

SCIENCE, ART AND THE SACRED

THE QUEST FOR WHOLENESS

Pari Dialogue 2019

Join us at The Pari Center and engage in a spirit that honours the approaches and work of David Bohm and F. David Peat, as we explore bringing together art, science and the sacred in the quest for wholeness.

"The attainment of wholeness requires one to stake one's whole being. Nothing less will do..."

CARL JUNG

PARI, ITALY
AUG. 29 – SEPT. 4, 2019

with:
Isis Brook
Ciprian Man
Hester Reeve
Shantena Augusto Sabbadini
David Schrum
Godelieve Spaas
Christopher Todhunter

Screening of *Absurdity of Certainty*,
dir. Jena Axelrod, feat. F. David Peat



What does it mean to comprehend and to participate in life holistically? Pari Dialogues 2019 explores this challenge. Through seminars, discussions and practical sessions, we will journey together into subtle realms of art, physics, cultural studies, philosophy, economics and technology—pathways to investigate wholeness and to ponder our place in it.

For information:
eleanor@parinetworks.org
www.paricenter.com

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Join us at The Pari Center and engage in a spirit that honours the approaches and work of David Bohm and F. David Peat, as we explore bringing together art, science and the sacred in the quest for wholeness.

This will be an informal meeting with presentations by experts followed by roundtable discussions. The cost of the event is 1400 euros. The event fee includes 6 night stay in private accommodation and all meals. It also includes activities, materials and teaching sessions. The event starts on Thursday August 29 at 19:00 with dinner and ends on Wednesday September 4 after lunch.

Jena Axelrod



Jena joined Ideal Prediction as Director of Sales in 2018 bringing 20 years of experience in launching innovative financial market offerings from the first electronic treasury trading system, LibertyDirect, to the first centrally-cleared FX market, FXMarketSpace. Jena directed and produced the upcoming documentary ***Absurdity of Certainty*** on the rise of certainty in the Western worldview, based on the life and ideas of Dr. F. David Peat. Jena has served on the Board of The Pari Center since 2016.

Absurdity of Certainty

Why are we certain in a chaotic world? The upcoming documentary *Absurdity of Certainty* explores the illusion of control and certainty in historical scientific context with quantum physicist turned philosopher Dr. F. David Peat. Join Director, Jena Axelrod, at a friends and family screening in Pari this September. Jena was a mentee of Dr. F. David Peat from the first Pari Center course in 2001, through her graduate thesis work in Transpersonal Psychology, and their pre-pre-production youtube playlist Dialogues with David. David, his family, and the town of Pari have been “very generous with their time” in helping to research and produce *Absurdity of Certainty* so it is “very special to return” for this screening.

Isis Brook

Isis Brook undertook a training in Goethean science, with Margaret Colquhoun, during the time that she was studying for a PhD. Her doctoral work was on Goethe’s methodology, as currently practiced, and a comparison with Husserlian phenomenology. Isis lectured in philosophy at Lancaster University and for the Open University then University of Central Lancashire and is now Research Fellow at Crossfields Institute International. Isis’ research centres on questions to do with the human being’s relationship to nature and to the world. She has published in journals such as: *The Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology*, *Ethics and the Environment*, *Landscape Research*, and *Ethics, Place, and Environment* and has a joint book: *Between Culture and Nature: the aesthetics of modified environments*. She served for ten years as editor of the international journal *Environmental Values*. Her current research is on the human/plant relationship.



Presentation

Goethean Science an Approach for the Future

Goethe's scientific method presents us with a way to really engage with phenomena in the world, outside of our everyday preconceptions and usual theoretical frameworks. In some senses Goethe's path was the one not taken by 19th – 20th century science and yet it is a path that we have found our way back to through phenomenology and the desire for a more heartfelt and embodied engagement of ourselves and the world.

Isis' talk and workshop will give the participants the opportunity to feel their way into Goethean science through the realm of the plant. Using the plants found in the Pari environment, the group will try to connect to their being and discover what Goethe meant by science as "delicate empiricism". In discussion participants could see if this is an approach that could help with the challenges of our current century.

Ciprian Man



Generally known as "Chip", his interests are quite eclectic. After working in academia (business school) in the late '90s, he became an entrepreneur. He co-founded a marketing agency and later went on to build a technology company. He now wears many hats, among them that of a business angel involved with a number of innovative ventures.

In parallel with working in the tech community, he (still) teaches occasionally, preaching his fascination with exponential organisations. Other important interests include quantum physics (of course), philosophy, the science of yoga, as well as anthropology, psychology (including that edgy blend called transpersonal psychology).

Presentation

Technology and the Shift Towards Wholeness: How to Overcome Humanity's Current and Future Challenges?

