GCP Technical Note: Global Harmony 1998 – 2014

Bryan J. Williams
Psychical Research Foundation

Abstract: On the basis of previous mind-matter interaction research, mass public events which promote the concept of "global harmony" (such as organized group meditations, mass prayer events, and other active engagements for peace) might be conducive to a hypothesized "global consciousness" effect through their coordinated and collective focus of activity. A preliminary analysis by Nelson (2001b) had sought to explore this hypothesis using data from a worldwide network of random number generators (RNGs) maintained by the Global Consciousness Project (GCP). With an initial set of data associated with 17 individual "global harmony" events, a significant cumulative result was found (p = .0035). A follow-up to this preliminary analysis is reported here, using an extended dataset associated with 120 events. Overall, the cumulative result continues to support the result of the preliminary analysis (p = .000167), and thus provides further evidence favoring the hypothesis that "global harmony" events are correlated in some way with statistical changes in randomness in the GCP's worldwide network of RNGs.

Introduction

A large database of experiments conducted over the past four decades has offered evidence to suggest that human mental intention can have a subtle effect on the behavior of random physical systems, as inferred by statistically significant deviations from nominal randomness in the output of random number generators (RNGs) which occur in conjunction with periods of intention (Bösch, Steinkamp, & Boller, 2006; Heath, 2011; Jahn & Dunne, 2005; Jahn et al., 1997; Radin & Nelson, 1989, 2003; Radin et al., 2006a, 2006b). Some of these experiments further suggest that these ostensible mind-matter interaction effects may not always be dependent upon distance (Dunne & Jahn, 1992), and that the effects can sometimes increase slightly when two individuals focus their intention on the same target RNG (Dunne, 1991).

In an initial effort to extend these experiments to real-world situations, several exploratory studies were conducted in which portable RNGs were taken into the field and placed in proximity to various group-oriented social events, such as concerts, parties, and workshops (Nelson et al., 1996, 1998; Nelson & Radin, 2003; Radin, Rebman, & Cross, 1996; Rowe, 1998; Schwartz et al., 1997). In these studies, the RNGs were left to run silently and unobtrusively in the background, with the groups involved usually being kept unaware of its presence. Analysis of data collected from 15 different types of group event revealed significant deviations from randomness in the RNG output ($p = 2.2 \times 10^{-6}$) which seemed akin to those observed in the mental intention experiments, and which collectively amounted to odds of about 454,000 to one against chance (Nelson et al., 1998). In contrast, no comparable deviations were observed in control data collected after the events had ended, and the group had dispersed. This suggested the occurrence of a mind-matter interaction-related effect within these group settings, which might perhaps correlate in some way with the sense of social unity or rapport shared among the group members.

To further broaden the exploration of these effects on a global scale, the Global Consciousness Project (GCP) was established in August of 1998 (Bancel & Nelson, 2008; Nelson,

2001a). Central to the project was the creation and maintenance of a worldwide, Internet-based network of RNGs which continually collects multiple samples of random data every second. The main purpose of this constantly running network is to monitor for any significant deviations from randomness within the network data which correlate with the occurrence of notable world events. One notion thought to possibly underlie such a correlation is a hypothesized "global consciousness" effect: When people around the world collectively focus their attention and emotions on a particular event, the RNG network data will become less random than expected by chance, a mind-matter interaction-related effect occurring in conjunction with this mass focal coherence of attention and emotion. The GCP is an international collaboration, involving some 70 researchers and RNG hosts worldwide. Between 50 and 70 RNGs are constantly running in the GCP's global network on any given day, and their data are regularly sent over the Internet to a central server located in Princeton, New Jersey, for archiving. Since its inception, the GCP has examined the RNG network data for over 350 individual world events. According to the most recent published assessment (Nelson & Bancel, 2011), the overall result is associated with an odds ratio of about a billion to one (Stouffer's $Z = 6.703$, $p = 1.02 \times 10^{-11}$), with a mean event z-score of 0.33. Although this mean effect is small, it is highly significant by statistical standards.[1]

One question which naturally arises from this research is whether there are any types of events which might be particularly conducive to a "global consciousness" effect. One might reasonably hypothesize that mass public events which promote world peace and harmony (such as organized group meditations, mass prayer events, and other active engagements for peace) could be conducive to a "global consciousness" effect because they seek to bring together large groups of people in a coordinated and collective focus of activity geared toward a shared common goal: a positive state for the future of the Earth and all of its inhabitants.

