

THE HUMAN CONNECTION PROJECT

"A cooperative multinational scientific experiment has found evidence that people of all races are aligned or misaligned personally and socially by how they pay attention. In short, how we pay attention determines the quality of human society, in very concrete tangible ways."

INTRODUCTION:

An enclosed article published in the peer reviewed journal, Alternative Therapies, at the invitation of its Editor in Chief, Dr. Larry Dossey, cites over one hundred references to nearly a thousand related interdisciplinary scientific studies successfully conducted over the last thirty years. Due to this extensive research background, the Human Connection Project believes it is now possible to present a compelling scientific demonstration. It is the hypothesis of this project that our underlying interconnectedness, presented to billions of television viewers as part of a social action research experiment, could shift the separatist "mind-set" of modern humanity, awakening an interconnected awareness process and the emergence of a collective consciousness.

Rationale

When a person is presented with a sensation, feeling, thought or intuition, it takes millions of cooperating brain cells, orchestrating together, for these perceptions to reach consciousness. Yet, approximately 97% of what happens in our so-called "consciousness" remains unconscious. Similarly, within our "global brain," millions of people may need to perceive and agree with compelling "Seeing is Believing" evidence of being linked together for humanity--as a whole--to experience being interconnected as a single consciousness.

"We fear discovering the Godlike in ourselves, for that discovery implies great responsibility for our circumstances as they are."

- John Gardiner

A series of 90-second news releases presenting evidence of collective consciousness to the world could trigger a whole-system-transition, integrating the overall consciousness of humanity. The Human Connection Project contends that a significant number of people will share a greater sense of belonging together after watching extensive media announcements and presentations that illustrate this subject. Out of this heightened sense of connection to a larger whole, it is predicted that a new level of shared intelligence, compassion, and creativity will begin to emerge among people. This is intended to help untangle the otherwise divisive characteristics of personal, familial, cultural, national and economic boundaries, bringing us a step closer to a peaceful and balanced planetary civilization.

I. SUMMARY

The Human Connection Project represents an interdisciplinary collaboration organized by the Human Connection Institute. Research components consist of a series of laboratory experiments exploring psychological and physiological "interconnectedness" among human beings. A preliminary experiment involving two and three laboratories will precede a five-laboratory demonstration. If this demonstration is successfully documented, released to the media, and shown to billions of television viewers, this will form the basis of the social action research experiment.

Psychological tests of randomly selected volunteers from different cultures and countries will be conducted both before and, then, after this evidence is reported. Another experiment will involve five sets of identical twins. . All experiments will measure nervous system interactivity including abdominal and thoracic respiration, galvanic skin response (GSR), heart rate (EKG), heart rate variability (HRV), muscle activity (EMG) and peripheral blood flow (photoplethysmography or hand temperature) occurring between spatially separated people.

The first hypothesis of this project is that the nervous system activity of one person is strongly correlated with both the interested or uninterested attention of other—apparently separate—people. The second is that, by offering an alternative to the current world view in which humans are considered physically isolated beings, it is possible to catalyze the emergence of a planetary consciousness.

The Human Connection Project plans to release scientifically derived images of human interconnectedness for use in news reports, print media, talk show formats, feature documentaries and dramatic films. For partial support, this project is requesting \$xxx towards the total project budget of \$711K.

“At present, people create barriers between each other by their fragmentary thought. Each one operates separately. When these barriers have dissolved, then there arises one mind, where they are all one unit, but each person also retains his or her own individual awareness. That one mind will still exist when they are separate, and when they come together, it will be as if they hadn't separated....It's actually a single intelligence that works with people who are moving in relationship with one another....If you had a number of people who really pulled together and worked together in this way, it would be so remarkable.”

- David Bohm

II. BACKGROUND and PROJECT HISTORY

The experience of interconnected consciousness has been held to be significant for thousands of years. Although perhaps more common on a purely subjective level or as a departure from ordinary consciousness, it is not accepted as common practice. Unresolvable personal and religious conflicts--stemming from deeply held convictions about the structure of life--have led to the gradual development of objective ways of exploring the truth of our innermost nature.

