

Cults 2.0:

The emotional origin of diseases

They tell me “You are a destroyer”. My answer is “I am the only person who is fighting for your life, because all you’re doing [your medical treatment] is wasting time”. At the end, people die from stress and exhaustion, tired of fighting. Tired of seeking solutions through their mind and not listening to their hearts. “Good people always die”, they say. And I tell them, “No – assholes do”.

Enric Corbera in his talk “Total Consciousness [Conciencia Total]”

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English version revised by Nigel Bax.

1. Introduction

This work aims to underline the erroneous and anti scientific features of the movement known as bioneuroemotion or BNE, and of other trends that blame emotional conflicts for diseases. We will denounce their alarming rise in our society and we will warn of their drift towards sectarian-like organisations. This is an abridgement of a lengthy dossier that gathers multiple annexes and additional data with testimonies of victims and other people involved. That dossier has been written by Luis R. González, Marisa Marquina and Juan A. Rodríguez under the supervision of the author.

2. Origins of bioneuroemotion. Components

BNE assembles several pseudotherapies with a twisted vision and practice of what are usually valid tools and knowledge. Its principal components are German New Medicine, Biodecoding, the book A Course in Miracles, Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP), Family Constellations and Ericksonian Hypnosis².

2.1. German New Medicine (GNM)

The story of this infamous cancer pseudotherapy created by the former German doctor Ryke Geerd Hamer is a well-known one³. Hamer described his laws in a documentary broadcast by a Bavarian TV channel on 4th of October, 1981. In that same month, Hamer presented his thesis for his PhD, *Das Hamer Syndrom un die eiserne Regel des*

Krebses (“Hamer Syndrome and the Iron Rule of Cancer”), which was rejected unanimously in the University of Tübingen for its lack of quality and scientific evidence, two characteristics that will define Hamer’s career together with the death of his patients.

His wife, the first patient that was treated with GNM, died of cancer in 1985. In 1986 he was permanently banned from practice in Germany. In 1995 the case of the child Olivia Philar broke out and her parents were sentenced to eight months in prison for following Hamer’s instructions and almost causing the death of the child, who was saved by the intervention of the authorities. This case revealed forty other cases of patients who had died in Austria because of the GNM. In Germany, Hamer was sentenced to 19 months in prison for the death of three cancer patients.

In 2000, since he was being pursued by the authorities in his own country, he fled to Spain. There he appeared on several TV shows. Ana Pena, one of his patients in Spain who also appeared on some of the shows claiming her cancer had been healed by Hamer, died of that disease three years later. In 2011 he was sentenced in his absence to 18 months in prison for the death of three cancer patients. The case of Michaela Jakubczyk-Eckert is particularly scandalous, as the entire progress of the disease that led her to her death was graphically documented with a chronicle of her suffering⁴.

He was still accumulating cases and in 2007 he fled Spain and moved to Norway, a country from which it

would be harder to request his extradition since it is not a member of the European Union. He is also banned from practice there, but he still works at the made-up University of Sandefjord, which is actually a company that belongs to him and in which he is the “dean”, teaches and sells books and materials related to NGM⁵. Among these, there is what he calls his “second great discovery”, a song composed for his wife that relates to the “Archaic melodies” of German mythology. Hamer claims that listening to it cures diseases. The CD sells for €50. However, Hamer’s biggest achievement has been the legalisation of the GNM in Nicaragua in 2012⁶.

This pseudo medicine is based on several “laws”⁷:

1. The Iron Rule: Serious diseases originate from an internal, unexpected event, experienced in solitude, a “biological conflict” that triggers a focus of activity in the brain that can be detected on a scan as concentric rings (“Hamer Focus”). This is called the DHS or Dirk Hamer Syndrome.

2. Two phased nature of disease: A sick person is in the active conflict phase; if they resolve it, they will enter the healing phase. The DHS shock triggers the start of a Special Meaningful Biological Programme that allows the organism (psyche, brain and organ) to increase daily performance and focus on fighting the unexpected situation.

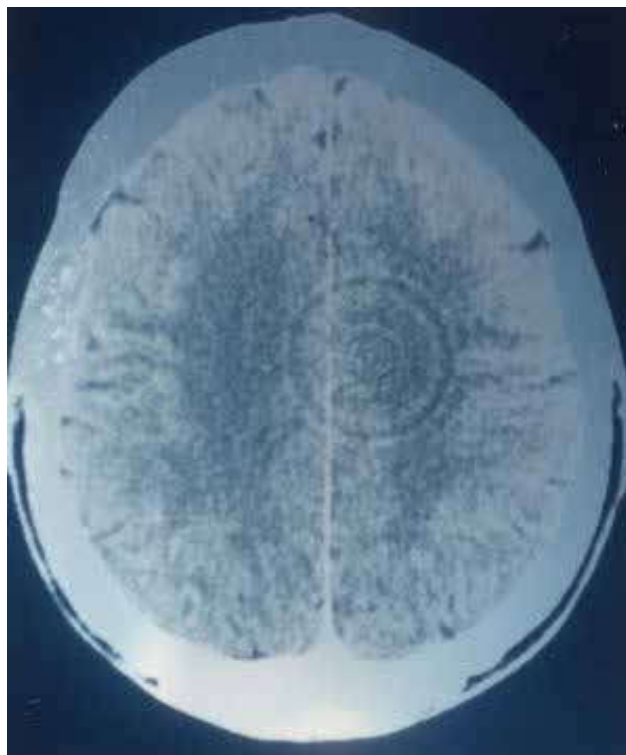
3. Ontogenetic system of diseases: Second and third cancers are not the result of migrating cancer cells but of a second or third DHS, often triggered by a new shock during the diagnosis or prognosis.

4. Ontogenetic system of microbes: Microbes do not cause diseases, instead, they are used by the body to optimise the healing process. During the resolution of a conflict, a brain signal makes them work on the assigned task –causing inflammation, a phase that precedes healing.

5. Quintessence: Each disease is a meaningful special biological programme. Every disease has a special biological meaning. Reality is an intertwined whole in which a disease is triggered by a conflict, which we need to resolve to grow spiritually, from the holistic perspective of a human universe of beings that reincarnate to learn lessons and free karma.

These are some of the many mistakes and contradictions of the GNM:

- “Hamer focuses” are nothing but artefacts, calibration errors of CAT scans. They are always round and they go through several brain structures, hemispheres and even cranial bones. In addition, they are not detected with any other



Hamer focus (photo:<http://biomagnetismopao.blogspot.com.es/2011/12/tumores-y-cancer-focos-de-hamer.html>)

techniques, such as magnetic resonance imaging. For its part Siemens, the manufacturer of these scanners, provides guidance on how to identify whether these types of images are mistakes or not, which is used by Hamer’s followers as proof of their existence⁸.

- Inexistence of brain cancer, which is clearly wrong in the light of what modern medicine has proven by recognising a wide variety of them.

- Denial of cancers with a genetic origin, instead caused by carcinogenic substances or caused by ionizing radiation, despite all the scientific evidence. GNM does not have an explanation for all the thoroughly documented cases of transmissible cancer among animals. With respect to carcinogenic substances, such as tobacco, GNM blames the anxiety caused by learning the dangers they pose for the cancers.

- Denial of the impact on cancer of environmental factors such as diet, since GNM uses personal conflicts as an explanation for everything. GNM also denies the widely

BNE assembles several pseudotherapies with a twisted vision and practice of what are usually valid tools and knowledge.

proven and documented metastasis of cancer cells via blood and other fluids.

