

Global Consciousness and the Coronavirus Crisis

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In late February and early March, 2020, the news has been filled with concerns about the coronavirus first identified in Wuhan, China. In the US, analysts began warning that there would be worldwide spreading of the COVID-19 virus, as we have seen with other diseases including SARS and Ebola. In the intervening weeks we have recognized that we are dealing with a pandemic that will likely infect a large proportion of the world population. One of the concomitants of the viral spread is another “viral” effect – on the world’s economies, with serious and continuing disruptions of business as usual. Activity in the stock market has show unusually great fluctuations over the last few weeks. The major stock indices have had huge variations, with daily drops of up to 13%, and recoveries of somewhat smaller dimension. As of this writing, market gains over the past 3 years have been wiped out.

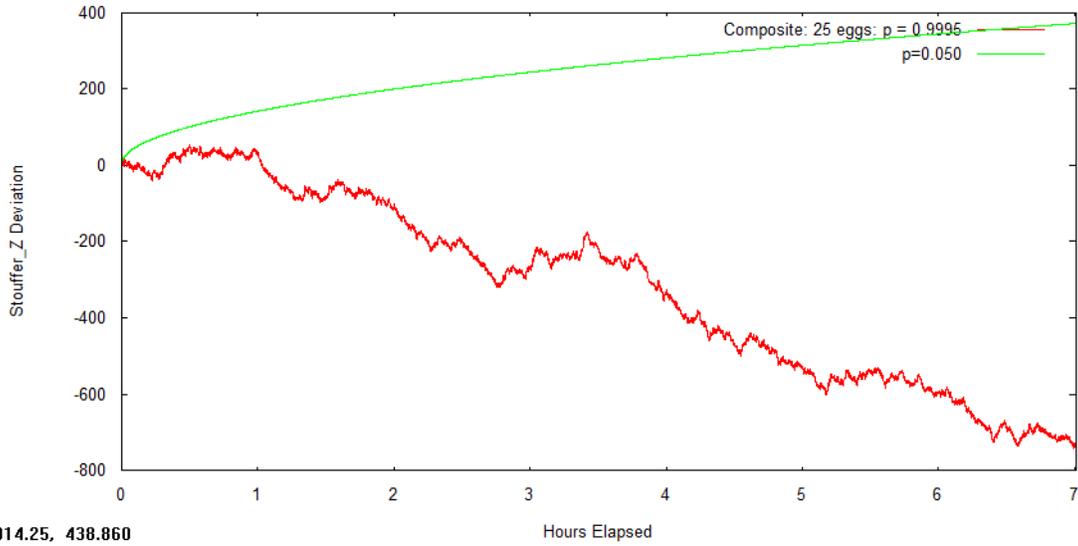
The Global Consciousness Project (GCP) network is an instrument designed to capture evidence of unconscious interconnection fostered by resonant sharing of emotions among large numbers of people. We predict that major events will correspond to changes in the data from our network of random number generators (RNG) around the world. Our hypothesis is that normally random output from our network will become slightly correlated during “global events” that bring us into resonance. Tests of this hypothesis depend on *a priori* specification of the parameters defining an event, most often an initiating moment (an explosion, an earthquake, an attack) followed by a few hours for the global response to develop via spreading news. Some GCP events are less sharply focused, for example Earth Day, when people all over the globe gather to promote ecological sanity, or the Kumbh Mela, when tens of millions gather to bathe away their sins in the Ganges in north India.

A rigorously defined event can be distinguished from the mass of other major happenings in our complex world because the latter form a background of randomly timed events against which our fully specified event stands out. The GCP technology is designed for focused events, and can’t readily be applied to long-lasting turmoil such as the slowly developing coronavirus pandemic. At best we can take samples, preferably when there is a particularly notable moment that represents the general trend.

Many people have asked about the GCP readings of the pandemic, and I decided to do some sampling that might provide some indication whether the network is responding. The extreme shifts of the stock market provide a kind of marker, along with news of big changes in public and official attitudes such as the policy reversals from the White House. To implement the sampling, I decided to look at the 7-hour long trading period of the US stock exchange, on several days beginning with March 11 2020. The results can't be interpreted rigorously, but they are interesting, to say the least. The following pages show the results for March 11-13, 16, 17. Of the five days, four have strong departures, one upward and three downward. The fifth case shows typical random variation. Overall, these probes say the GCP network is not producing normal random data.