Such a hypothesis can be formulated on the basis of certain findings stemming from previous research on mind-matter interaction. For instance, there are several experiments which suggest that mind-matter interaction effects can be facilitated through the practice of meditation (Braud, 1990; Gissurarson, 1992; Honorton, 1977; Honorton & May, 1976; Ivtzan, 2008; Nelson & Schwartz, 2006; Schmidt & Pantas, 1972; Schmidt & Schlitz, 1989; Thalbourne, 2006, 2008; Winnett & Honorton, 1977). In an early collaborative effort to explore the effect of coordinated human activity on a global scale (precursory to the GCP), seven independent laboratories in the United States and Europe had actively ran fourteen RNGs during the highly publicized Gaiamind meditation, held synchronously around the globe in January of 1997 (Nelson, 1997). When collectively analyzed, the data from these fourteen RNGs revealed a small deviation from randomness that was marginally significant ($p = .047$). A more recent effort by Mason, Patterson, and Radin (2007) to explore the group-oriented effects of meditation found highly significant deviations in the output of two RNGs actively running during a series of group practices in Transcendental Meditation. Other group-oriented RNG studies conducted during spiritual-based rituals, ceremonies, and healing sessions have found similar deviations from randomness (Jahn, Dunne, & Dobyns, 2006, pp. 19 – 24; Nelson et al., 1996, 1998; Nelson & Radin, 2003; Radin & Atwater, 2008; Radin, Rebman, & Cross, 1996; Radin, Taft, & Yount, 2004; Rowe, 1998; Schwartz et al., 1997).

[1] For additional details about the GCP and its latest event results, see the GCP website (http://www.global-mind.org)

Among the world events formally examined by the GCP are a number of large-scale group-oriented events akin to those of the Gaiamind meditation, as well as several engagements in social activism for peace and other events intended to help promote global harmony and awareness of improving the current condition of the Earth. In early 2001, GCP director Roger Nelson (2001b) carried out a preliminary analysis of 17 of these "global harmony" events listed in the GCP event registry in order to assess their cumulative effect upon the data collected by the GCP's worldwide network of RNGs. This preliminary database of 17 events collectively produced a significant result (p = .0035) with odds of nearly 300 to one against chance.

A number of other related events have been added to the GCP event registry since that time, and the purpose here is to update this preliminary analysis to see whether this significant effect has persisted into the present.

Method

To compile the current "global harmony" dataset, any mass public events related to meditation, prayer, and active engagements for peace which had been formally registered in the GCP's Registry of Formal Hypotheses and Specifications (http://www.global-mind.org/pred_formal.html) between August 1998 and May 2013 were identified, and their normalized z-scores were extracted from Table 2 shown on the "Formal Results" webpage of the GCP's Internet website (http://www.global-mind.org/results.html). The individual events were identified on the basis of two selection criteria: First, the timeframe for the event had to fall within the time range specified above. Second, in order to be classified as a "global harmony" event for purposes of the present analysis, a given event had to meet at least one of the two following conditions:

1.) the listing for the event made an overt reference to meditation, prayer, ceremony, ritual, healing, humanity, Earth/nature, and any other synonyms of a related context.
2.) the description of the event was detailed enough that it seemed reasonably apparent that the intended theme, focus, or goal of the event was in line with the concept of global harmony (i.e., it had to have a positive message for the future of humanity, or promoted peace or healing to the Earth, nature, and/or some aspect of human society), and that it encouraged the shared participation of a large group of people.