Perhaps because of our perennial curiosity, there are now--previously unavailable--tools for investigating the cooperative, creative, compassionate, destructive and competitive nature of consciousness. As a result, over the last thirty years, a growing number of scientists have begun to turn their attention to this area of inquiry. In today's world, science is now uniquely positioned to lend undeniable credibility to the spiritual insight that humanity is an interconnected whole.

It was for this reason that the Human Connection Project was formed in 1990. Through collaboration with a worldwide network of outstanding scientists, experimental methods were derived and successfully tested showing that it is possible to demonstrate that our human attention and intention affects others--even in widely separated geographic locations.

On the basis of these results, it was concluded that international multi-cultural television audiences could be shown easily understood evidence of physiological interactivity among people positioned in different laboratories located thousands of miles apart, and, by implication, alert a significant number of people about the existence of what could be considered an innate human resource--our interconnectedness.

The expectation is that our collective mind-set can be altered by successfully focusing the attention of billions of television viewers on undeniable images of human interconnectedness. Increased use of interconnected awareness among large groups of people may be intelligent enough to handle pressing social and environmental dangers, especially those due to less-conscious habit patterns.

By helping to facilitate a shift toward a planetary consciousness, the Human Connection Project intends to foster global cooperation and respect for all life.

The inter-disciplinary nature of the project, coupled with the involvement of diverse scientists in multiple laboratory settings, has required extensive dialogue over an extended period of time. As a result of these discussions, participating researchers and Advisory Board members have reached consensus on protocols for this project's research, participated in preliminary research programs, published findings, and engaged the commitment of their respective institutions to participate in this innovative endeavor.

With the fundamental groundwork in place, the Human Connection Project is now ready to move forward. Success in fund-raising efforts is essential to take this project to completion.

III. HISTORY of RESEARCH

To test the capacity for shared consciousness among distant and diverse groups of people, researchers attempted to isolate people and/or events from each other such that no known means of sensory interaction between them was possible. Even under these conditions, evidence for both conscious and *nonconscious* psycho-physiological rapport between people and events proved to be strong.

Accordingly, some scientists began to ask whether humanity itself shared a self-organizing consciousness. For this to exist it was thought, there would have to be evidence in the form of a wide variety of subtle communication anomalies occurring among people and between people and their environment, even under circumstances that would seem to preclude any conventional sensory connection.

In fact cumulatively, several generations of scientists have now amassed considerable evidence in support of long distance rapport among people. Numerous studies have provided evidence that identifiable and consistent electrical brain signals (as distinguished from electrical brain signals occurring during control periods) occurred in one person when a distant second person was either meditating or provided with sensory stimulation, or when a distant person attempted to communicate with the subject being monitored.¹⁻¹¹

In some studies, researchers have measured congruent autonomic reactions between distant subjects.¹²⁻¹⁴ Findings from more than 40 studies indicate that the prayers and meditations of widely separated individuals play a significant role in promoting health and beneficial behavior in and for others over great distances.¹⁵⁻¹⁷ The effect of remote attention on biological as well as electronic systems has been significant in more than 500 studies.¹⁸⁻²⁹

People isolated from one another under scientific control have shared their thoughts and experiences. A meta-analysis of 39 similar studies yielded a probability of these results occurring by chance alone of less than one part in a trillion.³⁰ Study volunteers have even shared the future experiences of others when these experiences had not yet been selected or enacted.³¹⁻³² No significant difference in success rating was found between comparable precognitive, retrocognitive, and present-based studies. Focused attention and intention seem to act across spatial and temporal barriers.

