

# LCLI BRIEFING 2021-JAN.

## 2021 - The Way Ahead



*It would not be stupid to feel we are still in 2020b, struggling with the after-effects of a troubling year, the global crisis far from over. Each of us, I suspect, knows of people, maybe ourselves or someone close to us, hard hit by both the pandemic and economic loss. Not easy times to think about what 'causes life'. But perhaps even more important. These are some of the developments within LCLI circles ....*

### LCLI LinkedIn account

Thanks to Carla Alvarado, we now have a LinkedIn account that allows for a more controlled interaction among our Fellows and quicker links to our and other congruent sites. Do join, at:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9017181/>

### 'Flip to Life' - Our YouTube Channel

Two new videos are available, one a short clip on 'deep accountability' by Jim Cochrane, the other a rich and provocative discussion with Paul Laurienti, our 'resident neuroscientist,' about LCL and complexity science (see separate box). To see them, go to our YouTube channel at:

[LCL/PD 'Flip to Life'](#)

### Complexity Science and Assessing or 'Measuring' LCL

LCLI Fellow Paul Laurienti is not only a passionate neuroscientist leading a first-rate research team at Wake Forest Medical School, but also a great communicator who helps laypeople quickly cut through the potential mystification of the brain to understand what can and, perhaps, cannot be known about it and our mind.

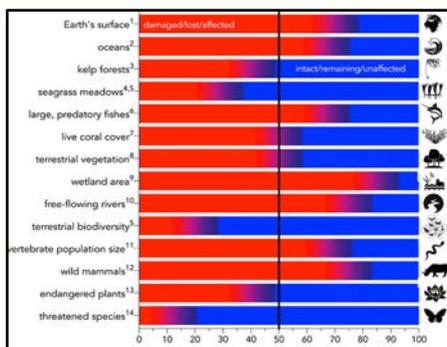
As we move more and more into trying to understand how and what we can measure or assess in LCL and its 'five causes of life', we cannot avoid taking into account complexity science. Life is just that: complex - and not just in any colloquial sense.

We posed the question to Paul. With his consummate passion on full display, he describes very accessibly, even for any who have no background in science, why the extraordinary capacities humans have for assessing 'quality' tends to elude any and all measures that are intrinsically based on some notion of 'quantity'. The implications are radical.

The discussion is now available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMMm7ZL1tjk> [28 mins]

### Bonus Item

### "UNDERESTIMATING THE CHALLENGES OF AVOIDING A GHASTLY FUTURE"



Usually items that warn about what might harm us is not our focus in LCL, though it's never meant as 'happy talk' as if the dangers and challenges we face don't exist. This is an exception to the rule. It is serious and significant enough to flag, assuming you might well *not* have come across this report from 17 leading climate scientists (with links to every source it cites):

*"We have summarized predictions of a ghastly future of mass extinction, declining health, and climate-disruption upheavals (including looming massive migrations) and resource conflicts this century. Yet, our goal is not to present a fatalist perspective, because there are many examples of successful interventions to prevent*

*extinctions, restore ecosystems, and encourage more sustainable economic activity at both local and regional scales. Instead, we contend that only a realistic appreciation of the colossal challenges facing the international community might allow it to chart a less-ravaged future."*

For more [click here](#).