In addition to the 17 events initially examined by Nelson (2001b), there were 103 events listed in Table 2 of the "Formal Results" webpage which seemed to reasonably meet these conditions. This included a small number of mass public events in social activism (e.g., public demonstrations for peace, anti-war rallies, etc.). Allowance was made for inclusion of these events in the present analysis because although social activism events of this kind tend to be quite different in activity from organized meditation and prayer events, they do seem to inherently share the same goal of promoting global harmony. Thus, for the present analysis, the "global harmony" dataset currently stands at a total of 120 individual events.

It should be noted that while there are several events contained within the "Non-formal Explorations" webpage of the GCP website (http://www.global-mind.org/res.informal.html) which could suitably meet the two above conditions (including several other organized

meditation, prayer, and social activism events), these were not included in the current "global harmony" dataset because their analyses had not been pre-defined in advance.

Following methods commonly employed by the GCP (Bancel & Nelson, 2008; Nelson & Bancel, 2011), the accumulating degree of deviation from expectation with time for the global harmony dataset was visualized by taking a cumulative chronological summation of the normalized *z*-scores across the entire dataset and plotting it graphically. The overall significance of the dataset was assessed by collectively combining the individual *z*-scores of the dataset using a Stouffer's *Z*-score of the form $Z = \sum z / \mathrm{SQRT}(N_z)$, where N_z is the total number of *z*-scores. A one-tailed probability value was then obtained on the basis of this Stouffer's *Z*.

To act as basic control comparisons for the actual global harmony dataset, fifty matching sets of simulated control data were randomly generated using the sample output of an electronic noise-based, truly random RNG manufactured by Orion/ICATT Interactive Media.[2] For each matching control set, 120 individual 200-bit samples of random data were collected at the rate of one per second from the Orion RNG and normalized as *z*-scores using the equation $z = (x - \mu)/\sigma$, where *x* is the individual RNG sample for a given second, μ is the theoretical mean for a binomial distribution (100), and σ is the standard deviation (= SQRT[*npq*] = SQRT[200×.5 ×.5] = 7.071). These 120 normalized *z*-scores represented a simulated global harmony dataset, which was then cumulatively summed and plotted in the same manner as the actual dataset.

Results

The 120 events which met the criteria for inclusion in the current global harmony dataset are listed in Appendix Table 1. The first 17 events constitute Nelson's (2001b) preliminary dataset, and events 18 – 120 are those added to the current dataset. Figure 1 shows a scatterplot of the *z*-scores for these 120 events; the red line indicates the mean *z* of 0.328 for the entire dataset, a small positive shift from expectation (the thin black line at zero) which is comparable to the mean *z* (0.33) for the formal GCP event database (Nelson & Bancel, 2011). Although quite small, this positive shift is highly significant; the combined result for the current global harmony dataset of 120 events is associated with a Stouffer's *Z* of 3.588 ($p = .000167$), with an odds ratio of about 6,000 to one against chance. In addition, the outcomes for the events in the dataset show a degree of variability that is significantly larger than would be expected for random data, as indicated by a Chi-square variance measure ($\chi^2 = 164.97$, 120 *df*, $p = .003$). These findings indicate that the significant result observed by Nelson (2001b) in his preliminary "global harmony" analysis continues to persist in the current dataset.

The cumulative chronological summation of the individual event *z*-scores is shown in Figure 2. This graphical representation further indicates that there is a fairly steady positive deviation from expectation over time within the current "global harmony" dataset, again consistent with the positive trend initially observed by Nelson (2001b) in his preliminary analysis of the initial 17-event dataset. A comparison of the cumulative summation of the event *z*-scores in the actual "global harmony" dataset with the cumulative summations of the simulated event *z*-scores in the 50 matching control datasets can be seen in Figure 3.

[2] The RNG manufactured by Orion/ICATT is comparable to the type of truly random RNGs utilized in the GCP's worldwide network, and in fact, several Orion/ICATT RNGs are currently in active use within the network itself.

