

2004 LEHIGH VALLEY CAMPUS SCIENCE LECTURE SERIES



November 3, 2004 (Wednesday)

3:00-4:00 pm

Atrium, Penn State Lehigh Valley

8380 Mohr Lane, Fogelsville, PA 18051

Margins of Reality: The Role of Consciousness in the Physical World

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ABSTRACT

Since 1979, the Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research (PEAR) laboratory has been studying the interface of mind and matter through a body of rigorous experiments that address the questions of whether human intention can affect the behavior of random physical devices and systems, and whether human consciousness is able to access information about events that are spatially and temporally remote from its physical location. The answers to both these questions turn out to be surprisingly affirmative, raising profound intellectual and philosophical challenges to many established scientific assumptions and laying the foundation for a new science of the subjective. How this new science will evolve is still unclear, but there is little doubt that it will require redefinition of such traditional concepts as reproducibility, objectivity, and causality, and will need to find a way to incorporate such intangible and variable features as human desire, expectation, and meaning in its methodology and models.