



# Consciousness and Reality

A workshop by Leo Hobbis

## The Author

Leo spent 1953-1985 in the UK working as physicist developing major central facilities for university research in particle physics, laser science, and neutron scattering. He became a senior manager in UK Science and Engineering Research Council including responsibilities in several international collaborations such as the CERN lab at Geneva.

Since retiring in 1985, Leo has been particularly interested in exploring the interfaces of science, theology, and philosophy, especially in relation to the nature of consciousness. He has been a member of Sea of Faith (NZ) since its inception and has also been active in the UK Scientific and Medical Network.

His email address is [leohobbis@maxnet.co.nz](mailto:leohobbis@maxnet.co.nz)

## Outline

Our understanding of mind and consciousness is closely entwined with our perception of reality. In this workshop we will examine some aspects of human experience, including near-death and death-bed experiences, which seem problematic for a purely materialist or physicalist view of mind.

Do our mental states correspond to states of matter alone or do we need something more? Participants are encouraged to share any personal relevant experiences.

## Reading List

*Irreducible Mind ; Toward a Psychology for the 21st Century.* Edward Kelly and Emily Kelly and contributors, 2007. (This book of some 800 pages is a tour de force covering over a century of research and observations on mental phenomena)

*Entangled Minds*, by Dean Radia 2006

*The Art of Dying*, by Peter Fenwick and Elizabeth Fenwick, 2008, (includes the subject of consciousness generally as well as the authors' special knowledge of the near-death and death-bed experiences,)

*Erasing Death*, by critical care specialist Sam Parnta: 2013,

*Consciousness beyond Life*, by eminent cardiologist Pirn von LornneL 2010

*Proof of Heaven*, by Eben Alexander 2012, (Of particular significance because the author is a neurosurgeon writing about his own NDE.)

*Opening Heaven's Door*, by Patricia Pearson, 2014, (An insightful and sensitive account of many near death and death-bed experiences, some involving her own family,)

*Twin Telepathy*, by Guy Lyon Piayfair, 2002

*Is There an Afterlife?*, by David Fontana, 2005. (This book by a very experienced transpersonal psychologist covers a wide range of anomalous phenomena)

*Shadows of the Mind*, by theoretician and cosmologist, Roger Penrose, 1994,

*Occult Chemistry*, by theosophists Charles Leadbeater and Annie Besant (Available for download from the internet)

*A Feeling for the Organism: The Life and Work of Barbara McCiintock*, by Evelyn Fox Keller 1983. (Describes the remarkable insights of this plant- geneticist and Nobel Laureate)

*A Change of Heart*, by Claire Sylvia and William Novak, 1997, (The story of a woman who, after receiving the heart and lungs of the young victim of a motor cycle accident, *experienced* a striking transfer of some of his personality traits.)

It is well worth watching some of the Youtube videos on brain and consciousness for which there are links given in the Conference 2014 material on the SOFN(NZ) website at [www.sof.org.nz](http://www.sof.org.nz), I particularly recommend the presentations by Bruce Greyson, Mario Beauregard, and Barbara Arrowsmith-Young.

### Websites

[www.Opensciences.org/](http://www.Opensciences.org/) dedicated towards a post-materialist science:

[www.Wisewiki.org/](http://www.Wisewiki.org/) aiming to provide a comprehensive data base including consciousness and unexplained anomalies;

The Skeptiko website at [www.skeptiko.com/](http://www.skeptiko.com/) also has many relevant interviews.

The UK Society for Psychics! Research is also in process of establishing a comprehensive database on psychic phenomena.