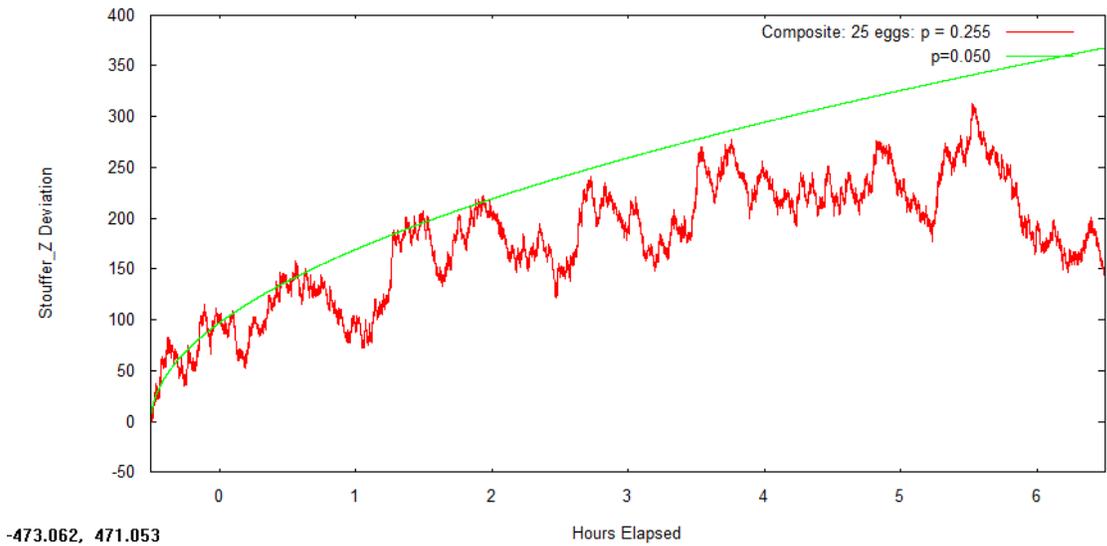
We may be tempted to think these samples represent our response to media moments or details of the market, but as interesting and suggestive as the graphs look, we do not want to claim they show a “global consciousness” or represent our human condition. That remains the domain of our hearts and minds, as we work toward fulfilling our human potentials.

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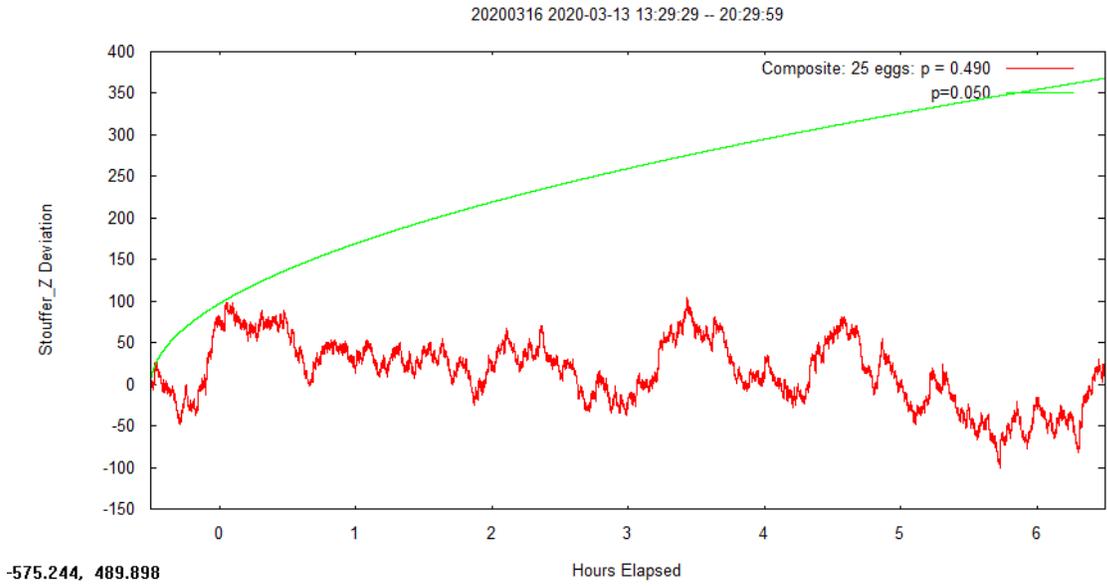