A. Preliminary Results

The Human Connection Project, formed in 1990, has completed a preliminary program including four research studies. Three research papers^{33,34,37} and three articles³⁸⁻⁴⁰ published discussed results of these studies. These studies were designed specifically to test whether focused attention acts as a connecting link for people conventionally shielded from one another. They were conducted in Texas by the Mind Science Foundation (MSF), a 34-year old research institute based in San Antonio, Texas, under the direction of Dr. William Braud, with significant results ($P=.018$, two-tailed)(e.g. to reach significance, results must occur at least one time in twenty or $P=.05$).³³

During the experiment a one-way, closed-circuit video system allowed for the periodic observation of a volunteer by an experimenter. With this protocol, a series of self-selected volunteers were monitored for autonomic nervous system (electrodermal) reactions during both observation and nonobservation periods. The volunteers did not know when or for how long they were observed. Results remained undisclosed within automated computer memory until each stage of the study was complete. This series of tests indicated that the autonomic nervous system activity of one person is strongly correlated with the focused attention and intention of a

conventionally isolated second person.^{33,34}

B. Independent Confirmation

Outside the Human Connection Project, these studies were successfully replicated at Cognitive Sciences Laboratory, part of a large multinational consulting firm, Science Applications International Corporation based in Menlo Park, California, and published by Dr. Marilyn Schlitz, Head of Research at the Institute of Noetic Sciences, and Dr. Stephen La Berge of the Lucidity Institute.³⁷ Scientists within the Departments of Psychology at the Universities of Edinburgh in Scotland and Hertfordshire in England, at Cornell in Ithaca, New York and at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) are engaged in related studies (Note: Dr. Dean Radin of UNLV has relocated). In addition, a published experiment conducted by Dr. William Braud at the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology in Palo Alto, California indicated that a person's level of concentration on a task can augment another's capacity to concentrate on the same task, even when they are spatially separate from one another.³⁵ Results of these studies suggest again the organizational and creative potential that may already underlie human society.

Also, a series of eleven related experiments conducted and published by Charles Honorton at the Psychophysical Research Laboratories in Princeton, New Jersey showed consistently that people can share thoughts and images under spatially separate, shielded conditions. Prominent skeptical scientists have even agreed that Honorton's studies and twenty-eight comparable studies show results that could occur only one time in a trillion, by chance alone.³⁶

Due to these and other successful, similar studies already cited, participating members of the Human Connection Project now believe that if humanity is interconnected and can wake up collectively, it will be possible to demonstrate and generatively stimulate this emergent ability using existing technology. The first part of this hypothesis will be tested by a consortium of cooperating researchers and laboratories by looking for objective, real-time correlation among the nervous system activities of teams of individuals positioned in widely separated geographic locations.

IV. SPECIFIC AIMS

The specific aim of this research is:

1. To conduct a comprehensive background study of related research.
2. To measure and investigate the nature and occurrence of non-conventional human communication.
3. To document the physiological interactivity among geographically separated individuals in a compelling way.

The objectives of releasing these results to the media are:

1. To increase the public's awareness of being interconnected.
2. To give individuals the necessary tools to utilize focused attention for increasing their sense of being interconnected.
3. To promote peace, health, and well-being globally.

V. PROJECT METHODS

A. Project Support

An Advisory Board of recognized experts from the fields of neuroscience, physics, psychology, and the arts has been established with the objective of formalizing a core group. This committee serves as an active sounding board for the Human Connection Project. Detailed technical protocols for a two and three lab experiment and a five lab demonstration will be finalized by this committee.

At present, the Advisory Board includes: Larry Dossey, M.D., Stanley Krippner, Ph.D., Edgar Mitchell, Ph.D., Dean Radin, Ph.D., Peter Russell, D.C.S., and Rupert Sheldrake, Ph.D.. Amit Goswami, Ph.D. and Beverly Rubik, Ph.D. are consultants. Eve Berry, M.A. is Director of Administration and Educational Program Development and Jerry Wesch, Ph.D. is Director of Management.

The scientists and laboratories offering to participate in this project include:

Dr. Steven Fahrion, of the Life Sciences Institute, formerly with the Menninger Foundation in Topeka, Kansas;

Dr. T.M. Srinivasan, at Arizona State University at Tempe;

Dr. Dean Radin formerly with the University of Nevada at Las Vegas;

Dr. Mark Germiné at Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA;

Dr. Sydney Weinstein at Neurocommunication Research Laboratories in Danbury, Connecticut.

