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ANOMALOUS ENTROPIC EFFECTS IN PHYSICAL SYSTEMS ASSOCIATED WITH COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS

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Background: Beginning in 1998 and continuing to the present day, a network of electronic random number generators located around the world has continuously recorded samples of truly random bits. The data from this “Global Consciousness Project” (GCP) are used to explore a mind-matter interaction hypothesis that predicts the emergence of anomalous structure in randomness correlated with events that attract widespread human attention. A formal experiment testing this hypothesis from 1998 to 2015, based on selection of 500 events of worldwide interest, found a highly significant (7.3 sigma) deviation from chance expectation.

Aims: The duration of the aforesaid 500 events comprised less than 5% of all data available through 2022, so the present analysis examined the full database to see if emergence of nonrandom structure was limited to those 500 events, or if it appeared continually as a persistent, ongoing relationship between collective mind and matter.

Method: The raw daily data collected by the GCP from 1998 through 2022, consisting of some 110 GBytes of samples based in turn on approximately 4 trillion generated random bits, were downloaded from the GCP’s publicly accessible data repository. These data were analyzed using a multiscale entropy technique and separately via a deconvolution procedure developed as part of this research project.

Results: The two analytical approaches independently showed that significant temporal structure (ranging from 3 to 6 sigma beyond the null hypothesis, depending on the method used) did occur, supporting the idea that mind-matter interactions are continuously generating anomalous order in randomness, and not just during especially noteworthy events.

Conclusions: As a long-term study in “experimental metaphysics,” the GCP has confirmed in several ways the presence of an ongoing correlation between mind and matter. In the present case the mind involved innumerable groups of people, small and large, engaged in coherent mental focus, and the matter was the behavior of random events based on quantum indeterminate sources. While the existence of a correlation is clear, the underlying mechanisms giving rise to this relationship remain uncertain.

Keywords: Random number generator, Mind-matter interaction, Global consciousness project, Negentropy

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