GCP Network Variance on 11th Mar 2020, 09:30 to 16:30 EST

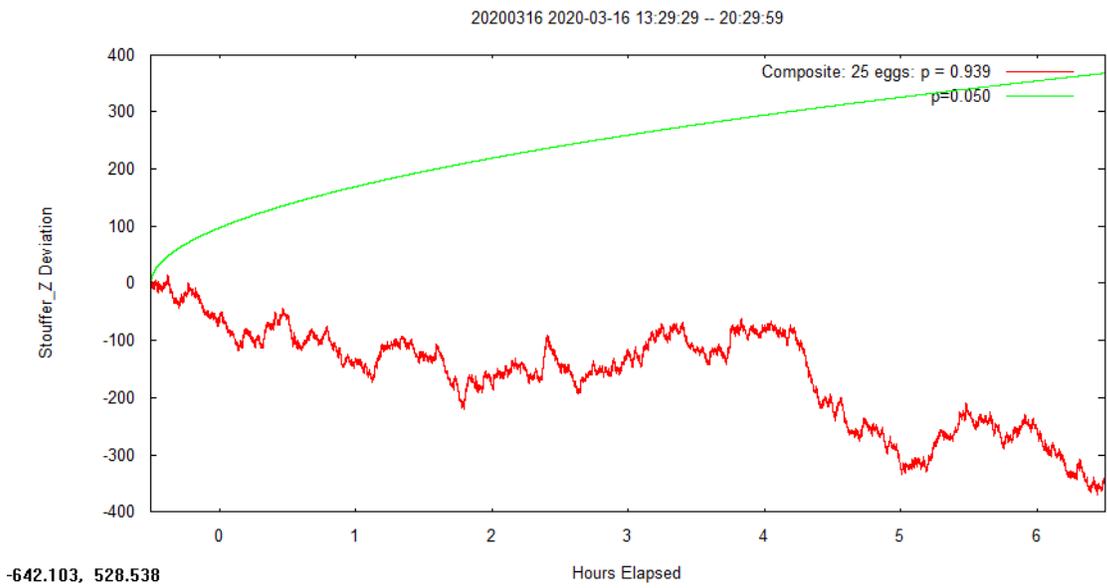
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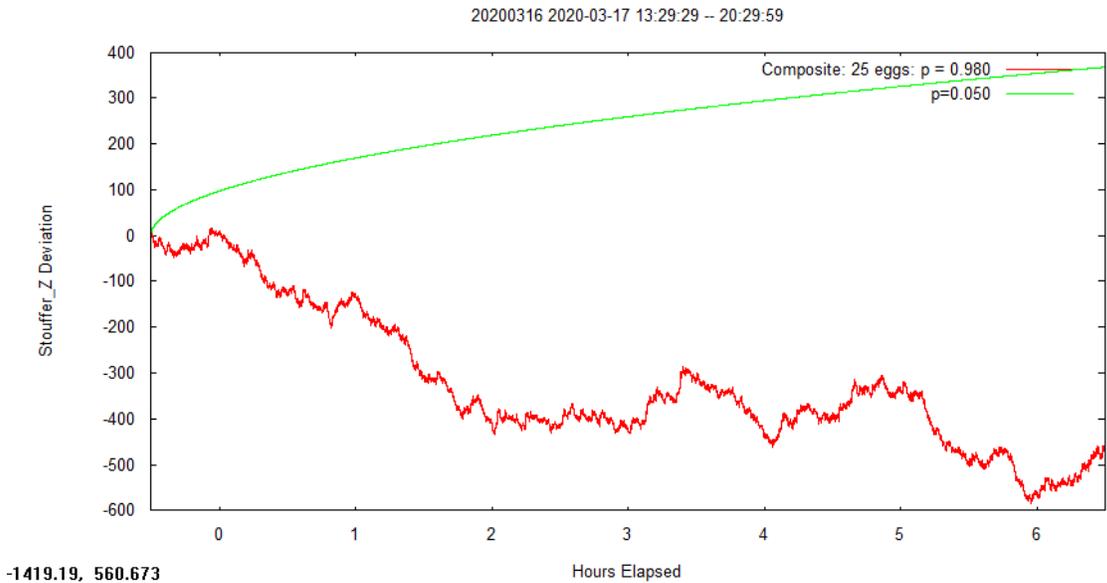
GCP Network Variance on 12th Mar 2020, 09:30 to 16:30 EST