Other laboratories are also interested and are being considered.

B. Design of the experiment on inter-personal consciousness in identical twins

Participants

Five pairs of identical twins, aged 18 to 45, who have grown up together, have maintained a good relationship, and report having experienced meaningful, transpersonal connection will be recruited by local advertisement at the experimental site, and paid for their participation. Each pair of twins will be brought together after screening for psychiatric and physical illness likely to effect the results of the experiment. The twins will be interviewed together to establish meaningful connections and will be asked to describe the most fearful and the most serene or calming experience they have ever shared. The mutual participation of each pair of twins will both reinforce the event in memory and provide a 'priming' effect for interpersonal connection when the experience is remembered when they are separate during the experimental phase of the study.

Events experienced together or shared by meaningful connection will be described in detail to the investigator, including details of sight, sound, temperature, smell, and other somatic sensations. It has been found that the process of remembering emotionally-charged events elicits reproducible emotional changes, dependent on the emotions experienced during the events, and that these changes are accompanied by significant and reproducible changes in nervous system activity as reflected by related changes in regional peripheral blood flow.

Experimental protocol

During the first phase of the study, each pair of twins will participate in ten 5-minute trials per session, with 15 minutes intervening between trials. In each session, the individual twins will be at separate sites without the possibility of direct or indirect personal communication. The trials will be randomized and balanced such that one twin will be in a resting condition while the other is remembering the fearful or serene event previously described, with each twin having an approximately equal number of trials in each condition. Both subjects will have eyes closed and minimal other sensory stimulation during this emotional experience. Olfactory cues will be used in the active subject when appropriate. In both subjects, ratings and measures will be performed immediately before and after the recalled experience in the "active" twin. The investigator will administer a brief relaxation exercise immediately before the first set of ratings. All conditions and ratings will be synchronized by radio signal between the two sites.

One pair of twins will be selected for the second phase of the experiment on the basis of statistically significant results during the first phase. During the second phase this pair of twins will be administered ratings and measurements only for those variables that yield significant Student t-tests. Four sessions of ten trials each will be conducted in the second phase, using the same procedures as during the first phase.

Ratings and measurements will be as follows:

1. Sitting and standing blood pressure, pulse, temperature, and galvanic skin resistance will be measured using standard methods.
2. Behavioral ratings will be completed by all subjects for thirteen mood states (talkative, happy, drowsy, nervous, sad, calm, depressed, anxious, energetic, fearful, mellow, high, and angry).
3. Scoring will be done on 0 to 100 mm visual analog scales, 0 representing none, 100 most ever.
4. All subjects will complete ratings of 27 physical symptoms associated with autonomic activity (Charney et al., 1987). These physical symptom ratings will be added to give a total score for data analysis.

C. Design of the two and three lab experiments and the five laboratory demonstration

Laboratories

Geographically separate laboratories are to be used for the following reasons. A large number of small-scale projects have been completed successfully, yielding highly suggestive results.

1. Multiple cooperating laboratories foster replicability in that experimental results are not confined only to one investigator or location.
2. Possible distance factors can be examined and addressed;
3. Both meaning and motivation may be heightened with more laboratories involved and
4. The processing capacity of five laboratories (using a central facility for evaluation) would allow sophisticated experiments and analyses to be carried out that otherwise would lie beyond the capability of any individual laboratory or location.

Participants

Twelve groups involving five participants each will be selected. These groups will possess different levels of interpersonal familiarity. For example, at least four groups will be comprised of individuals who are complete strangers to one another. Another set of groups, by contrast, will be emotionally close, having learned specific ways of achieving and maintaining a sense of interpersonal connection.

Experimental protocol

One-way closed circuit live-video "observation" (i.e. experimental recording) periods and "nonobservation" (i.e. control recording) periods will occur between pairs of participants. The following two-part procedure will be used during the course of 24 test sessions:

1. A participant (Subject) will be secretly observed during each of the 20 45-second experimental recording periods and then not observed during each of the 20 45-second (nonobservation) control periods. The subject participant will be allowed no known means of distinguishing between control and experimental periods.
2. Both participants in a given pair will be asked to keep their bodies

relaxed.