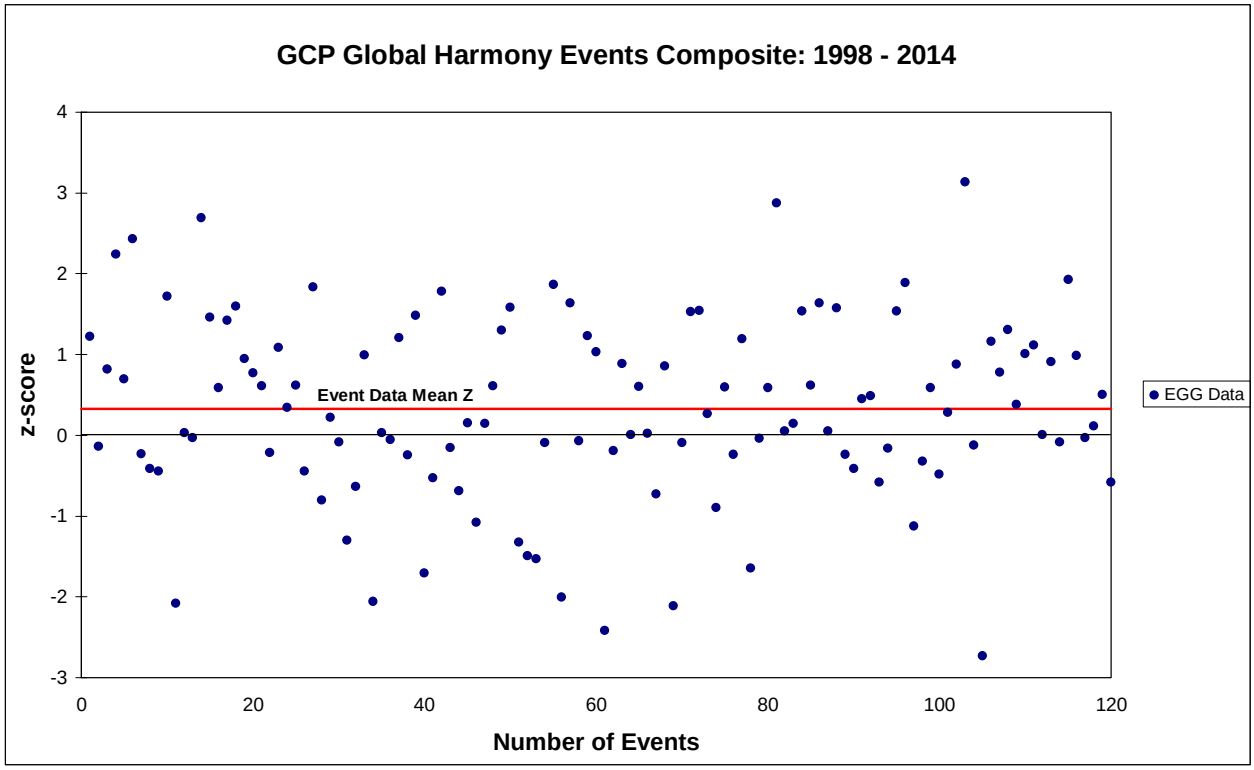

Figure 1. Scatterplot of the *z*-scores associated with each of the 120 individual events contained in the current GCP "global harmony" dataset. The red horizontal line at 0.328 indicates the mean *z* for the entire dataset.