- Hamer claims that conventional medicine barely cures 2% of cancers, which contradicts available data. These data shows that what determines cancer incidence and survival are sanitary conditions, prevention and technical means together with factors such as diet, and not hypothetical personal conflicts and their resolution.

- The critical point of all this is that GNM advocates the abandonment of conventional treatment (surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy) and palliative treatment (painkillers) to “prevent them from interfering” in the healing process⁹, which leads its victims to a miserable death. Today, Hamer’s ideas are making a come-back on several fronts: former followers still employ them in clinical practice¹⁰, they are being spread on social networking sites, and emerging pseudo therapies such as bioneuroemotion are incorporating them to their practice.

2.2. Biodecoding or biological Decoding (DBO)

It is one of the ramifications of Hamer’s school of thought. Claude Sabbah (Casablanca, 1947), disciple of Hamer and a qualified doctor in France, started investigating the supposed experiences endured by patients at the moment of their birth and how their parents lived through pregnancy and even before conception. This is what he calls “psychogenealogy” or “biogenealogy”. By incorporating several pseudo sciences, such as Hamer’s GNM, into his own ideas he defined the theoretical corpus of his invention, the “Total Biology (of Living Beings)”, whose practice is biodecoding.

He was banned from practice in France in 2007¹¹ because of the death of a follower who had been diagnosed with prostate cancer and he fled to Canada to pursue his career¹². In November, 2015, he was sentenced to two months in prison and to pay a substantial fine for the death of a patient and for misleading advertising¹³.

Nurse Christian Flèche¹⁴ is another major activist for this movement, creator of the “Biodecoding method”, which directly connects emotions, organs and diseases such that diagnosing which emotion belongs to which disease depending on the body part affected becomes –supposedly– possible.

Its main precept is the emotional cause that is traceable for every disease. That emotion is always associated to a corporal feeling that comes from an old trauma or bioshock. Human beings tend to repeat that bioshock to get over it and free themselves from trauma. Almost every trauma is generated during pregnancy or childhood and they are engraved on the emotional unconscious and not the rational one. The aim of this therapy is to free the energy caused by the bioshock, trapped inside of ourselves, to heal ourselves.

In Spain, biodecoding is associated with the people who introduced it there, Enric Corbera and Rafael Marañón¹⁵, and also with Monserrat Batlló, teaching director of the Spanish Institute for Bioneuroemotion¹⁶. Actually, bioneuroemotion is just the name Corbera has given to biodecoding after he managed to implement it in a Cuban university¹⁷, which meant facing a plagiarism lawsuit from Christian Flèche¹⁸ that Corbera appealed against¹⁹.



Claude Sabbah, the founder of Biodecoding
(photo: <http://biologiatotal-claudesabbah.blogspot.com.es/>)

2.3. *A Course in Miracles*

Helen Cohn Schucman (1909-1981) was a psychologist from New York and a professor at Columbia University. She is best known for her book (written together with William Thetford) *A Course in Miracles* (1975), which was supposedly revealed by Jesus Christ and which has been associated with several cults that use it to psychologically destabilize²⁰ and with a secret plan during the Cold War²¹. The truth is that the book is a series of contradictions and absurdities together with direct and repetitive claims. By way of example, we will quote the following excerpts:

Lesson 356

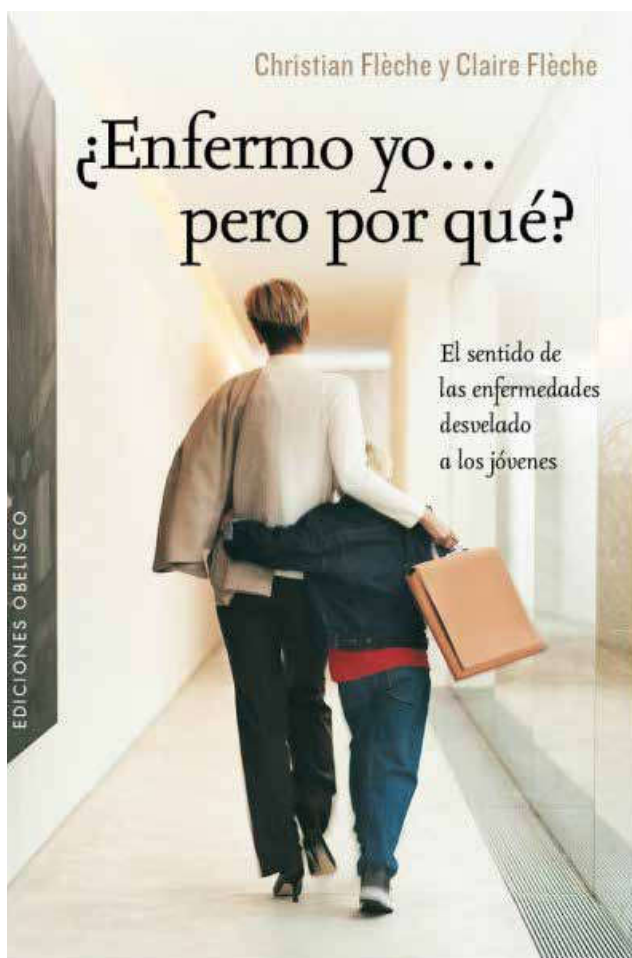
Sickness is but another name for sin. Healing is but another name for God. The miracle is thus a call to Him.

II. The Shift in Perception

1. *Healing must occur in exact proportion to which the valuelessness of sickness is recognized. One need but say, “There is no gain at all to me in this” and he is healed.*

2. *The acceptance of sickness as a decision of the mind, for a purpose for which it would use the body, is the basis of healing. And this is so for healing in all forms. A patient decides that this is so, and he recovers. If he decides against recovery, he will not be healed. Who is the physician? Only the mind of the patient himself. The outcome is what he decides it is.*

III. The Function of the Teacher of God



1. If the patient must change his mind in order to be healed, what does the teacher of God do? Can he change the patient's mind for him? Certainly not. For those already willing to change their minds he has no function except to rejoice with them, for they have become teachers of God with him. He has, however, a more specific function for those who do not understand what healing is. These patients do not realize they have chosen sickness.

6. Is Healing Certain?

1. Healing is always certain. Yet what if the patient uses sickness as a way of life, believing healing is the way to

death? When this is so, a sudden healing might precipitate intense depression, and a sense of loss so deep that the patient might even try to destroy himself. Having nothing to live for, he may ask for death. Healing must wait, for his protection.

Should healing be repeated?

One of the most difficult temptations to recognize is that to doubt a healing because of the appearance of continuing symptoms is a mistake in the form of a lack of trust. As such it is an attack.

The real basis for doubt about the outcome of any problem that has been given to the Teacher of God for resolution is always self-doubt.

Bioneuroemotion includes this book in its school of thought², since it promotes that everyone can create their own reality²² and that every disease is imaginary and, thus, curable, regardless of what conventional medicine says.

2.4. NLP, Family Constellations and Ericksonian Hypnosis

Despite the fact that these tools are widely used in psychology, they are not without controversy. They are easily distorted and lack a scientifically sound basis which they flaunt various ways²³, making them a part of the repertoire of many pseudotherapists, who use them to bulk their curricula and strengthen their authoritative image.

There are several examples of the use of these tools in Bioneuroemotion. For instance, NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming) is used to weaken their followers' language by preventing them from asking *why*, *what*, *when* or *how* questions. It also modifies everyday concepts when it refers to reasoning as "doing things from your ego", instead of allowing yourself to be driven by emotions, as they prefer. The confusion when talking about *fault* and *responsibility*, created by changing the meaning of the former for the meaning of the latter –and never removing the *fault* connotations from the latter, is another example of language tampering²⁴.