It is predicted that identifiable, consistent and distinguishable variations will occur between experimental (i.e. observation) and control (i.e. nonobservation) recording periods and that measures for emotionally close and not-close pairs will be found to be inversely proportional. In previous studies, a participant's attention has proven itself to be an effective form of sensory stimulation, when it is secretly focused on a remote, conventionally shielded, second person. ^{33,34,37}

Arrays of electrodes, once attached to the scalps and the bodies of participant pairs, will allow instruments to detect minute changes in autonomic nervous system activity. A minimum of three body measures will be utilized in these experiments. These body measures would include abdominal and thoracic respiration, galvanic skin response (GSR), heart rate (EKG), heart rate variability (HRV), muscle activity (EMG) and peripheral blood flow (photoplethysmography or hand temperature).

Instruments measuring the autonomic nervous system will have sampled participant's physiological responses ten times per second, during all recording periods. The sum of the measures for each instrument and each series of either 20-experimental or 20-control recording periods will provide sets of experimental and control "activity scores." Also, for each of the 24 test sessions and for each instrument, a "total sum" will be calculated wherein both experimental and control period measures will be added together. This "total sum" will be divided into the sum of the "activity scores" for the 20 experimental (E) periods for each instrument and this process will be repeated for the 20 control (C) periods.

D. Media Release

Following the successful completion of these research experiments and demonstrations, the Human Connection Project intends to release the following scientifically derived images of human interconnectedness via news reports, print media, talk show formats, feature documentaries and dramatic films.

1. International multi-cultural audiences will see images, specifically prepared for popular television news programs, of physiological interactivity between and among people located in widely separated

geographic locations, using split-screen presentations.

2. People that are either friends or strangers will belong to different groups with five members each. Well known celebrities as well as groups of Buddhist monks will form teams heightening public interest. A member from each group will be positioned at one of five cooperating neuroscientific laboratories located in both North American and European cities.
3. Experimentally-derived, physiological data will be graphically represented on scientific instruments showing subtle changes in person-to-person, mind/body interaction, as people from each group, in turn, "covertly" focus their attention on one of the four members of their group over one-way video Internet based equipment.
4. A narrative will help viewers grasp that all people are united by an interactive creative awareness, showing the general public that our interest or indifference towards one another affects each of us individually and by implication the health and well-being of humanity
5. News releases carrying commentary on these images will announce: "A large scale cooperative multinational scientific experiment has recently gathered evidence that people of all races are aligned or misaligned personally and socially by how they pay attention. In short, how we pay attention to ourselves, to one another and to Nature determines the quality of the society we live in and our relationship's, in very concrete tangible ways."

E. Educational Outreach of the Human Connection Institute

Complementary ways of rapidly accessing a state of deep group rapport have been developed that support the above stated scientific, media-based methods. These techniques, the Group Insight Game among them, are useful for consensual decision-making allowing organizations to by-pass hours of meeting time. By effortlessly producing and attracting beneficial behavior patterns, these processes strengthen originality, authenticity and creativity. Individual participants in a group learn to be led by a collective intelligence that is greater than any one of its members. A state referred to as Planetary Consciousness is often achieved, an unmistakable sense of existing in a unity with all people and the whole of nature.

As one example, making businesses more competitive through such spirited cooperation could change the way we do business. Corporate consultants and experts in leadership have so far responded enthusiastically.

F. Cost

Having completed the first phase of the project, funded by the Mind Science Foundation, the Fetzer Institute, and various individuals, we are currently seeking \$711K to finance the remaining 3 phases.

