

A Scientist's Decision Not to Review Papers for Phys. Rev.

Daniel Amit

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Electronic URL-Download Referral from Physical Review E
Code: EA8932
Title: Transitions in oscillatory dynamics of two connected
neurons with excitatory synapses
Received 08 January 2003
Dear Dr. Amit:

We would appreciate your review of this manuscript, which has
been submitted to Physical Review E. This message is the
COMPLETE REFERRAL. No hardcopy will be sent unless requested.

From: "Daniel Amit" <daniel.amit@roma1.infn.it
To: "Physical Review E" <pre@ridge.aps.org
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2003 6:11 PM
Subject: Re: Review_request AMIT EA8932 Roudi
I will not at this point correspond with any american institution.
Some of us have lived through 1939.

Daniel Amit

PHYSICS AND SOCIETY, Vol. 32, No.3

July 2003 • 11

From: "Daniel Amit" <daniel.amit@roma1.infn.it
To: "martin blume" <blume@aps.org
Date: Wednesday, April 09, 2003
Dr Blume, Editor in Chief
American Physical Society
Dear Dr Blume

Thank you for your letter of April 8. I would have liked to be able
to share the honorable sentiments you express in your letter as well
as your optimism in the future role of science and the scientific
community. To be frank, and with much sadness and pain, after 40
years of activity and collaboration, I find very little reason for such
optimism.

What we are watching today, I believe, is a culmination of 10-15
years of mounting barbarism of the American culture the world over,
crowned by the achievements of science and technology as a major
weapon of mass destruction. We are witnessing man hunt and
wanton killing of the type and scale not seen since the raids on
American Indian populations, by a superior technological power of
inferior culture and values. We see no corrective force to restore the
insanity, the self-righteousness and the lack of respect for human
life (civilian and military) of another race.

Science cannot stay neutral, especially after it has been so
cynically used in the hands of the inspectors to disarm a country

and prepare it for decimation by laser guided cluster bombs. No,
science of the American variety has no recourse. I, personally,
cannot see myself anymore sharing a common human community
with American science. Unfortunately, I also belong to a culture of
a similar spiritual deviation (Israel), and which seems to be equally
incurable.

In desperation I cannot but turn my attention to other tragic
periods in which major societies, some with claims to fundamental
contributions to culture and science, have deviated so far as to be
relegated to ostracism and quarantine. At this point I think
American society should be considered in this category. I have no
illusions of power, as to the scope and prospect of my attitude.

But, the minor role of my act and statement is a simple way of
affirming that in the face of a growing enormity which I consider
intolerable, I will exercise my own tiny act of disobedience to be able
to look straight into the eyes of my grandchildren and my students
and say that I did know.

With regard
Daniel Amit

PS I intend to distribute our exchange as much as possible.
I authorize and pray that you do the same.