

The Heal America Intention Experiments

June 6, 2012 and September 21, 2012

The Intention Experiment first ran two Peace Intention Experiments, first in 2008 when we targeted Sri Lanka, and then on the tenth anniversary of 9/11, when we focused on the two most violent provinces in Afghanistan. Both experiments showed stunning positive effects, with large decreases in deaths and injuries.

This time, we decided to aim our intention on the central engine of the United States – Washington, D. C. – in a symbolic gesture to ‘heal America’. As with our earlier Peace Intention Experiments, I recruited Dr. Gary Schwartz, professor of psychology at the University of Arizona, and Dr. Roger Nelson, director of the Global Consciousness Project, to help design the experiment.

A psychologist formerly of Princeton University, Dr. Nelson was fascinated by the idea that there may be a collective consciousness, whose effect could be captured on random event generator (REG) machines, the modern-day electronic equivalent of a continuous coin-flipper, with a random output that ordinarily produces heads and tails each roughly 50 per cent of the time. In 1998, Roger had organized a centralized computer program, so that REGs located in fifty places around the globe could pour their continuous stream of random bits of data into one vast central hub through the Internet. Since 1997, he has been comparing their output with events of great global emotional impact. Standardized methods of statistical reveal any demonstration of ‘order’ – a moment when the machine output displayed less randomness than usual – and whether the time that it had been generated corresponded with that of a major world event.

Over the decades, Roger has compared the activities of his machines with hundreds of top news events: the death of the Princess of Wales; the millennium celebrations; the death of John F. Kennedy, Jr, and his wife Carolyn; the attempted Clinton impeachment; the twin towers’ tragedy on 9/11; approval polls of President George W. Bush and President Obama; the invasion of Iraq and the deposing of Saddam Hussein’s regime. Strong emotion, positive or negative – even to presidential decisions – seemed to produce a move away from randomness to some sort of order.

We decided to move away from the methodology of most of our earlier experiments, which employed a central website for our participants to log into in order to participate, and try a live experience on the air.

With the first experiment on June 6, 2012 George Noory and his team on Coast to Coast radio were gracious enough to allow me to do a live

Intention Experiment on live radio. For anyone who doesn't know C2C, it is one of America's largest late night radio shows, attracting some 4 million listeners during its daily three-hour slot of 11 pm – 2 am Pacific US time.

At approximately 1:05 am Pacific time, I led the Coast to Coast audience through a five-minute meditation and intention, targeting the most violent neighborhoods of Washington, D.C., mostly in Ward 1 (Columbia Heights, Adams Morgan, Mount Pleasant and Shaw were all mentioned in our intention) plus Capitol Hill and its surrounding areas (Ward 6).

Our intention was to lower violence and improve peace by at least 10 per cent.

Then, on September 21 of the same year, I attempted the same experiment on Gaia TV, once again only revealing the target when we were due to start, with the Gaia team showing images of Washington D.C. behind me as I led the intention.

Then I sat back to wait – for an entire year. The frustrating thing about a Peace Intention Experiment is that you have to wait months and months to allow events to unfold in order to find out whether your intention had an effect. And anything less than a long-term trend is meaningless.

Fortunately, the Washington Metropolitan Police painstakingly records every last crime of violence or property, so it's been a relatively easy task to gather the data from the wards involved and compare the month-by-month violence data from 2012 with that of 2011.

The outcome turned out better than hoped for such a short intention. After our June intention Ward 1 showed more volatility in the overall level of violent crime, but a lower rate overall than the previous year. But it was Ward 1 that enjoyed the more extraordinary result. Capitol Hill and its environs – the real focus of our intention – experienced an immediate drop in violent crime after our June intention, with a massive 33 per cent long-term decrease in violent crime after our September intention, which carried on for months.

Combining the two, we saw a flattening of violence, compared to high spikes of the year before.

Interestingly, the same trend was not present in property crime, which saw a gradual increase in both wards over two years. Violence – the object of our intention – fell, but not crime in general.

When Dr. Nelson examined the 63 random event generators running for his Global Consciousness Project, he discovered that they had significantly moved off their random course just during the periods of intention, with

odds against chance of more than 20 to one – another suggestion than our result was not simply coincidence.

Of course scientific results like these only become meaningful as anything other than coincidence when you repeat the same experiment over and over.

Nevertheless, we were encouraged that we might be on the right track by one other demonstration of greater peace in the Capitol building itself. The then Speaker of the House John Boehner and Minority Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi are sworn enemies. The very day after our Intention Experiment, Boehner was photographed giving Pelosi a hug and wishing her 'congratulations' on her 25 years of congressional service.