H. Project Personnel

Sperry Andrews has been the Executive Director of the Human Connection Project since 1990. He founded the Human Connection Institute in 1996 to further the use of experiential group consciousness for healing, community building, sports and business. As an Adjunct Research Associate between 1990-92, Andrews collaborated with Dr. William Braud, formerly Senior Research Associate at the Mind Science Foundation (MSF). This project was sponsored by MSF from 1990 to 1992. Andrews is the author of related articles and white papers on areas of mind research, and has given invited presentations on Human Connection and this project at both public and professional organizations, including the United Nations.

Eve Berry, M.A. is Director of Administration and Educational Program Development for the Human Connection Project. She holds a Masters Degree in Comparative Literature from Indiana University with additional graduate and professional courses in finance, systems analysis & development, communications and management development. She has over twenty-five years experience as a corporate consultant in the areas of Organizational Development, Human Resource and Team Building in the workplace. Eve is a member of the Board of Directors and a key facilitator for The Foundation for Community Encouragement started by M. Scott Peck, and is President of The Nautilus Group a corporate consulting company.

Dr. Jerry Wesch is Director of Research Management of the Human

Connection Project. He holds a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He sat on the executive board of the Biofeedback Society of America between 1980 and 1983. He is Clinical Instructor in Psychiatry at Northwestern University Medical School and is a Co-investigator/Research Psychologist for the NIH Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study, Neuropsychologic Sub-Study, at Howard Brown Health Center in Chicago. He is President Elect of the International Society for the Study of Subtle Energies and Energy Medicine and has been an investigator and co-author on numerous scientific articles.

I. Budget Detail

Phase 1:	Preliminary Research	Completed
Phase 2:	Administration and Experiment 1 (Twin Study)	99,000
Phase 3:	Two/Three and Five-Laboratory Demonstration	505,500
Phase 4:	Data Analysis	106,500
		\$ 711,000

Budget Detail

PHASE 2: Experiment 1 (Twin Study)

Research Director (12 months @ \$4000.)	48,000
Experimental costs at designated research institution (measurements, instrumentation, personnel)	50,000
Meeting of Experiment researcher with Project Management (1 meeting @ \$1,000 per visit)	1,000
TOTAL PHASE 2	\$ 99,000

PHASE 3: Two & Three Lab Experiments and Five-Lab Demonstration

Experiments A and B and five-lab demonstration C

Project Director (part-time) (12 months @ \$3,000 per month)	36,000
Administrative Assistant (12 months @ \$2,000 per month)	24,000
Laboratory Directors (5 @ \$10,000/year)	50,000
Principal Investigators (5 for 12 months @ \$4,000 per month)	240,000
Consultants (Trainers for experimental subjects)	13,500
(Project consultants)	20,000
Meetings of A,B,C researchers with Project Management team (3 meetings of 12 persons @ \$2,000 per visitor)	72,000
Data Analysis	40,000
TOTAL PHASE 3	\$ 505,500

PHASE 4: Data Analysis

Analysis of Findings: Experiment 1 (Twin Study)

Write up of conclusions and application of results by project team-- 2 persons for 6 months @ \$2,000/person/month	24,000
Reproduction & distribution of project materials	2,000
Subtotal Analysis	\$ 26,000

(Analysis of Findings for Multiple Laboratory Demonstration)

Project Director (6 months @ \$3,000 per month)	18,000
Administrator/Educational Program Director	

(6 months @ \$3,000 per month)	18,000
Administrative Assistant	
(6 months @ \$2,000 per month)	12,000
Telephone	
(\$1,200 per month)	7,200
Travel	
(Airfare, mileage, meals & lodging)	6,000
Rent	
(6 months @ \$2,000 per month)	12,000
Office supplies & equipment	4,000
Subscriptions	700
Printing & reproduction of project materials	2,000
Postage	
(\$100 per month)	600
Subtotal Analysis	\$ 80,500
TOTAL PHASE 4	\$ 106,500

J. References

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"We should take care not to make the intellect our God. It has of course powerful muscles, but no personality."

- Albert Einstein

"The way to do is to be."

- Lao Tsu

NOTE: additional material

I. THE NEED

There is understandable confusion and caution about group consciousness. Moreover, the possibility that someone else's happiness is directly related to our happiness requires a profound shifting of assumptions in nearly every human endeavor. Skeptics will want to know why it is that wars, injustice and stark inequities between haves and have-nots, take place without the 'oppressors' being affected.

