

Exception, Sensitivity As Chen Tamir

Discovered in 1952 and often described as the heartbeat of the planet, Schumann Resonances are a naturally occurring global electromagnetic pulse measured at 7.83 Hz. It was later discovered that our brainwaves also measure 7.83 Hz. Scientific studies have shown that Schumann Resonances are intricately linked to our circadian rhythms and govern fundamental faculties including our immune system and levels of stress and creativity. They may even be linked with the “spark of life”: recent experiments showed that DNA strands communicate with one another in water — even between separate test tubes — using electromagnetic frequencies to form new nucleotides. However, when Schumann Resonances are removed, no nucleotides are produced.

We have little knowledge of the consequences of altering electromagnetic frequency, though we do it on a global scale through wireless signals, particularly cellphone towers and Wi-Fi Internet access. In 2006, my long-time friend, Eric, began to suffer from seizures. Countless tests were run, epilepsy was ruled out, and he was left with a mysterious condition. He tested soil levels, water, food, but not until he began to get seizures each time he answered his cell phone did Eric realize that his symptoms were caused by a rare condition called Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity (EHS). He now lives in a rural area far from cell phone towers.

As one of the few people to be so acutely affected at a time when wireless Internet virtually covers the globe and cellphone use has risen to nearly 90% around the world, Eric is an exception. Other forms of life, especially ones that use electromagnetic fields for navigation, have been tremendously affected: bee numbers have dropped by up to 70%, 10% of the world’s butterflies face extinction, and 190 bird species face imminent extinction. Why 30% of bee populations remain unaffected, and why so few humans suffer from EHS, are mysteries. But the point at which a degree of sensitivity turns people from “normal” to “abnormal” – the point when they can no longer function within the systems of mainstream society or nature – is the point at which they either leave or die. That moment of exception – of “outsiderness” – is of paramount importance because it locates our boundaries. The more exceptions we create and the more species we kill, the tighter our boundaries become.

A battle around the safety of electromagnetic radiation is quietly raging. Many scientific studies have found little evidence to substantiate EHS, though these studies are almost exclusively funded by telecommunications corporations. Independent studies graph clear cancer clusters around cellphone towers, and some scientists speculate that there will be a worldwide surge in brain tumors and various cancers within twenty years.

Electrically sensitive people are like canaries in a coal mine; their symptoms warn of a condition that affects all of us, even if we don’t each feel it immediately, or ever. It would behoove us to acknowledge their singularity, to see ourselves in them, and concede that our fates are intertwined, because ultimately, there are no exceptions; we are all part of one complex and interrelated system. Where we locate ourselves within it is simply a matter of speculation, or degree.

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