Bioneuroemotion uses Bert Hellinger's family constellations to blame dead relatives or ancestors for the emotional origin of the disease that cannot be explained with the patient's own information. If necessary, it will just make it up. In an article about the gruesome origin and bases of this pseudoscience, its philosophy is explained in the following manner²⁵:

The basic idea is that non-solved conflicts of our an-

DBO connects emotions, organs and diseases such that diagnosing which emotion belongs to which disease depending on the body part affected becomes —supposedly— possible.

cestors are passed down from generation to generation, creating problems that are somatised now in the form of disorders and diseases. To solve and understand these problems, we would have to carry out a series of dynamics and exercises –which normally involve role play or staging with figures or cards– to represent our family and several generations of ancestors. This way, the problem affecting us would be detected. The problem –for example, an abortion our grandmother had or a mourning period which was tough for our uncle– is the one that is causing trouble in our marriage, our depression or even that we have a tumor, and that it could be solved with a little more drama and serious faces.

They try to base this idea on the tribal organization of human groups during the Palaeolithic era. [...] This is the “state of nature”. A happy moment in which everyone had their own spot and there were no conflicts. Supposedly, in this historic moment human groups were completely isolated one from another –which contradicts archaeological evidence that proves the existence of great Palaeolithic cultures, until the beginning of the terrible Neolithic era. During this era, groups got together, cities emerged, and discord, wanting more and individualism were born. Thus the state of nature is broken and tragedy begins.

Family constellations haven't been without controversy and legal problems. Hellinger [their guru] is known in Germany for exonerating Hitler [...]. After all, the success of family constellations is based on the complete release from responsibilities of the individual: nobody is at fault for their problems. Do you have lung cancer? It is not because you smoke outrageously, it is because your grandparents had an unpleasant separation[...]. Hellinger's stance is that Hitler was not a bad person, but a victim of his family constellation.

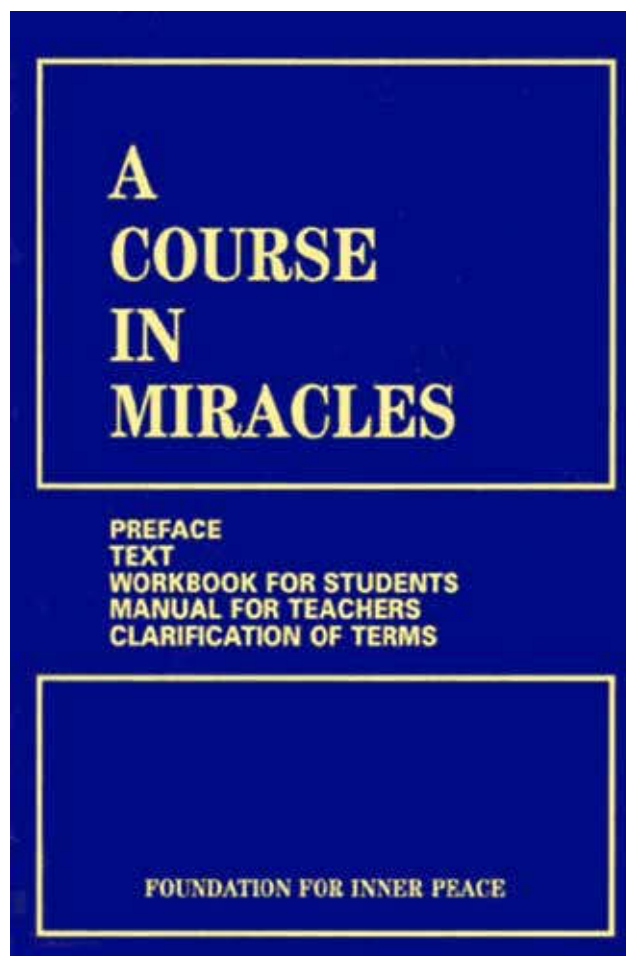
Family constellations consider homosexuality as a disease caused by an unsolved problem in the family [...]. Another main problem of this pseudo therapy is the enormous amount of misogyny and sexism it contains. In counselling for couples with family constellations, it is always the woman who is doing everything wrong.

It reaches such an extreme extent that dealing with rape in therapy involves a role play in which someone portrays the rapist. The woman who has been abused has to kneel before him, thank him for living that experience with him, and say she is sorry for blaming him.

One can count by the thousands the people who have felt abused by the performances of family constellations because they have been talked into doing things that threatened their dignity. There is a great amount of court rulings, especially in Germany, where they are taking all this very seriously. There are even documented cases of suicide thanks to the total lack of medical experience of the people who toy with the minds and problems of people in such a way.

Corbera takes it one step further when it comes to distorting this tool, and he proposes a “quantum explanation” of the family constellations, by which “it won't be even necessary to have your family tree” to find the origin of your problem²⁶.

With respect to Ericksonian Hypnosis to “provoke re-



gressions”, there is a well-known problem that this method entails: fake memories may be introduced by the therapist, who can implant non-existent family conflicts in their client's mind^{23, 27}.

3. Bioneuroemotion and science

BNE tries constantly to give itself a patina of science. However, a superficial analysis clearly reveals its shortcomings (if not embarrassing mistakes or outright fallacies and lies), even for a high school level of knowledge. It is included in the so called quantum mysticism²⁸.

It is interesting, in this respect, to read the informal criticism Marta Segurola wrote to expose this issue²⁹. It clearly manifests that Corbera is not able to handle even the most basic concepts of fundamental physics. Even though not all his referents are frauds, the ones that are not (as Gabor, Einstein and Carl Sagan) are skewed to shape their work to the content he is interested to show.

Broadly speaking, bioneuroemotion tries to underpin itself “scientifically” using two elements as a foundation: quantum physics and epigenetics. Regarding Corbera's “quantum” proposals, some examples are worth seeing³⁰ (see also Annex 1 to document Note 1):

Physics, when it comes to quantum physics, when it speaks about the observer; when it says that what we observe depends on us and has an impact, this is of great



Bert Hellinger, the founder of the Family Constellations pseudotherapy (photo: Wikimedia Commons)

relevance and of great importance (...). Everything is holographic. In the tree, when we study the tree, if I have the person and I know what happens to him/her, I am able to know where it comes from. Moreover, today I am developing the tree's quantum vision and I don't even need the dates. I don't need anything.

He does no better when it comes to epigenetics. Although he believes he understands the concept of methylation and its complexity, he minimizes it to a ridiculous nonsense pretending that any thought, any emotion, any conflict can alter the genome³¹:

I don't know if you know that science has proved that we inherit from our ancestors' their programs, and it is called

behavioural epigenetics. If you google behavioural epigenetics it's explained there, and you'll find stuff like "and we inherit our grandparents' programs".

In other words: If my grandmother died due to a medical error taking the wrong drug, the grandchild may be allergic to this drug. And science proves that.

(...) I am going to give you an example. The experiment was as follows:

There were a few good rat mothers and a few bad rat mothers. Here we go again with mothers, huh? (...) The good rat mothers differ from bad rat mothers in that good mothers lick their mice and bad mothers don't. They look at the bad mothers' genetic code and realize that they are highly methylated.

Therefore, when there is no warmth, when there is no genuine affection, no real emotions, when what is done isn't done from the heart, there's methylation.

