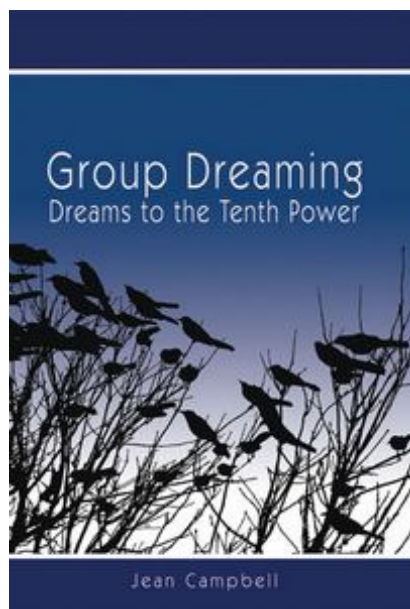


More About *Group Dreaming*

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When plans for the first PsiberDreaming Conference began in 2001, I was Moderator for IASD's online discussion board. I'd requested that position because of my interest in group dreaming.

The research I undertook in the 1970s and 1980s as Director of Poseidia Institute in Virginia Beach, Virginia, is described in my book *Group Dreaming: Dreams to the Tenth Power* (Campbell, 2006). It involved asking groups of ten dreamers to perform certain tasks while dreaming. The results of this research indicated that people can dream as directed, dream with other members of a group, and recall doing this when awake.



Apart from the first group of ten dreamers selected, participants in the Dreams to the Tenth Power experiments had never met, lived in different parts of the world, and yet shared dreams. Thus the experiments were very convincing when it came to establishing the fact that people dream together, both spontaneously and when dream sharing is a specific goal.

Even as I conducted this early research though, I felt the need for a broader range of participants, noting that much of the research I read at that time suffered from the same deficiency. So when I returned to IASD in 1996, I was happy to discover that not only did IASD have a web site on the fledgling World Wide Web, but it also had an established online discussion forum.

Perhaps because I directed a parapsychology research organization at the time when dream study and consciousness research were just beginning to emerge as distinct fields, for years I encountered innumerable people who would tell me about a psi dreaming experience, then say that I was the first person they'd ever told. Even more difficult to hear was that many had been so abused in childhood for telling these dreams, that they came to believe themselves to be the "only one" who ever dreamed lucidly or precognitively or telepathically.

I postulated – correctly as it turned out – that psi dreamers all over the globe were having this experience of feeling isolated and alone. The IASD Discussion Board was, in the mid-nineties, one of the few places for dreamers to communicate with one another online. I welcomed the opportunity to moderate the discussion forum. It was a joy to greet this group of kindred souls who collected in cyberspace.



By 2001, when plans began for the first PsiberDreaming Conference, it was natural that the planning would include several of the dreamers who had begun to hang out in that place we affectionately called the Boarding House – the IASD Discussion Board. Then, in a flash of time and history, the bombing of the Twin Towers in Manhattan on September 11, 2001 provided the focus from which an entirely different understanding of group dreaming could arise.

As discussion forum Moderator at that critical time, I received first the generous outpouring of love and sympathy from the world’s dreamers—and then the question from precognitive dreamers: “What’s the good of dreaming precognitively if nobody listens?” Several of the people who participated on the discussion forum at that time had not only dreamed the events of 9/11, but had attempted to tell an unbelieving someone else.

Because my career has not been an academic one, I have never tried to replicate the results of my earlier group dreaming experiments. I believe there is a need for this work to be done. The type of research conducted with Dreams to the Tenth Power is well within the scope of researchers today, particularly with the aid of computers and the Internet. There are many implications of this type of dreaming which could and should be examined. Janet Garrett, who recently completed group dreaming research based on the Dreams to the Tenth Power model as part of her graduate studies (Garrett, 2011), may say more about this subject in her presentation *A Qualitative Future for (Psiber)Dream Research* (Garrett, 2012).

However, the events of 2001 provided the opportunity for a whole new look at group dreaming.

Quite spontaneously, when I began hearing the questions following 9/11, I wrote to a group of about fifty dreamers and posed the following question: “If you believe that we can dream the future; and you believe that the future is not fixed, but we may be dreaming it up as we go along, how would you like to join me in dreaming up some world peace?”

To my surprise, most of the people I wrote to agreed, and were soon joined by others. Within a few weeks there were over one hundred dreamers from around the globe joining the Yahoo discussion group we call the World Dreams Peace Bridge.



At the point when the Peace Bridge formed, my study of group dreaming entered a new phase. Although in the past there had been numerous groups and experiments set up to explore the existence of group or shared or mutual dreams, there had never been a dream group formed, online or off, that committed to the purpose of working toward a group goal of shared dreaming.

