



Researches Relevant to Theosophy

1st Quarter, 2021

Vol. IV N° 1

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

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Science and Tradition

The Role of Karma

The Universe has no Origin nor End

Religion and Science in the East

Mysteries in Science and in Religion

The Esoteric Nature of Death

. . . and more



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Editorial

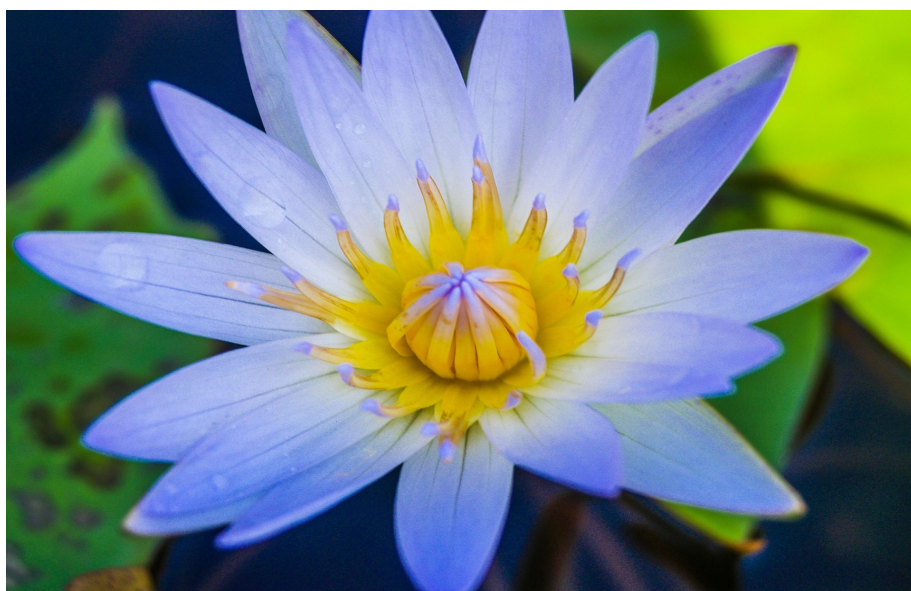
Welcome to the first issue of 2021 *Researches Relevant to Theosophy*.

At the beginning of the 4th year for this publication, we observe almost no reduction in science activities, even with the special pandemic situation we are going through. Everyday day brings hundreds of new findings and discoveries. Keeping pace with it in most of the main academic disciplines is still a challenge.

In this issue, we have introduced a new section for the seekers of the Truth to share their understanding of efficient approaches to our studies - identifying Bridges between Science and Traditions.

Survey, gathering and analysis of research information is the main purpose of this publication. We appreciate your feedback. You may email us at editor@theoscience.org or comment on the website of *Researches Relevant to Theosophy* (theoscience.org).

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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, whether website, book or article.

THE VIEW



THEOSOPHY

SCIENCE

Perception in Yoga and Physics

Excerpted from the article "Perception in Yoga and Physics" in Ravi Ravindra, *Science and the Sacred*, Quest Books, Wheaton, Illinois, USA, 2002.

In spite of our wish to reconcile science and mysticism, we are very far even from having clear questions to raise about the two approaches to reality. We wish these disciplines to be reconciled because they both appear to us to be significant and profound manifestations of the human psyche, and we imagine that somehow in modern times we have found a reconciliation. Yet we tend not to be very clear as to whether, in talking about science, we are thinking of the scientific revolution of 1905, when Einstein put forth his theories, or of quantum mechanics, which was developed in the 1920s, or of holography of the 1960s, or of theoretical developments in the understanding of chaos or dissipative structures.

Both Yoga, which is an expression of mysticism, and physics are interested in objective knowledge. However, the two "knowledges" are different from each other, and many of their differences relate to the nature of perception in the two disciplines. We need to be aware of these differences if we are to avoid settling for an easy integration or a superficial reconciliation. Nothing is more misleading than to imagine that there is peace when there is no peace. The illusion that we have already found what we need will prevent us from seeking further.

