

THE FIFTH EAST-WEST FORUM

The Science of Consciousness Conference

TSC 2016

APRIL 25, 2016, TUCSON, ARIZONA

*"Oh, East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet,
Till Earth and Sky stand presently at God's great Judgment Seat;
But there is neither East nor West, Border, Nor Breed, nor Birth,
When two strong men stand face to face, though they come from the ends of the earth!"*
-Rudyard Kipling (1889) : The Ballad of East and West



The East-West Forum is now a familiar feature at the TSC series of conferences, starting with TSC 2012 at Tucson, TSC 2013 at DEI, Dayalbagh, India, TSC 2014 at Tucson again, and TSC 2015 at Helsinki, Finland. The Fifth East-West Forum at TSC 2016 will be yet another landmark integration effort as part of the TSC-series. The above quote rather prophetically captures these momentous events, when not just two strong men from East and West stand face to face, but in fact, two galaxies of strong men from East and West meet at Helsinki (Finland) and Dayalbagh, Agra (India) also through video-conferencing.

EMERITUS CHAIRS

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Revered Prof. P.S. Satsangi
Chairman, Advisory Committee
on Education
Dayalbagh Educational
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West

Prof. Stuart Hameroff
Director, Centre for
Consciousness Studies
University of Arizona, USA



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Forum Coordinator : Dr. Bani Dayal Dhir, Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed Univ.), India
Coordinator and Organizer – Video-conferencing : Mr. Prem Prashant, Member, Divinity Forum (Dayalbagh / @DEI-location)
Forum Organizer : Dr. Vishal Sahni, Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed Univ.), India

WEBSITE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS FOR THE EAST-WEST FORUM
<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=eastwestforum2016>
 Contact email : tsc2016ewforum@gmail.com
Last Date for Submission of Abstracts :
 November 30, 2015

Discounted Registration Fee for DEI, India group :
 \$150 (Students) \$250 (Others)
 (Special Discounted Fee for attending both East-West Forum and regular TSC event)
 (to be submitted to TSC 2016 organizers at Tucson – for further details, refer to <http://consciousness.arizona.edu>)

Receipt, Acceptance Letter and Visa Facilitation Letter will be provided by University of Arizona Sponsors :
 Centre for Consciousness Studies, Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed Univ.), India
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DEI, DAYALBAGH AND THE EAST-WEST FORUM AT TSC SERIES

The tradition in the TSC series of conferences has been to hold meetings in alternate years at Tucson and every other year elsewhere in the world. Soon after visiting DEI in 2011 for Quantum-Nano School QANSAS 2011, Prof. Stuart Hameroff proposed to hold the TSC 2013 conference at DEI, and also invited participation on behalf of DEI in the then forthcoming TSC 2012 at Tucson, Arizona. At the end of the 2013 conference at DEI, when Prof. Hameroff returned to Arizona, he spontaneously described it as the time and place where the quantum theory and the eastern perspective and therefore, in a way, western science and eastern thought have begun to make sense and come together. The conference has been aptly renamed as 'The Science of Consciousness' from TSC 2016 onwards in tune with the growing acceptance of consciousness studies among the scientific community all over the world.

A meaningful East-West dialogue seems feasible as has been increasingly evident from TSC-2012 through TSC-2015. To meet these challenges, the landmark Fifth East-West Forum at TSC-2016 is intended to be a place where one presents key ideas from both approaches, and where these ideas can interact in the spirit of constructive mutual criticism, evaluation and enrichment. It appears plausible to evolve a science of inner experience (which is repeatable and verifiable) by attempting to integrate Eastern and Western scientific approaches and philosophy by verifying inner spiritual phenomenology of consciousness through well-established scientific epistemology, including three important stages of observation (awareness), report (description) and analysis (understanding) (Price and Barrell, 2012) while also



TSC 2013 at DEI, Dayalbagh, India

availing of modern techniques of fMRI and MEG scans in capturing repeatable physiological / physical parameters of neural correlates accompanying inner spiritual experience during meditative practices. The scientific approach to understand the nature of consciousness revolves around the study of human brain. Neurobiological studies that compare the nervous system of different species have accorded highest place to the humans on account of various factors that include a highly developed cortical area comprising of approximately 100 billion neurons, that are intrinsically connected to form a highly complex network. Quantum theories of consciousness are based on mathematical abstraction and Penrose-Hameroff Orchestrated Objective Reduction (Orch-OR) Theory is one of the most promising ones. Invoking higher and higher level of unified quantum field theory, with correspondingly subtler and subtler particle size of fine grained geometry will lead to a significant jump in the level of fineness (fine-grained quantum geometry) which

should enable us to access, at least in the abstract world of mathematics and physics, the primary ultimate source of consciousness in the whole Universe.

Dayalbagh and DEI are closely associated with Radhasoami philosophy, which centers upon a type of meditation practice arising from the spiritual philosophy of Eastern Saints known as "Surat Shabda Yoga". *Shabda* is referring to a spiritual current which can be perceived in meditation as inner light and particularly unstruck rhythmic sound. *Yoga* is referring to the uniting of our real essence (soul) through an inner listening with focused mental and spiritual concentration (*surat*) upon an inner sound (*Shabda*) which, it is maintained, emanates from *Radhasoami* the Supreme Being representing the macrocosm i.e. unity. It is therefore taught as the unchanging and primordial technique for uniting the soul with the Supreme Being via the sound-current of *Shabda* in order to experience oneness with macrocosmic consciousness at multiple levels. India is in many ways still a spiritual society and the Radhasoami philosophy (based on 'Saar Bachan') has a consistency with other extant spiritual meditative practices of the world (to name a few, Buddhism (*Buddhavacana*), Jainism (*Agamas*), Christianity (Bible), Islam (*Koran*), Sufism (e.g. the *Masnavi* of Maulana Rumi), Sikhism (*Guru Granth Sahab*) and Hinduism (as represented by *Vedas*, *Upanishads* and *Gita*). In contrast, much of Western scientific and philosophical study of consciousness takes place in a secularized setting. All are encouraged to participate so as to provide as meaningful a dialogue as possible.