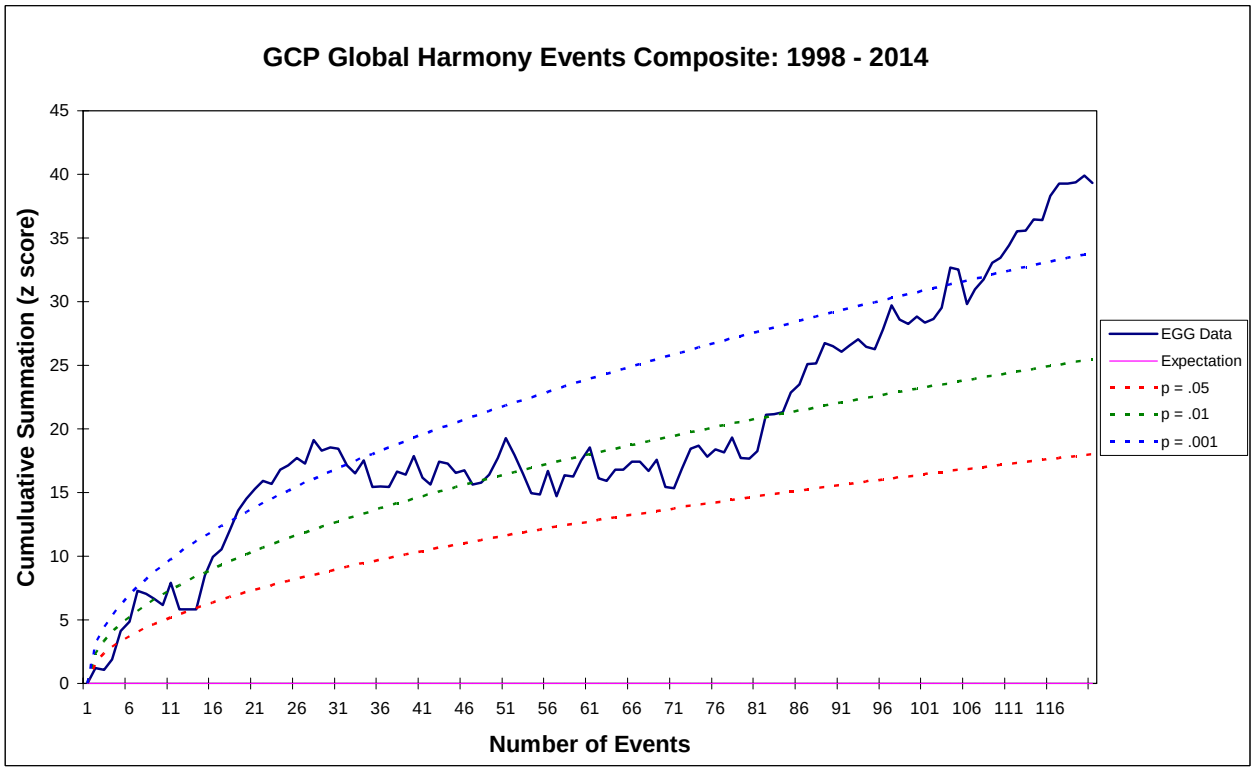

Figure 2. Cumulative chronological summation of the *z*-scores associated with the 120 events in the current GCP "global harmony" dataset. Thresholds for significance at .05, .01, & .001 are indicated by the curved dotted arcs.

