

聖智覺學苑 **Welcome to 1.5**

Academy of Wisdom & Enlightenment (AWE)

## **Lecture Series #1**

**A Matter of Life and Death**

**Lecture 1.5 Opportunity lost  
due to lack of Critical Thinking**

# Lecture Series #1: A Matter of Life and Death

1.1. Welcome

1.2. Consciousness Independent of the Brain

Dr. Bruce Greyson [www.youtube.com/watch?v=en-3Bz1RMig](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=en-3Bz1RMig)

1.3. Lessons learnt from 1.2

1.4. Death Is Not Final - Debate

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0YtL5eiBYw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0YtL5eiBYw)

## **Lecture 1.5 Critical Thinking, Argument and logical fallacy**

# Death Is Not Final - Debate

## **For the motion:**

Dr. Eben Alexander – academic neurosurgeon, Harvard Medical School, personal NDE 2008

Dr. Raymond Moody – Medical psychiatrist, doctorate in philosophy; “founder of NDE studies”; 1975 “Life After Life” book sold over 13 million copies

## **Against the motion:**

Dr. Sean Carroll – Physics professor, California Institute of Technology

Dr. Steven Novella – Neurology professor, Yale School of Medicine

# Learning Objectives 1.4

1. How come the losing side lost?
2. Who committed the logical fallacy of “moving the goal post” but the entire audience bought his powerful fallacy?

# Learning Objectives 1.4

1. How come the losing side lost?  
**Reflect & strategize how to move forward**

|                           | Before | After | Change |
|---------------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| <b>For</b> the motion     | 42%    | 37%   | -5%    |
| <b>Against</b> the motion | 31%    | 46%   | +15%   |
| Undecided                 | 32%    | 12%   | +20%   |

# How come the losing side lost?

1. Audience seems to lack knowledge of critical thinking, falling for rhetoric and logical fallacies
2. The against side has good rhetorical argumentative skills, lump NDE stories with UFO, big-foot, psychic
3. Dr. Alexander over-emphasized his person NDE, failed to cite supporting evidences outside NDE speciality
4. NDE can be easily discredited as possible artifact of oxygen-deprived mental garbage. SDE rebuttal was not forceful enough.
5. Philosophical language lost the audience, failed to cite systemic NDE studies worldwide, Greyson Scale, etc.
6. Audience lack clear definition of “science”

# How come the losing side lost?

1. Audience seems to lack knowledge of **critical thinking**, falling for rhetoric and **logical fallacies**
2. The against side has good rhetoric argumentative skills, strong body language, project confidence
3. Dr. Alexander over-emphasized his person NDE, failed to cite supporting evidences outside NDE speciality
4. NDE can be easily discredited as possible artifact of oxygen-deprived mental garbage. SDE rebuttal was not forceful enough.
5. Philosophical language lost the audience, failed to cite systemic NDE studies worldwide, Greyson Scale, etc.

# Who committed “moving the goal post” fallacy but the entire audience bought it

1. Dr. Sean Carroll: “... if there's a ghost in the room that could lift up that glass (of water in front of him) right now, then I would be convinced... For those listening on the radio, the glass is not moving ”  
[audience big laughter and applause]
2. Dr. Steven Novella keep saying that the NDE cases has no control scientific studies (i.e., MRI, PET scan, or EEG 19:40:15) [*paraphrase*] “Why don’t NDE people bring back the cure for Alzheimer disease?”

Audience lack clear definition of “science” thus falls for the rhetoric

# “Moving the goal post” logical fallacy

Change the criterion (**goal**) of a competition while still in progress to gain an unfair advantage



# Logical Fallacy and Cognitive Biases

22 common fallacies – *Paul Stearns*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUO2asxV-J0>

171 Cognitive Biases e.g. Pareidolia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_cognitive\\_biases](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_cognitive_biases)



# Dr. Moody's opening statement

I think that we are on the brink of a breakthrough in rational study of an afterlife, but it's not going to come initially from science, but initially from the realms of **logic and critical thinking.** 32:15-33:13

# Definition of Critical Thinking

What is critical thinking – *Paul Stearns*  
(teachphilosophy)

A set of intellectual skills and psychological habits to solve problems, discover truths and communicate clearly.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oAf3g5> 138<sup>12</sup>

# 5 Essential Components of Critical Thinking

- 1) Logic
- 2) argumentation
- 3) rhetoric
- 4) background knowledge
- 5) attitudes and values

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOYgTrCdve4&index=13&list=PLCD69C3C29B645CBC>

– *Kevin deLaplante* (Critical Thinker Academy)<sub>13</sub>

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# How come the losing side lost?

Dr. Moody quoted David Hume (1711-1776) (1:17:38) “Some **new species of logic** is requisite for that purpose; and some **new faculties of the mind**, which may enable us to comprehend that logic.” (1:17:52)

ESSAY II. On the Immortality of the Soul

<http://www.davidhume.org/texts/suis.html> Last sentence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> last paragraph (Mil 598, IS44)

# AWE Answers to David Hume

**The new species of logic is**  
**Non-duality** thinking or  
dualistic thinking mode

**The new faculties of the**  
**mind** is called how to open the  
mind to **continuum** concept

# Human Consciousness Independent of the Brain

## **Six** different lines of **Scientific** Evidences

### *Unequivocal Interpretations:*

1. Near Death Experience (NDE)
2. Shared Death Experience (SDE)
3. Regressive Hypnosis
4. Rebirth

### *Empirical Observations:*

5. Minimal brain
6. Terminal lucidity

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