Then they took the rats who hadn't been licked and they placed them along with the good rat mothers, these began to lick them and demethylation occurred in the little mice. This is a great discovery because it shows that if there is an emotional change it triggers an epigenetic change. For us this is very important because we know that when a person forgives, when a person understands, when a person is released from guilt, that person heals. And healing occurs because of this: the person is demethylated.

On its website, BNE shows three studies³² as "evidence" which are published in a Cuban low-impact journal. These offer, in the best-case scenario, creaky support when compared to statements such as the alleged spontaneous remission of a breast cancer case when this practice was being applied. Moreover, a statement made without the underpinning of adequate monitoring or a comparison with life expectancy without treatment for these tumours.

4. Bioneuroemotion and medicine

Before undertaking this section, it's essential to read it while bearing in mind that, given that it is a movement with sectarian risk because of its high coercive content and psychological manipulation, we are handling information that often contains double-speak.

The first thing to consider is that many people run into BNE when searching for information on the internet about a particular disease, which is suffered by them or someone close. Many of these people, due to whatever reason, fear or distrust medicine, and BNE offers an escape route by presenting itself as a safe method by which, through in-

Sickness is but another name for sin. Healing is but another name for God (from A Course in Miracles).



Session of the Constellations pseudotherapy (photo: Wikimedia Commons)

ner healing (psychological), promises an outer healing (physical health). They argue, therefore, that BNE does not cure anything, that “one heals oneself”; that is integrative, meaning that it can be applied along with medicine; that it is not actually a therapy but a “method of humanist consultation”. People fleeing from medicine find in the testimonies of those who have been healed “miraculously” of terminal cancer, diabetes, fibromyalgia, etc., the final push to say goodbye to medicine, with disastrous consequences in many cases.

Although they make explicit that it is not a therapy (more by legal imperative than conviction), it is often presented as such, even by the “scientific studies” that supposedly would endorse it³². In one of those “scientific publications”³³ we see the aforementioned example of “BioNeuroEmotion applied to a case of breast cancer” in which, supposedly, a 47 year old woman with breast cancer (invasive ductal carcinoma in right breast), who rejects surgical treatment, applies bioneuroemotion with the result of spontaneous remission and survival after three years. This news highlights that bioneuroemotion is a therapeutic method, and in its previous discussions on the methodology of biodecoding (homologous to BNE), insists on the same idea³⁵.

Since BNE contemplates an emotional origin for every disease, they require a “dictionary” to make the symptom-emotion conversion. One of the first of Corbera’s “dictionaries” was *The symptom’s secret code*, and some sites have tried to imitate this concept³⁵.

Another instance of this double-speak is the book *Heal-*

ing through a course of miracles. They can’t make it any clearer, despite any disclaimer they add expecting people not to retain it, when it comes to showing BNE as a therapy. It’s as easy as doing the test on Google, looking for “bioneuroemotion therapeutic method”. The “feel” of the answers and their followers is evident. Regardless, what really does lie behind it? Let’s take a look at some extracts that will enlighten us about it³⁶:

I’ll give you an up-to-date example. Patient: Mary (there are many Marys). 50 year old woman. Cancer since 1996.

Her first cancer is an invasive ductal cancer. Therefore, we know that is a lack of protection conflict, or preferably, I live in a relationship in which I think I’m not protected. They treated the invasive ductal cancer, and after a few years, in 2000, she got bone cancer. Bone cancer is always “if this one is not to blame, then it’s my fault”. And I underestimate myself. A person with osteoarticular problems is a person who always recriminates herself. And tricks [cancer]. 2004: liver cancer. Liver cancer doesn’t leave. Then a bone marrow transplant is done and tumours leave. That’s great [much irony in his voice]. Fantastic. Bone marrow transplants work really well. They work well until they don’t, because then the lady repeats the conflict again and the tumours grow back. And since 2004, 2005 and 2006 until the present day, she comes to me and says: “I think you’re the last chance”... and I say, “Oh, what’s going on?” She says: “They expect I’ll die in a few weeks. I was in palliative care and they told me ‘there’s nothing else we can do’ ...Then I said, “show me your family tree because

there's a brutal lovelessness information here... And then I see her transgenerational tree and her mother hated her father, her mother hated her husband, her mother hated all men. She hated her husband so much that before she was born, her mother had 22 induced abortions. Can you imagine what mark this woman was born with...? But she wears a light here that says: "I seek men to reaffirm the lack of protection." Because God, in His infinite love, he gives you what you request... But some people don't want to abandon their paradigm and their reasons, can you see? They are unable to understand that the heart has reasons the mind cannot understand.

In short, besides spuriously linking the patient's disease to unrelated issues, distorting her psychology, he takes medical treatment against cancer as "cheating" and discourages the patient from chemotherapy. Corbera mocks medicine and stands as the only one interested in healing people³⁷, implying that doctors do not pursue that goal, that medicine is a waste of time, and making up reasons –blaming the sick– that can cause cancer without offering the slightest proof. As an example of the double-speak he displays, sometimes he makes explicit that BNE does not cure, or that it isn't even a therapy, but then he says bluntly: "There are people who heal just watching the videos"³⁸. A rhetoric that insists on medical errors, because drugs that kill are being prescribed; and disbelief in medicine, creating mistrust in it, since the fact that BNE cures everything is being concealed: "All I offer is the truth, nothing else. It is this truth that many want to hold back"³⁹.

Corbera tries to demonstrate extensive medical knowledge⁴⁰ and even states things dangerous for health. It should be remembered that Fermín Moriano, follower and populariser of German New Medicine, died for believing this: "And this thing we say that we have to change things, he says, 'I'm going to quit smoking', if they let me smoke, if they want, but when they smoke they feel that they are breathing God. And they'll see. For the most wonderful meal can become a poison, and a poison and can become the most wonderful food, only because of your emotional state when you eat"⁴¹.

In addition to making discriminatory statements against women, blaming breast cancer on their newly won independence and legal equality (without proof), or suggesting, directly, that "there is no death"⁴².

Corbera plays with vocabulary and despite often speaking of "curing" and "healing" and at other times of "remission", suggests something that is not, while saying, incidentally, that many people will die⁴³:

Do you know how many people, in their last letter, have told me "I am leaving this world, but I leave remembering you"?

And me, I have been given letters that when I have opened them have said "Enric, if you're reading this letter I am no longer in this world, but I want you to know that as I go, you're with me in my heart. I have healed, I know that I've been healed, I am healed. (...) What is healing? Does the body heal? This is just a kind of healing. Healing is mental.

Healing requires a period of "quarantine" in their own words⁴⁴:

About quarantine; I was inspired by the Bible. You know that quarantine is something that is... is an archetype: forty days was the Lord in the wilderness; Moses and the Israelites wandered around for forty years. 40 days here, 40 days there. Moreover, to heal a broken bone, forty days... when we are isolated, when we have no phones, no internet, no TV, no photographs of the family (audience laughs) (...) the hypothalamus and especially the pituitary begins to secrete a substance that helps you raise awareness. ACIM says: "in mental stillness you will find all answers".

Bioneuroemotion touches all bases in the field of health. It pontificates about psychiatric disorders, problems of pregnancy, behavioural disorders such as anorexia or bulimia, multiple sclerosis and ALS, common illnesses such as being overweight, allergies, osteoporosis, and even deadly infectious diseases such as AIDS or Ebola. In his "Dictionary", *The secret code of the symptom*, he gives his followers an "explanation" of the origin of diseases like Alzheimer's or autism⁴⁵.

People find in the testimonies of those who have been healed "miraculously" the final push to say goodbye to medicine, with disastrous consequences in many cases.