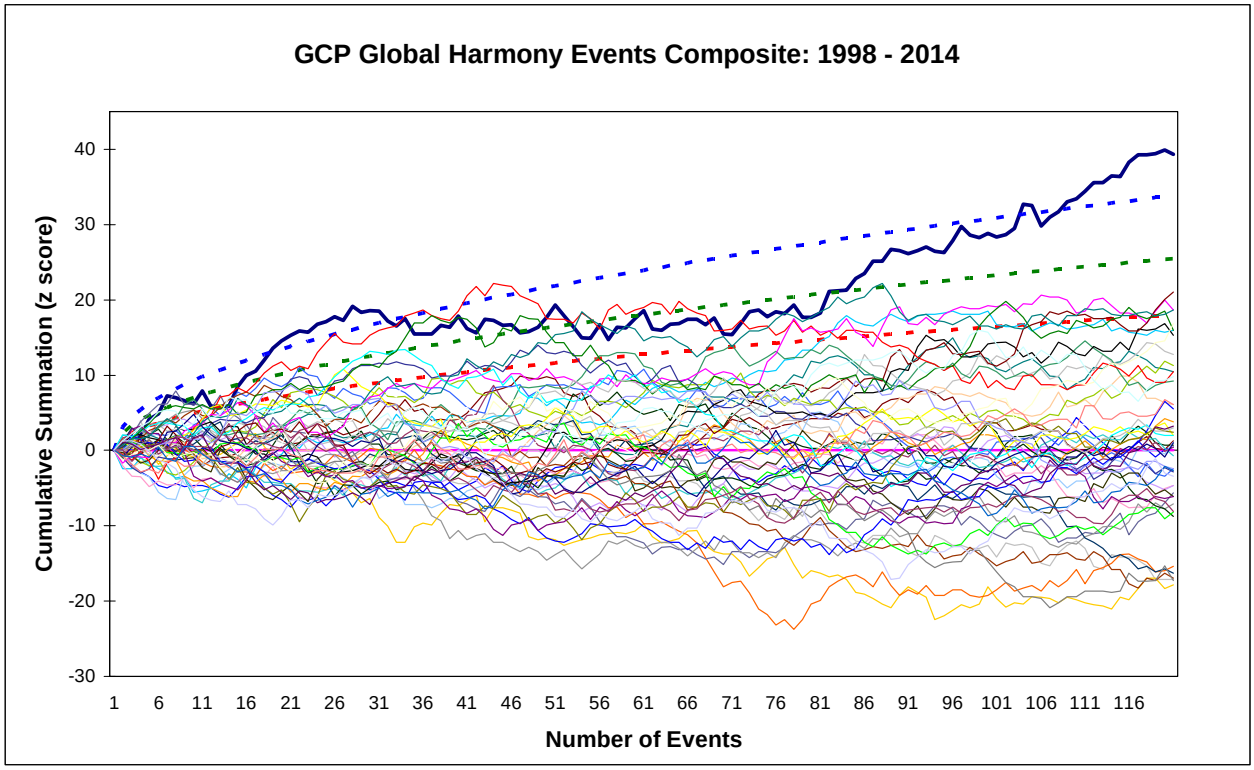

Figure 3. Cumulative summation of the actual event *z*-scores for the current "global harmony" dataset (as shown in Figure 2; bold blue line) compared against the cumulative summations of the simulated event *z*-scores for each of the 50 matching control "global harmony" datasets (thin colored lines). The legend is the same as that shown in Figure 2.

Figure 3 indicates that while several of the simulated control datasets do show some degree of deviation from randomness (as would be expected by chance fluctuations in random data), none of them show a steadily persistent and distinguishable positive trend like that exhibited by the actual "global harmony" dataset (the thick blue line).

Conclusion

Consistent with the finding obtained by Nelson (2001b) in his preliminary analysis of the initial 17-event "global harmony" dataset, the current dataset of 120 events continues to show a small but significant positive deviation away from nominal randomness. This result lends further support to the hypothesis that coordinated and focused human activity on a mass scale – of the type that tends to occur during events which promote the concept of "global harmony" (such as organized group meditations, mass prayer events, and public demonstrations in social activism for peace) – is correlated in some way with statistical changes in randomness in the output of the GCP's worldwide network of random number generators.

From a purely aesthetic perspective, a tentative interpretation of the significance of the "global harmony" dataset is that when people in many different countries come together in organized meditations, mass prayer circles, and active social engagements for peace, there is a subtle, yet considerable, effect in the physical world around us. If this notion has any merit, then the message it symbolically conveys is indeed a positive one for humanity, for it suggests that at

some fundamental level, there is a form of interconnection existing between human minds and physical matter which ties them as one. If that interconnection can be realized in the minds of people around the world, then perhaps the shared relations between humans, as well as their ties to the Earth, may be seen in a different light, and further realization may dawn on how terrible it would be to continue on paths which may eventually destroy them.

The late rock musician Robert Palmer once sang that "…it takes every kinda people to make what life's about…it takes every kinda people to make the world go 'round." If such a thing as a global consciousness exists, then perhaps on a subtle level, he may have been more right that he knew. And if further data continues to support the findings presented here, then the implications of this line of thinking could be quite revealing.