The long-term existence of this extraordinary dream group has generated enough acceptance of the idea of mutual dreaming that today there are numerous online groups such as the Dream Tree Healing Group (which formed during the 2009 PsiberDreaming Conference); the IASD Dream Activism Yahoo group; the Full Moon Dreaming group created on FaceBook by IASD members Brenda Ferrimani and Sherry Puricelli; and 350 Dreamers, Tzivia Gover's effort to encourage dreamers to heal the Earth. These and other online dream efforts have flourished in the past few years.

Due to the length of time since the World Dreams Peace Bridge was established, and because of the careful record keeping allowed by the Internet, it is possible now to develop questions about

group dreaming which go beyond the inquiry of my original research. Do people share dreams and can shared dreams be induced? Evidence indicates that the answer to both of these questions is yes.

But now it seems we can add several new questions to our inquiry into group dreaming. Primary among the questions we might ask are these:

- * **What happens when a self-declared group of dreamers spontaneously dreams together?**
- * **What happens when a self-declared group of dreamers dreams with intention?**

I have developed some brief answers to these questions with examples, but the topic of group dreaming deserves much more research.

What happens when a self-declared group of dreamers begins dreaming together spontaneously? In my experience, the first thing that happens is **an immediate increase in the feeling of connectedness among group members.**

Jeremy Seligson's dream of the Peace Train was one of the first dreams recorded on the World Dreams Peace Bridge Yahoo group. But Jeremy was far from the only person in that group dreaming about trains. The number of train dreams spontaneously being reported to me at the time became an indication of who should be invited to join the newly-formed group.

And because of this spontaneous upswelling of consciousness, members of the Peace Bridge saw the value of having others, especially children, draw or paint their vision of the Peace Train. Ten years later, Peace Train art has been created in over twenty countries around the globe.

Jeremy recounts his recent Peace Train travels with his daughter Eloisia on the Peace Train FaceBook page at <http://www.facebook.com/?sk=lf#1/groups/childrenspeacetrain/>

Because dreamers in such a dream group feel deeply connected as a result of such spontaneous shared dreaming, there is an increased feeling of hope in the eventual success of the group goal.

In the paper I presented at IASD's 2011 conference at Rolduc Abbey in the Netherlands (Campbell, 2011; available online [here](#)), I mentioned an episode of spontaneous shared dreaming involved with the deadly earthquake and tsunami experienced in Japan earlier that year.

In this particular episode, Peace Bridge member Laura Atkinson had been having a conversation in dream state with former Peace Bridge member, Kotaro Miyagi, who had died the previous November. Their conversation was about photography.



Suddenly Kotaro, who while alive sent daily flower photos taken on his cell phone to the Peace Bridge with the caption “HOPE,” shoved his cell phone into Laura’s stomach and woke her with one word, “Misa!”

Laura woke, turned on her computer, and across the world from Peace Bridge member Misa Tsuruta in Tokyo, discovered the events currently happening in the Pacific.

Although it was four a.m., Laura sent me an email, asking what we could do. I woke up immediately, turned on my computer (though I never wake at that time), and by the next morning we were collecting funds to send to aid Japan, reassured that Misa and her family were all right.

I'm sure you have noticed in this account several of the "psi" or "paranormal" aspects of group dreaming, with which group dreamers become immediately familiar: Laura was dreaming "with" a group member who was "dead"; telepathy accounts for both Laura's awakening and mine.

Allowed expression, spontaneous shared dreaming often (in my experience) releases previously-undiscovered aspects of creativity, adding the creativity of art to the creativity of dreams.

Joy Fatooh's paper for this PsiberDreaming Conference, *Meet Me at the Gate* (Fatooh, 2012), is a perfect example of the spontaneous play of creativity among group members, resulting in something no one "expected."

What Joy does not mention in her paper is that the day before her *Meet Me at the Gate* story appeared in my in-box (in response to a request I'd made several months previously), I had lost one of the previously committed PsiberDreaming presenters to a change in his schedule. I was frantically searching my mind for a replacement. That she delivered the paper to me in such a timely manner is another display of Joy's excellent psi skills.

In the three examples of spontaneous group dreaming I have mentioned above, you will note two interesting aspects of long-term shared dreaming:

The dreams of the group seem to encroach upon waking reality in ways that point toward a continuum of consciousness rather than dreams being the substance of sleep activity only. What Carl Jung named *synchronicities* and what Cynthia Pearson named *arabesques* abound. Both of these, in fact, might be seen as being guided by the dreaming mind.