The experience of interconnectedness is widely understood, although not consistently practiced. People speak of "being in tune" or "going with the flow." Members of sports teams talk about being "in the Zone," those magic moments when a team operates as one synchronous whole. The precision of a symphony orchestra speaks to the unity of the performers. In addition, many of us have experienced, at one time or another, moments of feeling at one with the world, a sense of inner peace, with no need to justify our existence in any way. Still, for most people, cooperative action and a sense of inner peace are not easily accessed, much less maintained in a reliable way.

As a response to current global patterns of catastrophic environmental degradation and increasing social violence, the Human Connection Project has been organized to align people internationally, as a community that can confront these issues through both recognizing and utilizing the benefits of a more cooperative way of paying attention. Data from experiments published in reputable mainstream journals confirm that a heightened sense of connectedness with others can change our mood, our health and every vital sign in our bodies.

Many people experience feelings of loneliness and isolation that, at times, are manifested in the social world as disease, despair and violence. People can overcome these feelings by recognizing their innate connection to others. Moreover, the Human Connection Project proposes that our social systems will thrive or deteriorate in proportion to the amount of public attention that is focused on strengthening this sense of connection.

II. THE NECESSITY FROM THE STANDPOINT OF PHYSICAL SCIENCE

In yet another area of scientific research, some quantum physicists believe that interconnectedness and consciousness are synonymous. For example, conscious awareness 'connects' perceptions with activities. Over the course of evolution, interconnectedness may have enabled and supported the development of both individual and species-wide self-awareness, self-motivation and self-organization for literally countless forms of emerging life. Today, it might already be supporting the complex changes taking place in humanity.

Perhaps, denying our interconnectedness has allowed us to survive and develop as separate individuals. Now, we are achieving some measure of respect for individual rights, including a better understanding of what it may take to co-create a planetary civilization. The utilization of interconnected awareness among large groups of people may be 'intelligent' enough to handle pressing social and environmental dangers, especially those due to less-conscious habit patterns.

III. THE BENEFIT

The unusual hypothesis of the Human Connection Project is that it will be socially beneficial to demonstrate human interconnectedness in a popularly accessible way by employing scientific experimentation as a pivotal aspect of an educational media project. As is traditional, experimentation will be followed by publication, wherein media presentations will be appropriate only, if and when, conclusive results are obtained.

While the media screams of conflicts over boundaries, customs and beliefs, the Human Connection Project offers a platform for a new dialogue about what may be an innate human resource. It underscores the potential for ever greater creativity and compassion among the peoples of this planet. The Human Connection Project has found that an experiential educational technique called the "Group Insight Game" can be taught to the public, providing a frame of reference for new developments in human relationships. It is predicted that the popularity of the Group Insight Game could follow much the same course as that taken by "mental rehearsal" techniques, which were found years ago to provide East German Olympic athletes with a sizable competitive edge. Their outstanding athletic success led eventually to international acceptance of mental rehearsal, as a technique for both personal and professional improvement.

Similarly, the Group Insight Game is a technique that can be readily used by athletes to improve teamwork and competitive outcomes. The successful use of this technique in professional sports could encourage its widespread use as a "self-help" strategy for enhancing interpersonal creativity and rapport, in general, and, in particular, organizational learning in business management. The Human Connection Project is responsive to the fact that quality management in the corporate world looks for ways of providing greater coherence, flexibility and collaboration in the workplace. Today, a premium is put on companies that are fast moving and are more willing to embrace change as a way of life. Individuals must work with an ever-changing assortment of people, tools, industries and regulatory environments, each of which exacts new demands for increased efficiency.

The Human Connection Project suggests that developing a person's sense of connection with others can help improve their ability to adapt more creatively to personal and environmental change. The successful use of the Group Insight Game in the corporate sector could also help to encourage popular acceptance, in the form of ever greater familiarity and trust among people.