GCP Network Variance on 13th Mar 2020, 09:30 to 16:30 EST

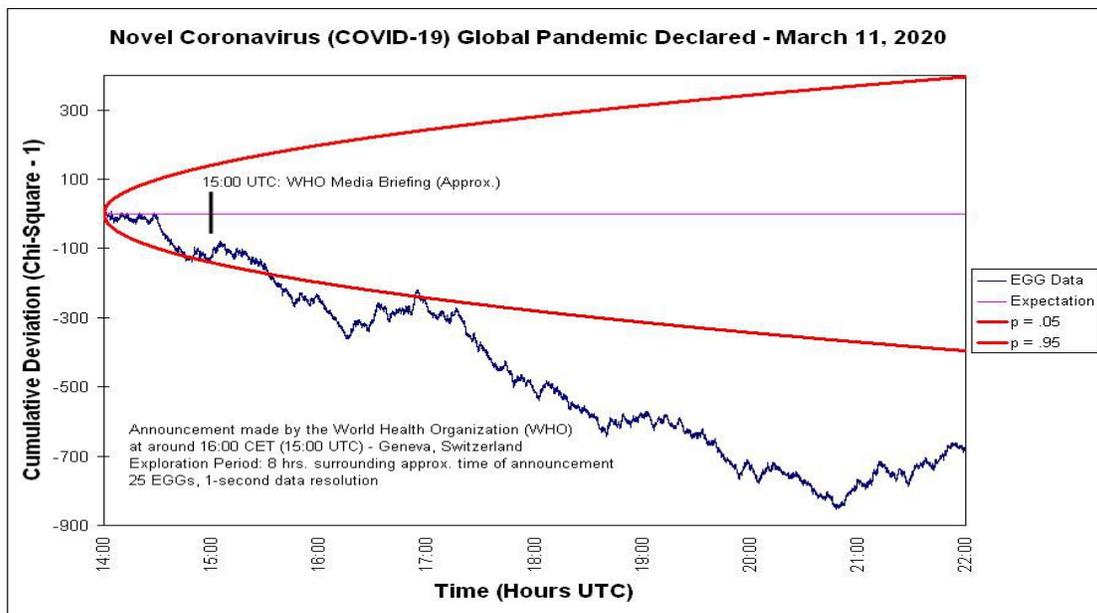


GCP Network Variance on 16th Mar 2020, 09:30 to 16:30 EST



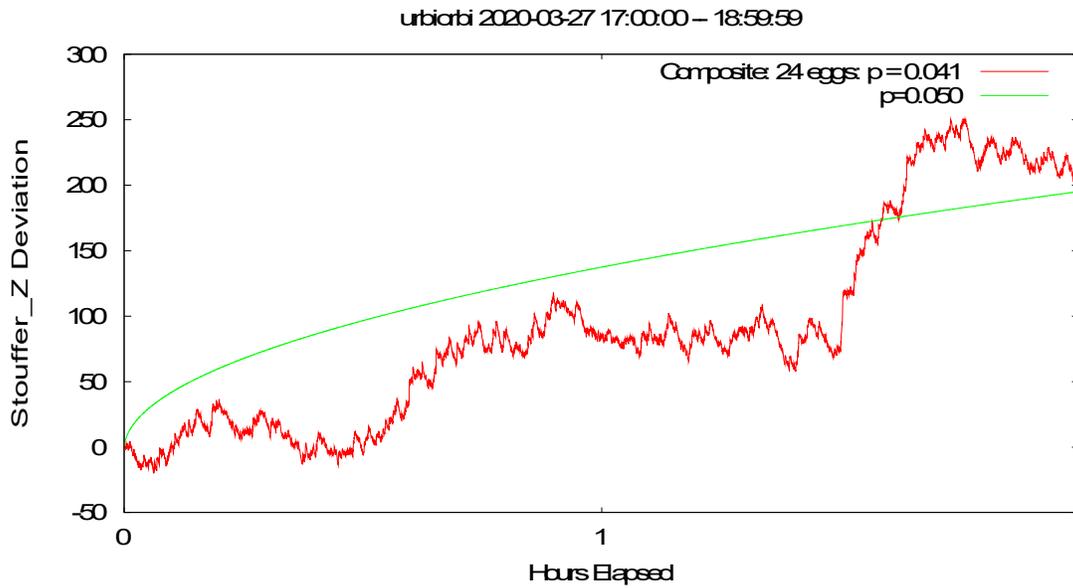
GCP Network Variance on 17th Mar 2020, 09:30 to 16:30 EST

Bryan Williams independently sampled the GCP data, choosing the time the World Health Organization (WHO) officially declared a worldwide COVID-19 pandemic during its media briefing on March 11. Bryan's figure is below, and his description can be found on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10222041307644480&set=a.10204077768847237&type=3&theater¬if_t=feedback_reaction_generic_tagged¬if_id=1584619241930630



GCP Network Variance, WHO Pandemic announcement, 11 Mar 2020, 15:00-23:00 CET

I assessed one other event that is related to the Coronavirus crisis, but in a different way from the preceding examples. It is a sharply focused event that fits the template of GCP's formal event specifications. Pope Francis made an unusual, special ritual Urbi et Orbi, on Friday, 27 March at 6 PM, praying for relief from all the suffering brought by the Coronavirus that has so tragically affected Italy, as well as the rest of the world. I extracted the corresponding data (2 hours beginning at 18:00 CET). The figure shows a positive departure from random expectation. We cannot reliably interpret single events, but this is a result that supports the hypothesis of the GCP, that when a mass consciousness forms in response to a powerful event on the world stage, we will find deviations from expected randomness in data from our world-spanning network of physical RNGs.



GCP Network Variance, Pope Francis' Urbi et Orbi, Mar 27 2020, 18:00-20:00 CET