Religion,
Philosophy

Date : Aug., 2020

Source : *MDPI*

Religion and Science in the East



Philosophers and scientists have been discussing opposition and intersection between Religion and Science domains for centuries. An anthropologist and ethnographer studied the relationships between the two, using the example of space science and its correlation with Japanese Buddhism. He reached the conclusion that tension or conflict between Science and Religion is a product of Western academic practices, linked to monotheistic religions. This conclusion is not assumed in Japanese discourses on the world. In that Tradition, Buddhism and Science are considered fundamentally compatible, our world being understood in terms of causal relationships and interconnectedness. In that context, potential for extra-terrestrial life is not considered adversarial to Religion.

Read more :



Religion, Philosophy

Date : Nov., 2020

Source : *ScienceDirect*

Mysteries in Science and in Religion



Science and Religions both offer explanations for the world and for human experience. When an observation in Science or a dogma in Religion cannot be explained by reason, it is called “a mystery”; and Science and Religion are differentially tolerant of absent explanations.

A recent published paper proposes a comparative analysis of both approaches. The study concludes that: “In Science, unanswered questions are judged to stand in need of explanation, while in religion, participants are often content to leave unanswered questions as mysteries.”

Read more :



Philosophy, Religion

Date : Sept, 2020

Source : *ScienceDirect*

The Role of Karma in Shaping Moral Norms



More than one billion of people subscribe worldwide to the concept of Karma. A new study analyzed the consequences in terms of moral and social behaviors, compared to non-karma related religious groups like Christians. It suggests that religious beliefs impact how we think about moral norms and that, for example, different religious beliefs promote different generosity norms.

Mme Blavatsky wrote (*The Key to Theosophy*, 1889) : ” We consider Karma as the *Ultimate Law* of the Universe, the source, origin and fount of all other laws which exist throughout Nature. Karma is the unerring law which adjusts effect to cause, on the physical, mental and spiritual planes of beings. As no cause remains without its due effect from greatest to least, from a cosmic disturbance down to the movement of your hand, and as like produces like, *Karma* is that unseen and unknown law *which adjusts wisely, intelligently and equitably* each effect to its cause, tracing the latter back to its producer. Though itself unknowable, its action is perceivable.

Read more :

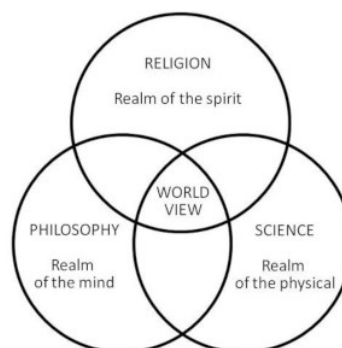


Science, Religion

Date : July, 2020

Source : *MDPI*

Religion & Science through Indian Scientists' Eyes



Scientist community is often considered as anti-religion or at best atheist. Hundred of years in recent history left the feeling of a lack of religiosity in scientists' approach and a strong tension between the two worlds. This overall vision came mainly from the Western world. A new study shows that such an attitude is influenced by national contexts, even when Science is operating as global field across national boundaries. This survey, based on interviews with Indian scientists, highlights a rising understanding of the differences between religion and spirituality, and it identifies that "those who believe Science and religion are not in conflict focus more on discipline and ethical guidelines".

Mme Blavatsky (Secret Doctrine, Vol. I, p. 477 - Addenda to Book I) stated that : *"So far as Science remains as "organized common sense"; so far as its inferences are drawn from accurate premise - its generalizations resting on purely inductive basis - every Theosophist and Occultist welcomes respectfully and with due admiration its contributions to the domain of cosmological laws. There can be no possible conflict between the teachings of the occult and so-called exact Science, where the conclusions of the latter are grounded on a substratum of unassailable fact"*

Read more :

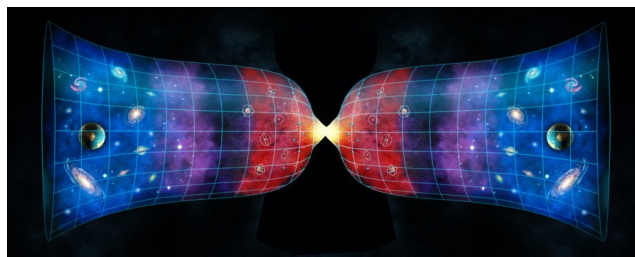


Space Sciences

Date : August, 2020

Source : Quantamagazine

The Universe has no beginning nor end



Inflation versus cyclic universe debate is rising again among cosmologists. New computer simulations seems to challenge the Big Bang theory in favor of a cyclic universe, i.e. a universe which has no beginning, no end, and mainly no "singularity", one of the weakest point of current theory where all known physical laws are supposed to collapse. But there is still a long road between simulation models and the physical world as we see it today.