5. Bioneuroemotion and psychology

Early in 2014 the College of Psychologists of Catalonia published an official position statement on this movement, manifested in the following terms⁴⁶:

"(...) the College of Psychologists of Catalonia -in com-

People fleeing from medicine find in the testimonies of those who have been healed "miraculously" the final push to say goodbye to medicine, with disastrous consequences in many cases.

pliance with the social functions imposed by Law and its Charters- feels obliged to make a public position statement, by stating that the College Board does not consider that, at this time, this model and derived practices can be endorsed with sufficient guarantees; and that BNE can't be accepted under the well-established profession's scientific and practical quality standards, therefore it cannot fit into the canons, providing the *Lex Artis* of the profession of Psychology'. Henceforth, this Board wants to make public its decision to reserve as its own the faculty to carry out any of the legal and statutory actions that are recognized, under its defined competences and college functions, to act in defence of the profession, its members and its users."

However, it can't be denied that BNE provides support for many people. The number of messages directed to Enric Corbera himself like "Thank you for existing", or "you have changed my life" (meaning for good), are far from negligible; just take a look at any of his posts on Facebook, or via comments on his YouTube videos. However, in many cases, the family members of these people tend not to share their view of BNE as something wonderful, and in many cases there are family breakups. Why is this happening?

BNE offers salvation, healing, omnipotence. If any individual is living a situation of social vulnerability, the very fact of presenting the idea that "you can change your situation by simply changing the way you perceive it", seems rather comforting. It's true that this can sometimes be a solution; but only very rarely when we are talking about a sick person. Unfortunately, many people with severe illnesses are getting into BNE. Its message as a whole happens to be highly moldable by each individual and can be easily adjusted to suit any personal preference, but here resides an important problem: The ideas that BNE presents are simply contrary to reality and takes us further away from it. Consequently, when confronted face to face with daily living, the message gets lost and people feel bad again, making the talks and courses addictive. It's equivalent to taking drugs, living in the clouds for a few hours, and then coming down again. If you enjoyed the ride so much, you will repeat it; but at what cost?

In private or group consultation, bioneuroemotion becomes more dangerous, entering the realm of coercion.

For example⁴⁷:

[Corbera]: *Most likely, your mother had a conflictive situation with your father, and it could have had something to do with their marital relationship, maybe there was an issue on a sexual level. Was there any lover, or affaire?*

[Woman]: *No, my mother, when she became pregnant with my brother, she started to suffer mental issues, because from what I've heard, there had been a lot of violence in her family [Corbera begins to nod, as if saying "You see? You see?"]. My grandmother had an alcoholic son who used to take out a knife, and my mother's would stop having her period every time he came ...*

Influencing the patient's response so that he gets the answer he wants, thereby increasing his statistics and his confirmation bias: that is the method Corbera uses. In the preceding examples, we saw how he completely distorts what his patients tell him, just to make their narrative fit their into his dictionary of relationships between symptoms

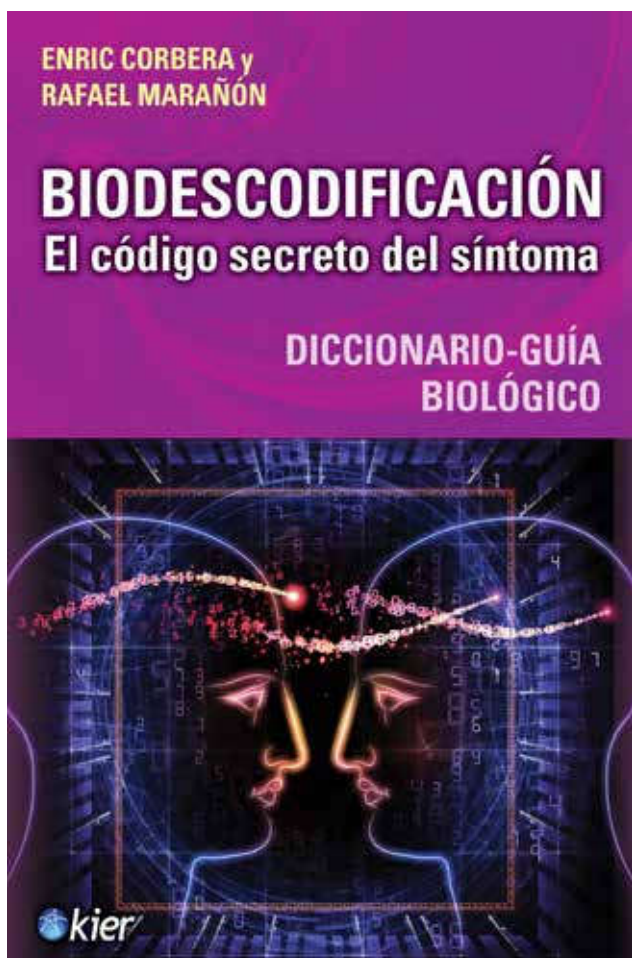


Enric Corbera, founder of the BNE

and conflicts. In other cases, Ericksonian hypnosis techniques are used, in order to give rise to induced perceptions in the patient's consciousness. That way, people quickly feel identified, and therefore bioneuroemotion triumphs.

Corbera is aware of the placebo effect and its power of suggestion⁴⁸, and he manipulates that in his favour to take unfair advantage of a patient's normal biases. He puts a medical treatment together at the same level as "pie in the sky"; after all, for him the mind controls all the body's diseases which means it is irrelevant whether the patient is treated with chemotherapy or not, as long as the patient is convinced of the decision. He also plays with the vulnerability of the prognosis in cases of terminal cancer; if a doctor makes a prognosis of only a few months of life remaining to the patient, they use this to their advantage if the patient is still alive after this time. Several studies⁴⁹ exist that show problems of overdiagnosis and poor estimates of patient survival in approximately 80% of cases.

Making the patient believe that they are still living after the fateful date given by their doctor (whom they later ridicule, pretending that for them it is a miracle, as though they didn't know about this problem or the highly varied evolution of oncological patients, or even about spontaneous remission) thanks to bioneuroemotion, and getting them to explain this point of view to other victims in a vulnerable state, is a powerful advertisement.



Repeatedly claiming to be based on a thesis by Carl Gustav Jung (“*the disease is the effort of nature to heal the body*”), Corbera and BNE sell as a product the feeling that one can fix any disease or problem from a spiritual dimension. For a person who is coping with a serious, life-threatening illness like cancer, and feels alone and helpless, it’s quite natural to give consent when BNE comes to the rescue, with its offer of a path of personal and spiritual growth (falsely claiming to be based on scientific evidence), which will also cure the illness. Suddenly, people have a more proactive attitude, they listen to BNE talks more frequently,

in sum, they forget the illness to focus on different activities, and that makes them feel better for a while. Unfortunately many patients also “forget” they are not following an established treatment, because they have started to see it as irrelevant or even harmful, so they are actually facing the risk of death. And, vice versa, there can be people looking for “a miracle solution” or side-effects-free-remedy to deal with serious illnesses that their doctors have perhaps considered untreatable or whose treatments are known to be tough (like chemotherapy or surgery). In BNE these people find an apparent solution to their needs, accepting a therapy allegedly endorsed by cutting-edge science in the field.