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Appendix Table 1: GCP Global Harmony Event Dataset: 1998 - 2014

Number	Event	z-score	p-value
1	Global Peace Vigil, Twyman - 981113	1.223	0.111
2	World Peace Prayer - 981210	-0.135	0.554
3	Praying for Peace, 31 days - 990403 to 990503	0.819	0.206
4	Billion Person Meditation - 991025	2.242	0.012
5	Just a Minute, 1-Min Epoch - 20000101	0.697	0.243
6	Papal Visit, Israel - 20000321 to 20000326	2.428	0.008
7	Great Experiment II - 20000423	-0.230	0.591
8	World Earth Healing Day 2000 - 20000504	-0.413	0.660
9	Peace Summit Religious Spirit - 20000828 to 20000831	-0.446	0.672
10	Group Mind Meditation - 20000924	1.720	0.043
11	Group Mind Meditation 2 - 20001022	-2.085	0.981
12	Group Mind Meditation 3 - 20001112	0.027	0.489
13	Group Mind Meditation 4 - 20001126	-0.028	0.511
14	Lovewave 010101 - 20010101	2.688	0.004
15	Kumbh Mela, India - 20010124	1.457	0.073
16	WorldPuja Webcast - 20010331	0.591	0.277
17	Johrei Ceremonies - 20010401	1.419	0.078
18	Earth Day 2001 - 20010422	1.595	0.055
19	Full Moon in Taurus (Meditation) - 20010507	0.948	0.172
20	World Peace Meditation - 20010520	0.773	0.220
21	World Earth Healing Day 2001 - 20010621	0.609	0.271
22	Buddhist Stupa Ceremony - 20010809 - 20010817	-0.213	0.584
23	Silent Prayer, Sept 14 - 20010914	1.087	0.139
24	MUM Peace Meditation - 20010923 - 20010927	0.345	0.365
25	Binding Spell on Bin Laden - 20011015	0.616	0.269
26	World-Wide Meditation - 20011111	-0.447	0.673
27	Ramadan Muslim Prayer - 20011116	1.836	0.033
28	WorldPuja Meditation - 20011116	-0.802	0.789
29	George Harrison Tribute (Meditation) - 20011203	0.222	0.412
30	Sri Lanka Peace Meditation - 20020315	-0.085	0.534
31	Indigo Peace Meditation - 20020420	-1.303	0.904
32	Summer Solstice 2002 (Meditation) - 20020621	-0.636	0.738
33	World Healing Day 2002 - 20020822	0.993	0.160
34	Korea's Birthday (World Earth-Human Festival) - 20021003	-2.060	0.980
35	Twyman in Baghdad - 20021012	0.032	0.487
36	Earthdance 2002 - 20021012	-0.056	0.522
37	Antiwar Protests, Jan 18 2003 - 20030118	1.207	0.114
38	Peace Meditations - 20030209	-0.244	0.596
39	Global Peace Demonstrations - 20030215	1.483	0.069
40	Lysistrata, Prayer, & Women - 20030303	-1.707	0.956
41	Gather the Women - 20030308	-0.532	0.703
42	Candlelight Vigil for Peace - 20030316	1.783	0.037
43	GE Prayer for Bush - 20030401	-0.155	0.562