Mme Blavatsky wrote (Secret Doctrine, Vol. I, p.594) : " *It is easy for an astronomer, if endowed with an imaginative faculty, to build a theory of the emergence of the universe out of chaos, by simply applying to it the principles of mechanics. But such a universe will always prove, with respect to its scientific human creators, a Frankenstein's monster; it will lead him into endless perplexities. The application of the mechanical laws only can never carry the speculator beyond the objective world; nor will it unveil to men the origin and final destiny of Kosmos*"

Read more :



Religion

Date : Oct., 2020

Source : Roczniki
Humanistyczne

The Esoteric Nature of Death



Remaining in control of oneself at the moment of death and influencing one's future incarnation was thoroughly experimented, analyzed and codified in Taoist literature. A comparative study with the Tibetan esoteric Buddhism revealed many similarities on near-death meditation practices and other practices like phowa (transfer of conscience) and tummo (inner heat generation). The whole process enables the practitioner to let out his/her immortal inner spirit at the moment of death of the body.

The Tibetan Book of the Dead, one of the most detailed and compelling descriptions of the after-death state in world literature, says in its conclusion to the chapter on The Great Liberation by Hearing, that : *"By acting correctly, yogins with high realisation will successfully effect the transference of consciousness at the moment of death, and, being spared the necessity of having to wander through the intermediate states, will attain liberation in an ascending and core-penetrating manner."*

Read more :

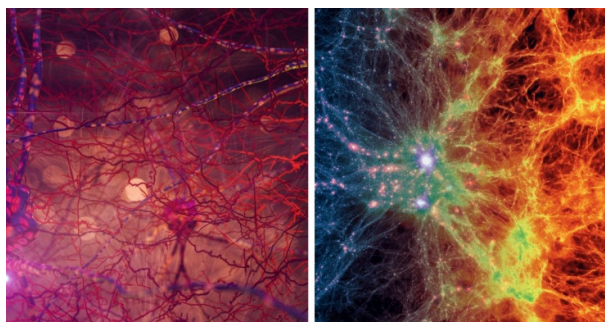


Biology, Space
Sciences

Date : Oct., 2020

Source : Frontiers in
Physics

Neural Network & Cosmic Web



The network of neuronal cells in the human brain is seen as a complex multi-scale structure which can be modeled as a hierarchical network forming the physical and biological basis of cognition. The Universe, as far as we can observe and model it, looks like a web, the cosmic web. A new study analyzed the similarities between the two systems, and an astonishing conclusion emerged, showing that the order of magnitude of the quantity of information existing in the human mind neural network is identical to the quantity of information in the entire observable universe (10¹⁶).

The Secret Doctrine (Vol. I, p. 592 – 3rd Edition) states that : *“Occult Philosophy has taught since the existence of human speech and language, on the principle of the immutable law of analogy, “as it is above, so it is below”, another of its axioms, that there is neither Spirit nor Matter, in reality, but only numberless aspects of the One ever-hidden Is, or Sat.”*

Read more :



Health & Medicine,
Parapsychology

Nov., 2020

Source : YouTube

Near-Death Experience



Another true story of a Near-Death experience in plain sight, during a cardiac surgery operation. The people around, including the surgeon, cannot but acknowledge the phenomenon which is raising so many questions to the materialistic scientists world, and which demands explanation. Such facts are piling up for some decades, well documented. The near-death process needs to be deciphered and the Traditions – The Egyptian Book of the Dead, the Tibetan Book of the Dead, the Theosophical teachings – have some clues to transmit there.

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