questions", physicist-turned-biologist Paul Davies marries concepts from the cutting edge of both disciplines to come up with a big answer – one that takes us outside the bounds of the laws of nature as we know them.

Read more :



Physics

Date : February 2019

Source : Physics Today

The Origin of the Elements

What are the basic constituents of our universe, our world, our body, . . . From where came the building blocks of our "material" world, the elementary particles ? How Science classified them ? This paper recapitulates decades of interdisciplinary research in astronomy, chemistry, and nuclear physics to determinate from where came the elements.

Read more :



Anthropology
Archeology
History

A Case of Karma : Revenge of the Incas

Date : March 2019

Source : Science Direct

55 million indigenous people died following the European conquest of the Americas beginning in 1492. A new study demonstrates that the Great Dying of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas led to the abandonment of enough cleared land in the Americas that the resulting terrestrial carbon uptake had a detectable impact on both atmospheric CO₂ and global surface air temperatures in the two centuries prior to the Industrial Revolution.

Read more :



Earth Science

Our Planet's Orchestra with Drums !

Date : February 2019

Source : Nature

New discovery has found the first direct and unambiguous observational evidence that the magnetopause (boundary layer between the magnetosphere and the surrounding plasma) vibrates in a standing wave pattern, like a drum, when hit by a strong impulse.

Read more :



Physics

Date : March 2019

Source : Quanta Magazine

The Physics Still Hiding in the Higgs Boson

No new particles have been found at the Large Hadron Collider since the Higgs boson in 2012. This article highlights the depth of the unknown for modern Science about the basic building blocks of the Universe : “But physicists understand little about the omnipresent Higgs field, or the fateful moment in the early universe when it suddenly shifted from having zero value everywhere (or in other words, not existing) into its current, uniformly valued state. That shift, or “symmetry-breaking” event, instantly rendered quarks, electrons and many other fundamental particles massive, which led them to form atoms and all the other structures seen in the cosmos. But why? Why should the universe decide to have this Higgs presence all over?”

Read more :



Biology

Date : March 2019

Source : Quanta Magazine

Neuroscience Readies for a Showdown Over Consciousness Ideas

Identifying consciousness in the physical realm is one of the strongest push from the scientific community, in order to validate the materialistic model. This article talks about a new initiative to narrow down the landscape of possibilities :

"Now a new project currently under review hopes to close in on some answers. It proposes to draw up a suite of experiments that will expose theories of consciousness to a merciless spotlight, in the hope of ruling out at least some of them. If all is approved and goes according to plan, the experiments could start this autumn. The initial aim is for the advocates of two leading theories to agree on a protocol that would put predictions of their ideas to the test. Similar scrutiny of other theories will then follow."

Read more :



Earth Science

Date : March 2019

Source : Phys.org

Meteorit Impact 12,800 Years Ago Confirmed

A major cosmic impact that occurred toward the end of the Pleistocene epoch (12,800 years ago), causing rapid climatic changes, megafaunal extinctions, sudden human population decrease and cultural shifts and widespread wildfires (biomass burning) got additional findings from a Chilean site. According to the on-going study called the Younger Dryas Impact Hypothesis, traces of the multiple impacts have been found in the Americas, Europe, and up to Greenland where a major crater has been recently spotted.

Read more :



Biology, Health & medicine

Date : March 2019

Source : Nature

Sleep increases chromosome dynamics in neurons

Sleep increases chromosome dynamics that clear out DNA damage accumulated during waking hours. A new study shows that sleep can heal DNA damage induced by many causes, including radiation, oxydative stress, . . . According to current state-of-the-art, sleep process is still far from being understood : “Nevertheless, the core cellular function of sleep is unknown, and there is no conserved molecular marker to define sleep across phylogeny“, “. . . however, why sleep has evolved and which fundamental ancestral functions it regulates, remain enigmatic.“

Read more :

**Health & medicine**

Date : January 2019

Source : ScienceDirect

Heavy smoking can damage vision

It has already been demonstrated that cigarette smoke contains numerous compounds that are harmful to health and has been linked to a reduction of cortical thickness, involving such areas as the medial and lateral frontal cortex and a decrease in activity of the occipital cortex. Some studies investigated the effects of cigarette smoking on cognitive function, but few have evaluated the effects of cigarette smoking on spatial and color vision. A new study tends to indicate that heavy long-term smokers (i.e. tobacco addiction users) have lower contrast sensitivity and poorer color discrimination abilities than their non-smoking peers.

