

Nondual Science Institute

Prospectus

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What is Nondual Science?

Nondual Science is a new approach to Western Science which uses the resources of worldwide nondual¹ spiritual traditions to approach Science in a new way. Ever since the Tao of Science by Fritjof Cappra it has been recognized widely that some of the findings of modern science are suggestive in relation to the philosophies of nondual traditions which are being widely adopted by Westerners in their search for spiritual fulfillment. Some of these Westerners are scientists and technologists and they wonder about the connection between Nondual Spiritual traditions and Western Science. The Nondual Science Institute is designed to try to create a forum to ask and perhaps answer some of those questions. We consider Nondual Science as possibly transformative of Western Science in general. We believe that it could lead to a more

¹ See David Loy's Nonduality for more information about the nondual perspective.

sophisticated science that was more respectful of the environment. And we think it could lead ultimately to a more successful science. This is a science that generates meaning within the lifeworld rather than merely creating nihilistic alternatives. Nondual Science is not a prejudice, a kind of Scientism, or religion of science seen in a nondual perspective. Rather it is a genuine questioning of the relation between Western Science and its traditional assumptions but not on the model of Western philosophy or philosophy of science, but on the model of Eastern paradigms of philosophy flowing from nondual spiritual traditions and religions. However, the hope is to make possible a genuinely nondual science that goes beyond what Western science has achieved by giving it a grounding in the wisdom of nonduality and by supplanting the duality that is rampant in our Western scientific and technological tradition. The ultimate question of the Institute is whether there is a proper science of nonduality itself.

Why an Institute of Nondual Science.

The concept is to bring together scholars from different nondual traditions and Western scientists to solve problems such as the nature of consciousness, the nature of life, the nature of society, and other academic and practical problems in a collaborative manner. The institute will set up forums for the dissemination of knowledge of nondual approaches to science both to the scientific community world wide but also among nondual practitioners, scholars and lay persons interested in the role of science and technology in society and the relation of that to nondual wisdom of all kinds.

Initiatives in the conversation between Nonduality and Western Science

The Institute sponsors websites at Nondual-Science.org for information exchange on the relation between nonduality and science, both current Western Science and Science in General as it might be revised from a nondual perspective.

The Institute sponsors a mailing list on nondual science at Yahoo groups. The list name is nondual-science@yahoogroups.com. On that there is expected to be discussion of the problems of creating a genuine nondual science and the relation to Western Science.

The Institute sponsors a network of academics engaged in the study of scientific topics from the point of view of nonduality. This network will in turn sponsor occasional meetings.

The Institute sponsors workshops in nondual scientific theories for lay people interested in the relation between nondual spiritual traditions and science/technology.

The Institute sponsors a Journal of Nondual Science on the Web where authors can exchange their views on the nature of nonduality, the nature of science, and the relation between the two, as well as specific results from science that point to the underlying nonduality of all things.

The Institute sponsors outreach to the Western University system through lectures and discussions among specialists.

The institute sponsors outreach to businesses and corporations who might be interested in applying the nondual perspective within their organizations in order to increase effectiveness and efficiency.

The Institute sponsors outreach to nondual practitioners as well as lay people in order to generate interest in Western Science and its relation to nondual practice.

The Institute sponsors specific research into topics of interest to the fostering of nondual science and issues grants to pursue that research.

The Institute sponsors an award for the best and most advanced research that fosters the nondual perspective in Science.

The Institute fosters dialogue into the philosophical underpinnings of the nondual perspective and its relation to Western Philosophy in general as well as Philosophy of Science in particular.

The Institute sponsors meetings of Graduate and Ph.D. students engaged in research in any field of science who are interested in applying or augmenting other perspectives with the nondual perspective.

The Institute publishes works of nondual science or traditional nondual works that might form the basis for a such a science. Or Western works that show that a nondual perspective is valuable. But the central focus is on the production and testing of nondual theories of science such as systems, special systems and meta-systems theories that embody a nondual perspective.

The institute does not discriminate between nondual teachings but is interested in fostering discussion between different nondual traditions through the medium of the discussion of the topic of Western Science and the possibility of a Nondual Science were everyone from a nondual tradition can participate in furthering human knowledge as well as human wisdom. Western Science is the hard case, if nondual approaches cannot handle that hard case then they will have a hard time claiming universality.

Hopefully the attempt at understanding and effort to excel in building a nondual science will bring together nondual practitioners from various traditions in a productive dialogue and collaboration.

Who is involved in the Nondual Institute?

The director of the Institute is Kent D. Palmer, Ph.D. who has been engaged in research into the basis of nondual approaches to science for thirty years. See <http://archonic.net>.

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