The result of acting upon or honoring the group dream seems to produce a synergy, in the sense that the group event may seem more numinous than any individual dream.

What happens then when a self-declared group of dreamers dreams with intention?

Not long ago I read a quote on FaceBook, attributed to music icon John Lennon, that said: “A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality.”

The limits of Lennon’s statement are tested by group dreaming.

When World Dreams Peace Bridge member Kathy Turner from Australia asked back in 2004, “Is there a name for this intentional group dreaming thing we do?” the group responded by creating the term “DaFuMu Dreaming.” This is a combination of Japanese and Chinese characters indicating a big dream of good fortune. This title applies whenever the group agrees on a particular intention. For example, the World Dreams Peace Bridge sets an intention to dream on the fifteenth of each month for world peace.

The Peace Bridge has been DaFuMu dreaming together for so long that recently, when Ralf Penderak from Germany found himself simultaneously eating dinner with Laura Atkinson and me in front of our respective computer screens, he quipped: “DaFuMunch!”



Laura, noticing that both she and Ralf were having pizza, shot back: “Give Pizza a Chance!” Despite any levity, however, the World Dreams Peace Bridge has been remarkably successful in both sharing dreams with intention and achieving waking-world goals attached to these dream intentions.

When the war against Iraq began in 2003, members of the Peace Bridge, asking the question: “What can we do to aid the people of Iraq?” almost universally dreamed the children of Iraq,

starting us on a quest for ways to provide aid to a war torn country, and creating the Aid for Traumatized Children Project.

This project was aided by the results of another intentional group dream when a group formed by Harry Bosma of the Netherlands decided to dream on a series of predictive questions. Harry's Angels suggested that we look to the American music community for assistance, and by the end of 2005 the Peace Bridge efforts in Iraq were aided by a \$5,000 grant from Carlos Santana's Milagro Foundation.

There have been a number of examples of DaFuMu Dreaming presented at the PsiberDreaming Conference in the past few years, for instance "Green Dancer's" brilliant 2009 presentation about the protection she experienced from the Peace Bridge during the "Green Revolution" demonstrations in Tehran after the Iranian elections.

More recently, the World Dreams community has discovered the value of FaceBook for short-term group dreaming projects. Although the social networking site does not allow for either the depth of conversation or the privacy given by online discussion groups such as Yahoo, it allows members to invite friends and others who are not long-term members of the group to share the group dreaming experience.



The FaceBook group *Dreaming Toward Iran* was started early in the spring of 2012 when Ghazaal reported that the Iranian government was planning to install a national Internet, which would cut Iranians off from Western sites like FaceBook and Google. Not wanting to lose contact with our Iranian friends, Peace Bridge member Ralf Penderak set up the *Dreaming Toward Iran* page for group dreaming. Six months later this page has about an equal number of Iranians and well-wishers from around the world; Iran still has no National Internet.

Yes, at the level of group “reality” it is difficult, and probably too early in the history of group dreaming research, to determine the effect of group dreaming with intent. But before leaving the subject of group dreaming, I believe it is important to ask ourselves one more question.

Is there a “group dream” we might be sharing with each other, and with other sentient aspects of the planet?

Indications are that this may well be true, but the idea has serious implications for our beliefs about space, time, and the nature of what we call reality, providing a view of the world that far more closely resembles Einstein’s than Newton’s.

At the 2012 IASD Conference in Berkeley, I presented a paper: *Who Are These People and Why Do They Keep Dreaming About Me Before They Meet Me?* (Campbell, 2012). This paper can be found at <http://www.worlddreamspacebridge.org/presentations>.

Although the title of this paper seems humorous and the stories certainly have an element of humor, the conclusion I drew from having an ongoing series of first-time conference attendees – people who had never heard of me, let alone seen me, before the conference they attended – dream of me in recognizable detail brings up what I consider to be the single most important question raised by group dreaming.

As I concluded in that paper, I believe we must look at the possibility that we, as members of that group called humans, might be dreaming together on a regular basis, and should ask ourselves to “wake up” to that fact. From the topic of the apparent “group dream” represented

by the dreamers I have mentioned, I would say that the message to ourselves is to “wake up and listen” to the group dream as part of a planetary collective. Other papers being presented at this conference support that perspective. Both Valley Reed (2012) and Paul Overman’s (2012) papers deal with the observed increase of “big dreams.”

What these observations about group dreaming mean is still unclear. Many of these ideas are as yet too young in our culture to have yet been fully explored. One thing becomes clear, however, from the dreams described here in this paper: As dreamers we have the ability to be conscious of a great deal; as group dreamers we may have the ability to transform “reality.”

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