

An Analogy Between Communication within the Brain Microcosm and Communication Within the Societal Macrocosm

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TO CITE

Naccache, L. (2022). An Analogy Between Communication within the Brain Microcosm and Communication Within the Societal Macrocosm. In *Proceedings of the Paris Institute for Advanced Study*. https://paris.pias.science/articles/SynE2_2016_12_an-analogy-between-communication-within-the-brain-microcosm-

PUBLICATION DATE

10/05/2016

ABSTRACT

The Brains that pull the Triggers. 2nd Conference on Syndrome E, Paris IAS, 09-10 May 2016 - Session 4 - Clinical Correlations and Parallels

An epileptic seizure is a phenomenon characterized by an excess of communication between distant brain areas. This hyper-synchronization

is associated with a loss of information complexity, and with a de-differentiation between these distinct brain areas.

Hyper-communication, loss of complexity, loss of differentiation: the combination of these three properties is reminiscent of many symptoms of world globalization like for instance the stereotyped shopping streets that eventually all look alike across countries and continents. Using this analogy, - and exploring its limits -, I will propose that the functional architecture of our societies conveys both a potential of global consciousness never reached before, but also a vulnerability that can be described as a macrocosmic epileptic loss of consciousness. This analogy can be applied to new forms of societal violence.

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