

Telepathic Proficiency - A Factual Threat on Humanity

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The molecular mechanism underlying human cognition is still a 'black box' despite intense brain research. The ~1.4 kg brain tissue contains billions of nerve cells (neurons) connected via synaptic junctions that transport electrical and chemical signals toward target regions, while its functioning is associated with activation or inactivation of variable neuronal networks, demonstrating high plasticity. In recent years, imaging techniques enabling visualization of neurons and synapses have been developed, monitoring brain centers that 'light up' by external stimuli (e.g., ref 1). Moreover, various non-invasive techniques for real time monitoring of spatio-temporal (position and time) brain activity upon external stimuli (e.g., sensory, cognitive, motor, regulatory) have been developed {e.g., electroencephalography (EEG), position emission tomography (PET), near infrared spectroscopy (NIRS), magnetoencephalography (MEG), and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) (e.g., ref. 2)}, but despite this impressive repertoire, the processing mechanisms by which activation of certain neuronal networks constitute our consciousness, soul, or abstractive competence (thinking, spiritual perception, inventive productivity, build-up of moral principles, emotions, memories) remain unclear. These open questions are especially puzzling in light of the central role of the brain in controlling our physical and mental abilities and successful mapping of activated structural regions involved in various functions, as well as in light of the enormous progress in other scientific fields such as exploration of marvels in our planet (structure and function of the earth and deep sea, or the protecting atmospheric layers covering our planet, and the enormous variety of life forms); or, the great advances in medicine and prolongation of life expectancy; or, the new findings about deep space and the universe, and the amazing aspirations of reaching to the stars.

However, despite the scientific limitations and lack of knowledge, manipulations of human cognition by external stimuli and chemicals have already been demonstrated. For example, psychedelic compounds (subclass of hallucinogenic drugs) were shown to trigger non-ordinary mental states and expand human consciousness. Indeed, Ayahuaska, a mixture produced from specific plants in South and Central America, is used by Shamans to raise their consciousness above ordinary levels that seemingly improve their spiritual abilities of curing and predicting some futuristic events. Likewise, was probably the prophetic ability of Pythia, the sacred Greek oracle (in the 6th century BC), when her consciousness was raised to higher levels likely by inhaling a gaseous mixture of methane and carbon dioxide stemming from

underneath her seat in the Apollo temple in Delphi. The putative effects of such psychedelics are nicely depicted in the fiction book by F. Herbert, 'Dune', where use of 'Melange', an imaginery psychedelic drug, prolongs life, increases power, raises the level of consciousness and even the ability to predict the future. These examples suggest, although with a large grain of salt, that human consciousness and overall cognitive abilities can be manipulated to reach unprecedented levels when preconditioned. Notably, brain research and ways to expand spiritual abilities has become an acceptable scientific field (Parapsychology). Among a variety of parapsychological branches, Telepathy (from ancient Greek: (*têle*) 'distant', and (*páthos*) feeling), the ability to communicate thoughts or feelings without using regular senses, or speech, sight, writing, and hearing, has attracted increasing attention. While the accumulated scientific literature and reader-questions about telepathy reveals enormous interest, proven telepathic experience is scarce and seems to be used mostly by mentalists (e.g., L. Suchard, U. Geller, D. Brown), who likely employed various tricks in their shows. From a scientific viewpoint, Parapsychology is considered a pseudoscience, and so despite many attempts to demonstrate extrasensory perception or mental telepathy, no scientific evidence for such power has been approved thus far. Therefore, the United States National Research Council has concluded that no scientific evidence for such phenomena exists (ref. 3). Still, the amazing high neuroplasticity of the brain and its ability to reconfigure new neuronal links, as well as to raise human consciousness to higher levels, suggests that brain research is still in its primary stages, waiting for further development and new tools for studying its extraordinary abilities. Whether the scientific world is on track of developing telepathic capabilities is an open question. While optimistic scientists envision advantageous options like fast communication, increased analytic ability, collective rise in consciousness exceeding individual capabilities, means of overcoming language barriers and ambiguity, or even improved communication between humans and their beloved animals or with aliens, realistic researchers point to risks that can destroy the life frame of human societies and eradicate privacy and individualism. Many feelings and emotions should better remain concealed (e.g., egocentric aspirations, predisposed urges, cruel intentions, feelings of envy and contempt, evil sexual drives), to avoid unnecessary stress, health problems, ruthless and cruel interactions and clashes, or even 'big-eye' control over citizens. Overall it seems that the consequences of developing telepathic abilities may threaten the social life of humanity and so its development better be restricted.

References

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