A single case Corbera has been using for years, serves us as an appropriate example of what we have already exposed in this document, and that is the story of Maribel Candelas. Enric Corbera, along with BNE, recorded (and so far, owns the video’s intellectual property) an “apparently informal conversation”, presented as a magazine-like-interview, on High Schooler Rodrigo Botet (Manises, Valencia), after a masterclass performed by Enric Corbera to the school community. Here we present a rough summary of what we know on Maribel Candelas’ personal story⁵⁰: Maribel Candelas was diagnosed with recidivant cancer at an advanced stage, with liver and bone metastases already present. She refused to initiate medical treatment (chemotherapy), she gets to know about Enric Corbera and decides to travel to Rubí (Barcelona), in order to treat her cancer with him. During the video, she explains this experience in more detail, including how unconscious programs govern our lives, and how through bioneuroemotion the way to cure our illnesses can be found. Also, she explains how the process of quarantine is delivered, and its importance in the more global process of “renewing neural connections” and accomplishing a change in the surrounding field.

The distortion of reality that Corbera and BNE induce in patients is such that it can lead a person to feel that they are to blame for a sexual assault because they “asked the Universe for it”, maybe that they have suffered sexual abuse by parents in infancy⁵¹, or that there are other family problems that are a factor in the creation of interfamilial conflict. This mechanism of inducing beliefs and remembrances of non existent family conflicts [or, if present, amplifying their importance to a grotesque dimension] is a group dynamic constantly repeated in Bioneuroemotion, that represents

If any individual is living a situation of social vulnerability, the very fact of presenting the idea that “you can change your situation by simply changing the way you perceive it”, seems rather comforting.

one of the main sectarian risks of this group. This issue will be explained in detail in the next section.

Early in 2016, following the death of Maribel Candelas, the Official College of Psychologists of Catalonia (COPC) updated its previous position statement on the Bioneuroemotion method⁵², with the title: *“The College of Psychologists of Catalonia neither endorses nor supports the model called “Bioneuroemotion”*:

“The fact that some supporters of the model called “bioneuroemotion” are associated fellows of the College of Psychology, does not guarantee that they count on the support of this institution. Bioneuroemotion does not respond to any exemplary canon accepted by science, being only a registered private brand by with commercial purposes. The self-appointed “Bioneuroemotion Institute” has been presumably delivering alleged degree titles in Bioneuroemotion, with neither official validity nor an entitlement to any competencies, although the latter is not stated explicitly in its program, therefore it cannot be reported to law enforcement authorities.

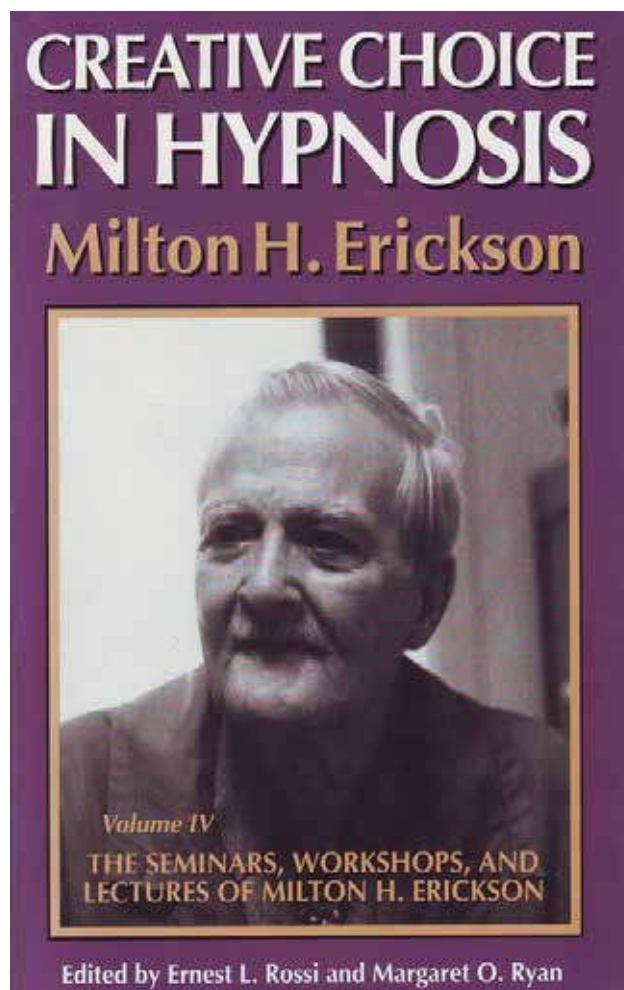
As an official institution which represents professionals of Psychology in Catalonia, COPC is ratified in its 2014 manifesto, and in the fact that only therapeutic models based on evidence, with international academic recognition, and with broad consensus as valid models among psychologists, can be endorsed and implemented into practice. Citizens are hereby notified of these facts, and have (or should have) the knowledge that this institution can be counted on as a source of information, either at the College’s main office or at its website.

6. Bioneuroemotion as a movement with cultic risks

One of the first significant phenomena observed in bioneuroemotion practitioners is an excessive exaltation of its qualities: there can be found several reports written by BNE followers with plenty of expressions of “euphoria”, recommending the method and its materials (videos and books) to relatives and acquaintances.

Early in the article on the practice of Sabbah⁵³, we can find similarities with what we can hear in Corbera’s speech mannerisms: *“The audience was rapt. Sabbah was talented at selling his art to a mostly working class public, little educated and ready to be seduced by a good speaker, loaded down with diplomas, well spoken and with advanced teaching materials. Expecting a speech to liberate them from their condition, their health... their money! Sabbah, the Messiah of medicine”*.

As we discussed in section 2.4, BNE uses many persuasion techniques when presenting in front of an audience⁵⁴. Hypnosis is classified as a psychological, more than a physiological method, because it is essentially a form of narrowing mental focus, in which a person induces another to maintain the object focus, while simultaneously suspending critical judgment and peripheral awareness. When this technique is used for purposes other than clinical, it becomes a form of manipulation and psychological coercion, that’s why it can be found in many cultic groups like BNE, because it serves as a vehicle for the leader to implement suggestions pointing to his own agenda, while the patient is set into a vulnerable state of mind. The insistence on “the



importance of unlearning”, as Corbera enforces in their latest books and conferences⁵⁵, is a psychological factor of destabilization for the sake of systematic thought reform.

Milton Erickson’s (MD and also renowned hypnotist) and cols. provide an excellent compilation of methods and techniques that can be used to elicit cooperation and reduce resistance to change. Several of these techniques are among the processes that can be documented at cultic groups.

First and foremost is the self-imposed role of Enric Corbera as the Messianic and illuminated visionary of a revealed truth, before whose authority (endorsed by his “impressive” résumé and apparent omniscience in many such disparate areas as psychology, quantum physics, biology, etc.) people can only accept his word. Virtually all BNE videos start with some introductions praising his person and talking about how he discovered and disseminated his method (and how he had to fight Inquisitors who try to prevent people discovering the truth), and so on. In some cases he even makes clear his role as “the chosen one” for the revelation⁵⁶ of this “ultimate holistic approach”.

Throughout this process, Corbera fills the minds of his audience with a series of proposals plagued with the tagline *“and therefore...”* which he uses to falsely imply that his premise has been logically deduced from what he had just described, even though it had not been the case (*“non*

sequitur fallacy”), giving an appearance of validity to an audience that probably has not been able to follow his chain of reasoning, simply due its lack of coherence.

Through his quotes and videos, it is easy to find this manipulation of language and logic. Another taglines which he abuses and which frequently do not mean what he suggests they do, are terms like “holographic”, “dual”, “metaphysical”, “quantum”, etcetera.