What artists and researchers are working on today is set to become the 'new normal' in the future. Technology turns their ideas into tangible form and enables new ways of thinking, doing business, and enjoying life, bringing about change which engages the whole world. Today's challenges are many. We believe we're addressing them through the technologies we're already using (artificial intelligence, Internet-of-things, robotics, augmented and virtual reality, social and governance platforms, biotechnology) and those still nascent (quantum computing, gene therapy, personalised medicine, nanotechnology).

As part of this workshop, we explore potential futures, choose what is wholesome, and act. We start by examining today's concurrence of technologies and organisational structures, looking at the impact of disruptive innovation in various areas.

Questions arise: is there a deeper layer to the changes we're undergoing? Is the new paradigm shift a global move towards wholeness? What is future we want and how do we make it reality?

Hester Reeve

Hester Reeve's practice encompasses live art, philosophy, drawing, David Bohm's 'Dialogue' and social sculpture.

She is interested in the relationship between critical thinking and human agency in everyday life, particularly when it is risked through the figure of 'the artist' (where what constitutes an artist is broadly conceived and not exclusive to art school training).

Recent public works have been staged at Tanzquartier, Vienna, Tate Britain (working under the umbrella of The Emily Davison Lodge with Olivia Plender) and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.



Hester Reeve is Reader in Fine Art at Sheffield Hallam University.

Presentation

Artomovement and the Future

Hester will discuss how we might respond to the call of future culture through sensitising ourselves via an exploration of David Bohm's ideas about creativity and wholeness (artomovement), Martin Heidegger's philosophy of Being and the holy (in relationship to art) and, finally, what Hester terms 'sculptural-substance.' To accompany this, she will conduct a practical workshop using drawing to explore responses to the morning session (no drawing skills required).

Shantena Augusto Sabbadini



Shantena Augusto Sabbadini was awarded his PhD in physics from the University of California in 1976. He worked as a theoretical physicist at the University of Milan and at the University of California. In Milan he researched the foundations of quantum physics. In California he contributed to the first identification of a black hole.

In 1990s he was scientific consultant for the Eranos Foundation, an East-West research centre founded under the auspices of C.G. Jung in the 1930s. In that context he studied Chinese classics and produced various translations and commentaries

in Italian and English, including the Yijing and the trilogy of Daoist classics, the Laozi, the Zhuangzi and the Liezi.

Presently he is director of the Pari Center for New Learning (www.paricenter.org) and lecturer at the Schumacher College (www.schumachercollege.org.uk), Devon, UK. He leads workshops on the philosophical implications of quantum physics, on Daoism, and on using the Yijing as a tool for introspection. His latest book, *Pilgrimages to Emptiness*, has just been published by Pari Publishing.

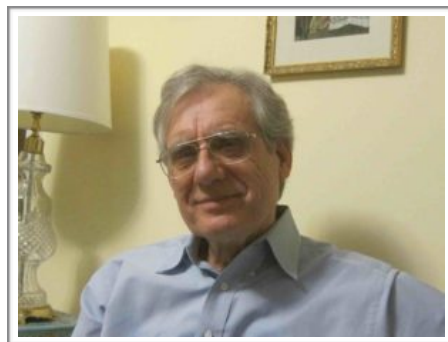
Presentation

Science, Abstraction and Wholeness

The overall pattern of our culture is the gradual loss of a sense of communion with the soul of the world and the rise of science as an abstract modelling of reality that confers power over natural phenomena. The predominance of abstraction ultimately brings about a reversal of roles, in which the intrinsic logic of technology and of the economy comes to dominate human life. Only by recovering our sense of belonging to the larger circle of life can we find ethical guidance and balance in confronting the blind forces that threaten to ravage the biosphere and possibly annihilate us and many of our non-human relatives. This journey back takes many forms. Hints of a return to wholeness are perceptible within science itself, as we will briefly review.

David Schrum

David Schrum received his PhD in quantum theory from Queen's University, Canada (1971), after which he spent two years in post-doctoral studies with David Bohm at Birkbeck College, London. At Birkbeck, Schrum entered the world of Bohm's creative and subtle philosophical approaches to physics, and of his enquiry into the structure of consciousness and what may lie beyond. He was also introduced to his professor's interest in the philosopher J. Krishnamurti. David Schrum continues engagement in these areas.



From 1974 until retirement he taught at Cambrian College, Canada. Present areas of focus: (philosophical) a new approach to scientific enquiry and understanding; (relational) dialogue as a process of shared enquiry into mind in its individual and collective dimensions; (mathematical) relativistic quantum theory derived from a new application of the quantum principle.

Presentation

Wholeness, the Implicate Order, and the Future of Humanity:

An Exploration into Subtle Mind

Perhaps no factor is more important to the future of planet Earth than human consciousness, as human beings now wield and continue to develop vast technological powers. What is to direct these forces? Will our future unfold through intelligence, in

holistic perception? Will we break free from the limitations and the chaos of confused and fragmented understanding?

