



16 November 2009

Antonella Vannini  
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Dear Antonella,

I have now read through your Ph.D. thesis entitled "A Syntropic Model of Consciousness", and I am prepared to offer the following critique of its scholarly quality and cultural importance:

As you know, Brenda Dunne and I have followed your research for some time and we have been highly impressed by it, to the extent that we have invited your participation in several formal and informal professional conferences, referenced it in a number of our own publications, and included it as a chapter in our ICRL anthology *Filters and Reflections: Perspectives on Reality*. This is, however, our first opportunity to study your thesis in its entirety, and we have been truly overwhelmed by its monumental scope and epistemological importance.

Appropriately to a technically dedicated Ph.D. thesis, you have couched your own research in a rich and extensive survey of pertinent historical and scientific background material that alone makes this document a valuable and comprehensive resource for other scholars endeavoring to contribute to this field. I can only estimate the immense effort you must have exerted to assemble this panorama, and to present it in such a "reader friendly" fashion.

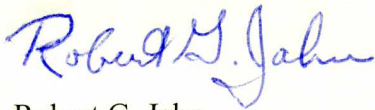
But as you well know, it is only via the acquisition of incontrovertible empirical data and their cogent rationalization within viable theoretical contexts that credibility and comprehension of such controversial and counter-intuitive phenomena can be achieved. And here, in my considered opinion, you have taken your place in an all-too-thin line of courageous and astute scholars who have dared to challenge a limited and short-sighted scientific paradigm, in search of a deeper wisdom.

While your array of experiments has been unavoidably limited by the minimal technical resources available to you and by the difficult collegial environment under which they have had to be performed, nonetheless they have clearly made their point, and they have blazed a good empirical trail for yourself and others to follow into the future. We ourselves have already benefited from the new knowledge you have provided, in our own ongoing pursuit of better understanding and deeper confidence in this genre of scholarly evidence.

From our own experience we know well the frustrations that can be imposed by critics and skeptics who prefer to argue from personal ideological prejudices, rather than allowing fair and open-minded judgment based solely on the scholarly quality of the work. In your case, however, given the evidently excellent scientific training you have received at the University of Rome, I am confident that the wiser and more profound minds on your faculty will ultimately prevail in recognizing that your work eventually will bring considerable credit and distinction to your fine institution.

For our part, we remain eager to publish this and other portions of your work on Syntropy as an ICRL monograph whenever you are ready to provide us with such a manuscript. Meanwhile, we wish you an appropriately sophisticated reception of your thesis at your final examination next March, which we shall follow with careful attention.

Sincerely yours,



Robert G. Jahn

Professor of Aerospace Sciences and Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Emeritus

Director of the Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research Program  
Chairman, International Consciousness Research Laboratories (ICRL)