It’s very important to emphasize this idea of double-language use, because although it is sometimes explicitly stated, it can also hide a twisted (and even Machiavellian) use of language. Examples of permutations, that is, differences between what is said implicitly and explicitly are the following:

- Do something “from the ego”: do something reasonably²⁴.
- The “quantum field”, the consciousness, the “universal intelligence”.
- Heal: Does not necessarily equal cure; Moreover, Corbera himself recognizes that many of his patients die but, despite this, he claims that they do so in a “healed state”⁴³.
- Guilt: responsibility (Bioneuroemotion uses these two terms interchangeably and with the same amount of “guilt” attached to their meaning⁵⁷. BNE lays the whole load of “responsibility/ guilt” for his illness on the patient himself.
- BNE does not cure, only you can heal yourself (but, as we have seen early in section 4, practitioners tend to mention only the cases where a “cure”/”healing” has happened).
- BNE is not a therapy / method; but he talks about “his patients” and in other places, including “scientific articles” that are linked to on his website, it is defined as such and its structure as a whole is consistent with the application of a therapeutic method, which in this case, also connects with German New Medicine.

Patients must follow any conventional treatment⁵⁸; but they also let you know that treatments are not only unimportant, but that they may even be an unnecessary waste of time, ridiculing their role and equating medical treatments with any kind of alleged treatments, to be used merely as a sort of placebo, until the “heightened state of awareness” is reached.

To avoid legal problems that he could encounter by speaking about therapy, or a cure, Corbera always explicitly states that bioneuroemotion is not a therapy (although



he sells it as such) and that he doesn’t cure anybody (then claiming people have been “cured” with BNE, even by just watching their videos⁵⁹), and that the healing that could be achieved with bioneuroemotion (a statement that actually seems to contradict the premise that Corbera does not understand his method as a therapy or cure) is mental, not physical (though affected individuals come to him searching for physical healing/cure in the first place). If the patient dies, it does not imply that BNE method does not work; the explanation is that they have passed away but in a healed spiritual state⁴³.

Perhaps the most prescient description of this language game has been made by Paco Traver, head of mental health services in the Provincial Hospital of Castellon de la Plana, in an article on movements related to “emotional origin of the disease”⁶⁰:

“It’s funny how, according to the author, such a thing as autonomy between physiological and psychological dimensions of the human organism does not exist; henceforth diseases should be treated by decoding “therapists”, instead of conventional physicians, who use these drugs with many

Explicit and implicit insistence on applying the “quarantine” method to BNE patients, that is, breaking social ties with family and friends, again reinforces the thesis of this group’s cultic tendencies.

side effects, a poor quality medical practice [...] The point of this premise is that it lacks refutation, because if the fibroid [a type of tissue malformation] does not disappear by using BNE treatment (which is the most likely outcome), then there is always a trick to use: it can be said that the woman refuses to heal, or that decoding, by some mysterious spell, has not had any effect, perhaps due to a defect of the patient herself.”

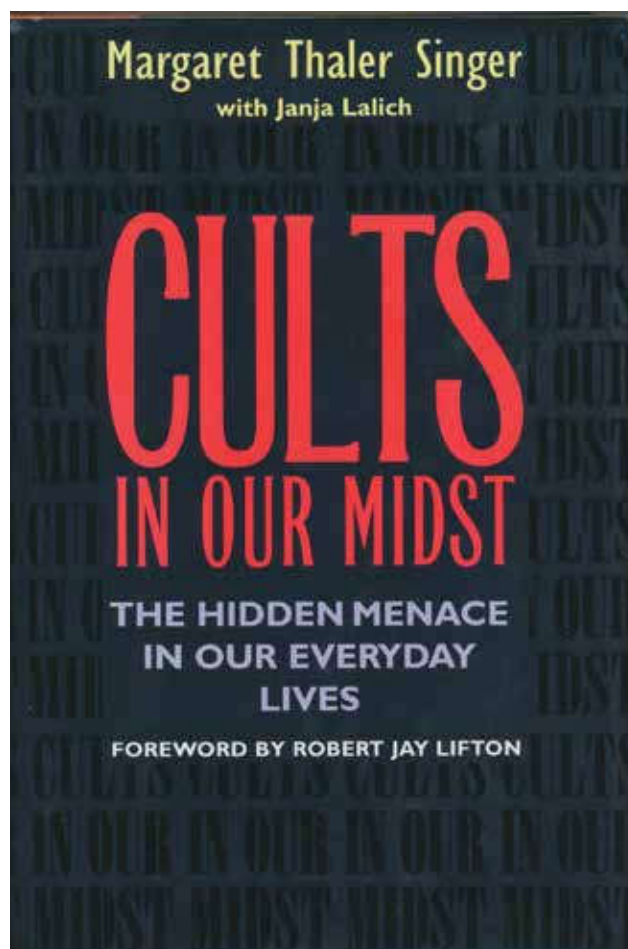
In addition to the dual language strategy, BNE uses manipulation through mechanisms such as suggestion, peer pressure (e.g. repeated sentences are instilled through repetition by the group⁶¹), and also coercion. Besides, group leaders often overwhelm, blame and ridicule (appealing to the “presence of interference problems”) anybody in the audience who dares to ask [spontaneous] questions. Corbera often goes so far on affirming his self-imposed authority, that he can invent the origin of a disorder, and apparently fix the rest of the story to suit his bottom-line proposals. In addition, explicit and implicit insistence on applying the “quarantine” method to BNE patients, that is, breaking social ties with family and friends, again reinforces the thesis of this group’s cultic tendencies.

A comment found in a social-media BNE related group is of particular interest to us, where, in addition to the usual banalisation of oncology, by providing testimonies without supporting objective data, could point to a captivation strategy to gain new members, apart from proselytism-like activities by professional adepts⁶² to the cause.

We see how many times Corbera urges his audience to suspend their critical thinking, to move towards “the healing state”, which in turn serves him to prevent any internal attack on its methodology or assumptions. Enhancing emotional states and diminishing critical thinking, encouraging people to “stop thinking” and look for answers in the bioneuroemotion, infantilizes the individual and presents in front of them a virtually omnipotent authority (which we can observe in the comments and some testimonies, v. Annex II of note 1). BNE also creates dualized dynamics “them vs. us”, manipulating whatever cognitive dissonances the BNE member may have (and leaving aside any form of coherence with his statement “anything that happens to you it’s because you’ve asked the Universe for it”) to speak of betrayals, balance of energies, in sum, a very different line of thought from that applied to his audience. Corbera loves to flatter his listeners with the idea that audience has come to see him of their free will, and that BNE opponents like to fool BNE members, by saying “oh, there are people who say you do not think for yourselves, that you are manipulated” and adding the fallacious thought “well, if there are many people who think like we do, and that seems to be the case, we cannot be wrong”. Here, authors of this document suggest a more pertinent question that is, can you willingly accept being fooled, if you are previously given all the information of what it is going to happen?⁶³

In a recent interview, Miguel Perlado, a Spanish Clinical Psychologist specialized in cults (especially in “exit counseling” therapy and former cult member support), speaks of this kind of movement in the following terms⁶⁴:

“When it is required from a patient to become a believer in a therapy, we are no longer talking about a therapy; but



something else: a conversion, or whatever; but definitely not a therapy. What we have observed is that through many of these cases, treatments or therapies serve as a forced process of conversion to gain a new member; a new believer(...) [Interviewer] Where is the criminal and civil liability? We know that (...) many therapists of this sort are giving, for instance, masters and classes at medical schools.

[M. Perlado] That is true, and is also paradoxical. There exists a joint and shared responsibility, of each and every one of us ... These days, what we observe is sort of a trivialization/ relativization of the phenomenon: “anything goes”, “don’t be like that”, “you are an inquisitor” “seems to be against alternative therapies” ... no, no, this has little or nothing to do with being labelled as alternative or not. The problem comes when you play with other people’s emotions and free will ... who regulates that? No one.