Visionary explorer David Bohm and others have discerned, each in his or her own way and words, key features of mind that meet this challenge: in Bohm's terminology central are wholeness and the implicate (implicit, subtle, inner) order.

Through presentations and in dialogue, we will set out on a journey of exploration together to penetrate the subtle, hidden, implicate dimensions of mind, so that we may participate in unfoldment of the wholeness of humanity that lies deeply within each of us.

Godelieve Spaas

Associate director of the Pari Center and a regular guest in Pari; to write, to participate in dialogues and to follow and give courses. She is a researcher, advisor and creator of new ways of entrepreneurial organizing where ecology, society, and the economy all benefit from and interact seamlessly with each other. Her aim is to increase diversity in organizational and entrepreneurial models and realities with a view to the development of a fairer, more sustainable and robust entrepreneurial space. By sharing yet unheard stories and walking untrodden paths, we allow interdependent systems to reveal themselves, to be identified and interpreted and to become a platform for action in everyday organizational reality.



Working in Europe and Africa, with companies, NGOs as well as governments, deepened her insight into how to combine worlds that are often separated such as art, science, indigenous knowledge, nature and entrepreneurship. Godelieve is professor Sustainable Strategy and Innovation at Avans University of Applied Science.

Presentation

Holistic Economies

It matters what matters we use to think other matters with; it matters what stories we tell to tell other stories with; it matters what knots knot knots, what thoughts think thoughts, what descriptions describe descriptions, what ties tie ties. It matters what stories make worlds, what worlds make stories.

Donna J. Haraway, *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene*

We are being called to change our way of doing business. Examples of this calling are the UN Sustainable Development Goals (about People, Prosperity, Planet and Peace) and other charters towards ecological, cultural and social integrity that provide challenging directions towards which we can head.

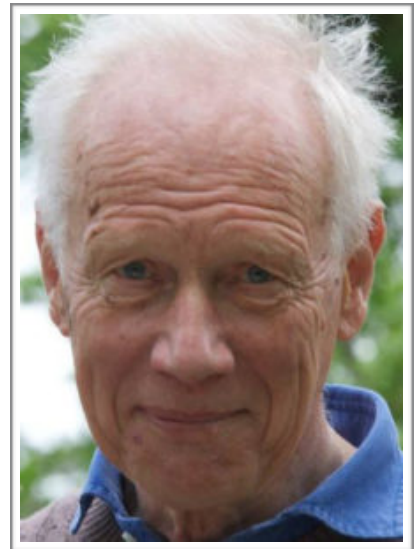
Looking at the different charters, what stands out on the one hand is the emphasis on combining ecological, social and economic objectives and on the other the importance of ecological and cultural diversity. But the notion of economic diversity lacks something. What if this is a fundamental misconception and ecological, cultural and economic diversity are interrelated? If one decreases, the others follow and the other way around? Is being successful the result of the actions of one organisation only or the outcome of ideas, actions and expressions of an interrelated network of people, organisations and ecosystems of many kinds?

Let's assume this interdependence between economic, cultural and ecologic diversity is real and explore how this quest for wholeness plays out in the economic domain. How could this reframe the entrepreneurial world and help organisations in their transformation process towards sustainability?

Christopher Todhunter

Arguably, there is a tradition of polymath Architects. Before the word 'architect' was invented, Sir Christopher Wren, the greatest of the English Baroque architects was also Astronomer Royal—he built his own observatory which still stands on the hill in Greenwich. Frank Lloyd Wright who was a follower of Gurdjieff in the 1920s, and Christopher Alexander, one of the most important architectural theorists of the twentieth century—these are the role models for Christopher's wide-ranging career and interests.

Working as an architect in London throughout his life, he has designed many building types, from small residential to large commercial buildings. He was the principal architect for Canada Water Station which was part of the Underground Jubilee line extension. As a landscape architect, he also worked as a close associate with Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe on the garden at Sutton Place, formerly the home of the legendary J Paul Getty.



Using his retirement as an opportunity to follow the study of cosmology, economics and the frontiers of science and spirituality, Christopher has special interest in Time in music and landscape design and is an active member of the Scientific and Medical network (SMN) and is Honorary Surveyor of St Alfege Church in Greenwich, in the footsteps of Nicholas Hawksmoor, the pupil of Wren, who built the church in 1715.

Presentation

Wholeness and the Theory of Centres

What is a thing? All forms of life involve a subtle and complex interplay of entities with the whole. What is an entity, and can we shape our surroundings to mirror the magnificent interplay of organic life?

Chris Todhunter will use the village of Pari to show how its life is reflected and affected by the degree of wholeness of the built environment. We will discover the subtle structures which exist in relationships—between people, between events, between spaces and between things.