44	Rainbow Gathering, 4th of July - 20030704	-0.693	0.756
45	Love & Peace to Water Day - 20030725	0.154	0.439
46	World Healing Day 2003 - 20030910	-1.082	0.860
47	Dalai Lama in NYC - 20030921	0.145	0.442
48	Harmonic Concordance - 20031109	0.612	0.270
49	60 Seconds for Peace - 20031227	1.303	0.096
50	Anti-Terror Demonstrations in Spain - 20040312	1.582	0.057
51	Global Day of Peace - 20040320	-1.324	0.907
52	Earthdance 2004 - 20040919	-1.490	0.932
53	International Peace Vigil (& Hurricane Jeanne) - 20040921	-1.533	0.937
54	Siyum Daf Yomi - 20050301	-0.091	0.536
55	Oraworld Resonance - 20050423	1.866	0.031
56	Live 8 Concert - 20050702	-2.003	0.977
57	End the War Rally - 20050924	1.638	0.051
58	Planetary Play Day - 20060401	-0.070	0.528
59	Earth Day 2006 - 20060422	1.227	0.110
60	Avebury Global Meditations, July 22 2006 - 20060722	1.033	0.151
61	TM Resonance Aggregation - 20060729 - 20060909	-2.416	0.992
62	Oraworld Reconciliation - 20061002	-0.194	0.577
63	Native American Ceremony to Honor Earth - 20061006	0.883	0.189
64	Global Deeksha - 20061123	0.006	0.498
65	Global Orgasm for Peace - 20061222	0.604	0.273
66	World Sound Healing Day - 20070214	0.019	0.492
67	Earth Hour, Sydney - 20070331	-0.729	0.767
68	World Tai Chi & Chigong Day 20070428	0.855	0.196
69	Global Peace Day - 20070520	-2.113	0.983
70	Live Earth - 20070707	-0.095	0.538
71	Fire the Grid - 20070717	1.528	0.063
72	Burning Man 2007 - 20070902	1.541	0.062
73	Global OM - 20070915	0.265	0.396
74	International Day of Peace - 20070921	-0.897	0.815
75	Earthday 2008 - 20080422	0.595	0.276
76	World Laughter Day - 20080504	-0.242	0.596
77	World Meditation, Budapest - 20080816	1.194	0.116
78	Peace Intention Experiment - 20080904	-1.645	0.950
79	International Day of Peace - 20080921	-0.043	0.517
80	Third Annual Global Orgasm for Peace - 20081221	0.590	0.278
81	Valentine Meditations - 20090214	2.878	0.002
82	Earthday 2009 - 20090422	0.052	0.479
83	Live H2O Celebration - 20090621	0.145	0.442
84	Wansdyke Path 2009 - 20090725	1.537	0.062
85	Fire the Grid II - 20090728	0.619	0.268
86	International Day of Peace - 20090921	1.637	0.051
87	Action 350 for Climate - 20091024	0.052	0.479
88	Kumbh Mela 2010 - 20100414	1.578	0.057
89	Earthday 2010 - 20100422	-0.237	0.594
90	World Shift Day - 20100516	-0.415	0.661
91	Conscious Convergence - 20100717	0.447	0.327
92	Billion Beats - 20100918	0.486	0.313
93	International Peace Day - 20100921	-0.580	0.719

94	10/10/10 Celebrations - 20101010	-0.161	0.564
95	World Forum of Spiritual Culture, 2010 - 20101013	1.535	0.062
96	10/11/11 Meditation - 20101111	1.892	0.029
97	Good Earth Singers - 20101224	-1.126	0.870
98	Women's Day 2011 - 20110308	-0.326	0.628
99	Do As One Global Breathing Meditation - 20110309	0.586	0.279
100	Water Meditation - 20110331	-0.485	0.686
101	Earthday 2011 - 20110422	0.282	0.389
102	Rain in Tunisia (Blue Jewel) - 20110814	0.878	0.190
103	International Day of Peace 2011 - 20110921	3.136	0.001
104	11/11/11 Meditations - 20111111	-0.124	0.549
105	Do As One Day 2012 - 20120310	-2.730	0.997
106	Climate Impact Day - 20120505	1.165	0.122
107	Burning Man 2012 - 20120901	0.783	0.217
108	International Day of Peace - 20120921	1.308	0.095
109	Mastershift Meditations - 20121212	0.378	0.353
110	End of Mayan Calendar - 20121221	1.008	0.157
111	Kumbh Mela 2013 - 20130210	1.116	0.132
112	V-Day & Toning on Valentine's Day - 20130214	0.005	0.498
113	Night of Hopes - 20130516	0.907	0.182
114	Global Meditation Movement - 20130623	-0.083	0.533
115	Global Meditation, August 25, 2013 - 20130825	1.924	0.027
116	Burning Man 2013 - 20130831	0.986	0.162
117	Peace Day 2013 - 20130921	-0.028	0.511
118	Conscious Evolution Conference - 20131012	0.113	0.455
119	Portal Activation - 20131123	0.503	0.307
120	Valentine's Day 2014 (V-Day, Sound Healing) - 20140214	-0.579	0.719
	Stouffer's *Z*	**3.588**	**.000167**
	Mean *z*	**0.328**	