

Dr. Jenny Wade

Consciousness and Human Capacity: Mind Without Brain

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

7:00 pm

Forbes Library, Northampton MA



Dr. Jenny Wade, author of *Changes of Mind: A Holonomic Theory of the Evolution of Consciousness*, will share with us her insights into consciousness before birth, in utero, at birth, and after physical death. In her work, she focuses on consciousness itself, not the content or expression of consciousness. Dr. Wade believes a cosmology is needed that accounts for consciousness and that can help answer such questions as: Is there awareness without a functioning brain? Does consciousness predate birth? Can consciousness survive death?

Mind without brain is a scientific conundrum. Evidence of a physically transcendent source of human consciousness comes from the extremes of the life span when the brain and central nervous system are unable to function, according to most standard measures.

Prior to the third trimester, measurable brain activity associated with awareness is virtually nonexistent—yet verified evidence from independent sources substantiates that the fetus is aware, able to recall, and is affected by events around it inside and outside the womb. Verifiable fetal memories go back to the moment of conception.

Likewise, near-death accounts have verified awareness of resuscitation and other activities in the here-and-now when the individual's measurable brain activity had ceased altogether. A close examination of the evidence rules out the materialist arguments many scientists use to explain away the existence of individual awareness both before life and after death.

The relationship of human awareness to “reality”—including its ability to slip the bonds assumed by conventional science—suggests that the more conscious we are, the more we can shape reality by accessing realms and possibilities now considered “para”-normal but that are well within the capacity of humanity, including transcending time and space.

The questions that Dr. Wade examines cannot even be asked in the present mechanistic-materialist paradigm. Such phenomena are by definition not possible. But when seen in a different context, we can come to a new understanding of these phenomena and expand our picture of reality.