Read more :



Psychology

Date : October 2017

Source : Nature

Dogs can smell your emotional state

Science had already shown that dogs can see and hear the signs of human emotions. A new study focused on the evidence that dogs are sensitive to the human's attentional state when producing facial expressions, and concluded that : "Dogs' production of facial expressions is subject to audience effects, and can be tailored to the human attentional state suggesting some communicative function and are not simple emotional displays based on the dogs arousal state."

Read more :



Biology

Date : March 2019

Source : PLOS | Biology

Human impact on threatened terrestrial vertebrates

A global analysis of cumulative human impacts on threatened species on the distribution of 5,457 terrestrial vertebrates show that impacts to species are widespread, occurring across 84% of Earth's surface. Almost one-quarter of assessed species are impacted across >90% of their distribution, and approximately 7% are impacted across their entire range.

Mme Blavatsky wrote (The Theosophist, Vol. VII, N° 76, January 1886) : " *Evolution starts to mold future humanities within the lower scales of being. Therefore, by killing an animal, or even an insect, we arrest the progress of an entity towards its final goal in nature – MAN ; and to this the student of occult knowledge may say that it not only retards the evolution of that entity, but arrests that of the next succeeding human and more perfect race to come.*"



Space Sciences

Date : November 2018

Source : National
Geographic

Our moon is not alone

Our moon isn't alone: Astronomers confirm Earth has two extra, hidden satellites. Hungarian astronomers and physicists say they have finally confirmed the existence of two Earth-orbiting "moons" entirely made of dust.

This is an interesting piece of news that may be related to something HPB taught to her Inner Group. She said:

"A new Moon will appear during the 7th Round, and our Moon will finally disintegrate and disappear. There is now a planet, the "mystery Planet", behind the Moon, and it is gradually dying. Finally, the time will come for it to send its principles to a new laya centre, and there a new planet will form, to belong to another solar system, the present "mystery Planet" there functioning as Moon to that new globe. This Moon will have nothing to do with our Earth, although it will come within the range of vision."

Read more :



Earth Sciences

Date : October 2018

Source : Universe Today

Arctic Sea Ice at its Lowest Level

A real-time exemple of climat change impact on our planet which requires our attention (and actions)

Last United Nations Climate Change Committee (COP24) met in Poland in December 2018, and optimism seems predominant :

“Governments have adopted a robust set of guidelines for implementing the landmark 2015 Paris Climate Change Agreement.”

“The majority are confident that they will meet their 2020 quantified economy-wide reduction targets. For many of them, their 2020 emission levels are now expected to be lower than projected two years ago because of their climate actions.”

Read more :



COP24 Official reports :



Technology

Date : March 2019

Source : Quanta Magazine

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Is Changing Science

AI is having an enormous impact in science. It started to be used in many disciplines to handle enormous quantity of data, like the study of the cosmos where the quantity of data collected are so huge and constantly increasing that their analysis is no more humanly feasible. Today, machine learning and access to cloud computing are the basic tools to handle such complexity. Visual recognition is also widely used, even if it remains a deterministic process, far from our human capabilities : "Human intuitions are often equally impenetrable. You look at a photograph and instantly recognize a cat — “but you don’t know how you know. Your own brain is in some sense a black box.”

Read more :



Parapsychology

Date : January 2019

Source : Open Science

On-Line Encyclopedia on PSI

The Psi Encyclopedia, edited by Robert McLuhan, is quick becoming the must-have alternative to the skewed and backwards notions so often encountered on Wikipedia. Created by the Society for Psychical Research in London, the site already covers many relevant subjects with articles crafted by top scientists in parapsychology, university professors, and professional authors.

Read more :



Space Sciences

Date : March 2019

Source : NASA-JPL

Asteroids, Hydrogen Make Great Recipe for Life on Mars

Curiosity Rover, on Mars, has discovered key ingredients that are important for the establishment and sustainability of life as we know it – nitrites (NO₂) and nitrates (NO₃). Curiosity discovered them in soil and rock samples it took as it traversed the Gale Crater, the site of ancient lakes and groundwater systems on Mars. To understand how fixed nitrogen may have been deposited in the crater, researchers have recreate the early Martian atmosphere here on Earth. The combination of a warm climate with liquid water on the surface and the production of nitrates are key elements which are necessary for life.

Read more :

