

Quest programme 2024

A lecture series given by Dr. Alan Mulhern, Jungian analyst, author and podcaster

Is transhumanism the destiny of Homo sapiens?

Is human nature fundamentally altering under the impact of business civilization, artificial intelligence, and deep computerization. The trans-human is a hybrid beyond and very different from anything thought of as human in the past. It is beyond our present cognitive abilities and it will not be mortal in the sense that organic life is. Are we already in this transition?

Is the world fracturing along the lines of civilizations?

Is the world breaking into a set of large semi-tribal units? For example, those of China, Russia, India, the West, Latin America, Africa. Is an understanding of social psychology and especially how national and civilizational identities are formed vital for understanding our world? Is a divided political world, with each nation with its own rights and identity, fatal to the future of humanity? Will there be a world government that will abolish these primitivisms? Is global world government inevitable if we are to preserve ourselves?

Is there proof of an archetypal foundation to the human psyche?

Can psychedelics get past the repressive apparatus of the ego as indicated by Stanislav Grof? And what does it find? Does this link to McGilchrist's distinction of the left and right hemispheres of the brain. Is the evidence for this convincing?

Modern warfare.

What are the chances of World War 3? How close have we been to nuclear proliferation? How has warfare changed in the 21st century?

Globalization. What is it? And has it come to a halt?

Globalization has been a major force in the history of capitalism. It has been especially powerful from 1991 to 2020, that is from the collapse of USSR to the emergence of the Covid 19 pandemic. Has this now gone into reverse with decoupling of China, Russia and its allies from the West; the rise of protectionism; increased tariffs; limited East-West migration; national protection of high level technologies; national chauvinisms; and potential warfare between blocks that have previously traded. If globalisation is now in serious decline does this mark the end of the world as we knew it?

What might death be a transition to?

Does the *Tibetan Book of the Dead* twitch the veil of mortality and peer to the other side – as Jung suggested? Does this remarkable book offer far more extensive insight than the Near Death Experience Literature.

Is apocalyptic thought a useful lens to view the 21st century?

What is history of apocalyptic thought and is it relevant in our time? The biblical apocalyptic literature of the Old and New Testaments is well known. But are there apocalyptic themes in other cultures? What are major examples of apocalyptic thought in poems, novels, films, visionaries, and writers of the modern era?

Is there a world soul?

Is there a recovery of the feminine? There have been many critiques of the patriarchy and a world of male domination. But what would a return of the feminine look like? Is it more females in power? Or is it a change in consciousness? And what does that mean?