(...) Some companies are linked, directly or indirectly, there are many cults that have their own media, broadcasting stations, that turnover millions of euros a year, evidently declare not even a half of their incomes and operations, they are clearly enriched structures, there’s no doubt about it.”

6.1. Comparative Study

Based on the book “Cults among us” by Margaret Thaler Singer, Marta Seguro⁶⁵, researcher about this movement, has made a differential test to determine whether the bi-

oneuroemotion can be considered a cult group, where processes of thought reform are systematically used to induce guilt. Segurola concludes that BNE... *“is not a proper cult [since it does not meet some established academic criteria like, establishing dietary or sleep restrictions for members ..., nor are they urged to deceive people], it does present specific characteristics of cults, like believing you can achieve an improvement in mood and spiritual and moral certainty if you follow the leader’s dictates to the word, and for this you have to suspend your critical thinking and have the faith of a child ... Bioneuroemotion does not constitute a cult but it coincides with Training Programs for Awareness Groups (PECGG) point after point. Therefore, we conclude that this group is a cult risk.”*

6.2. Miviludes assessment

MIVILUDES is the Interministerial Mission to Monitor and Combat Cults of the Government of France.

This institution provides lots of information about “les methodes psychologisantes”, category which includes NGM, biodescodificación and “Total Biology”⁶⁶, and points out their three main characteristics:

- Blaming the patient for their disease or discomfort.
- The distress caused by the disease.
- The search for wellbeing against an individualistic and materialistic society.

Also, it underlines the fact that these movements are constantly updated, appearing and disappearing overnight, and integrating healthcare professionals, practitioners of paramedical branches and self-proclaimed therapists without any approved training. Also, this organism notes the dangerous and dogmatic position of rejection towards conventional medicine, up to a point so radical that it often implies putting individual’s health and life at risk, breaking familiar bonds, ultimately leading the person to a state of social exclusion.

Miviludes has compiled a glossary of 64 methods related only to the decoding performed by about 10 000 “specialized” therapists, with an average price per visit of 60 €, often in facilities that are advertised as health centres, despite not meeting strict legal requirements, leading to potential patient security pitfalls; nevertheless, law enforcement authorities do not seem to prosecute this phenomenon hard enough.

MIVILUDES also manifest its concerns regarding “regressive psychotherapy” (thereby inducing false memories), which has already led a therapist to penal conviction. Other techniques also mentioned are NLP, enneagrams or “holistic kinesiology”. The latter was founded in 1960 by an American chiropractor. It is a technique of holistic nature and supposedly based on traditional Chinese medicine, in a new-age style, which espouses a radical break of lifestyle and shift to organic food, alternative medicines, therapies without drugs and environmentalism. Radicalization has already led to derivative cults, for example with hygienism (a naturopathic trend⁶⁷); or with extreme vegetarianism, which has already caused the death of a child.

6.3. Contributions of RedUNE

RedUNE is a Spanish non profit organization that serves and defends the civil rights of persons abducted by coercive groups. They have also compiled lots of information on BNE and related movements. We have chosen as an example the paper by Alejandro Cruzado ⁶⁸, approaching the current issue with an especially strong and firm tone, and from which we draw some ideas as a summary:

In situations of personal and social vulnerability (mental health related issues, social exclusion), scammers can at first be established as a peaceful associate or guide. The individual probably will not be aware of the deception until it’s too late; there are even some individuals that would never reach that point, or even if it were reached, that person could still maintain their belief against all evidence to the contrary. During this process, individual cooperation goes from giving consent to requests for the scam to be continued, even through instigation. The rascal promises healing and salvation from our sins or our ancestors against the power of evil men; sins that make us unhappy. The scammer confuses and bewilders the ill person with the prospect of lasting, enduring health, causing the victim to feel indebted to, and admiration for him.

In this shamanic ideology - of spiritualism, Buddhism, Hinduism, jainism and theology disguised behind the banal ayyavazhi- medical practice of ancient Babylon, where medicine was twinned to magic and sorcery; and only practised by priests, who regarded diseases as omens. When conditions didn’t match medical theory, they were attributed to supernatural forces (gods or demons), and cured

When it is required from a patient to become a believer in a therapy, we are no longer talking about a therapy; but something else: a conversion, or whatever, but definitely not a therapy.

through exorcism. Delusional nurse Christian Flèche holds the highly irrational belief that, for example, to suffer a headache means a patient's relative or even the patient himself, were beheaded in a former life; that if a dermatological condition is present, it is because there was an ancestor that died flayed, resulting in an anachronistic sophistry worthier of a circus show.

Cruzado concludes that the aforementioned ideas and practices constitute a crime against public health, and that they have at their base a degenerate second intention, some form of psychological cruelty that subtly and progressively undermines personal autonomy and logical discernment, sweeping away in many cases health or life. These crimes are increasing exponentially, while the individual is often subjected to situations of social ridicule. He also underlines the difficulty of assessing cases that are not reported by the individuals concerned. Cruzado makes an appeal to law enforcement authorities, foundations and corporations whose mission it is to protect victims of paranormal scams, to speak out and send their message loud and clear, while at present we see insufficient implementation of existing legislation such that it may act as deterrent to this type of con, rather than the opposite.

The qualifiers of *swindlers*, *criminals*, *delusional*, *loons*, *shamanism*, etc., are used by Alejandro Cruzado in the original document.

6.4. RIES contribution (Iberoamerican Network for the Study of Cults)

RIES is a network of Spanish and Ibero American Catholics, experts and scholars of cult phenomenon and new forms of religiosity or spirituality. Founded in 2005, it aims to provide information and help on this phenomenon.

RIES frequently receives inquiries about BNE, especially from families of affected persons, and responds with the testimonies of ex cult members and victims, complete with the psychological and social damage caused by its practice.

The organisation has also made public its position statement⁶⁹ similar to the above, specifying its analysis from the point of view of the distortion of religious elements that BNE states in its proposals. As an organization of Catholic origin, it states the position of the Catholic Church, regarding proposals of "holistic healing" related to New Age movements, gathered in the Vatican document "*Jesus Christ, bearer of the water of life*". In particular, RIES focuses on the coincidences between that document and the statements of Enric Corbera, concluding that: "*Any collaboration of organizations and individuals of the Catholic Church, with any activity related to Bioneuroemotion is strongly discouraged, framed clearly as they are, as spiritual pseudotherapies with cult characteristics from New Age movements.*"

7. Expansion of bioneuroemotion

Like any pseudoscience, BNE uses the prestige of institutions which it tries to infiltrate (universities, professional associations, municipalities, etc.) for its expansion by using half truths, omissions and lies, exploiting the "good faith" we assume in people as a vulnerability⁷⁰.

7.1. Path from its origins and partner institutions.



A search in Google shows how BNE is promoted as a therapy, though sometimes they deny it

The path of the BNE is closely associated with its creator, Enric Corbera. This 62 year old man from Barcelona is a former manager of a family business whose life changed after reading in 1993 the book *A Course In Miracles*, studying naturopathy in 1994, and a BA in psychology (2003). In those days, Corbera suffered testicular cancer and came upon Hamer's theories through his Spanish disciple Vicenç Herrera⁷¹.

In 1994 he opened a first business, a shop of herbal remedies, and worked as a private naturopath. Later he went deeper into the field of psychological pseudotherapies such as NLP, Ericksonian hypnosis and sophrology. Since then, thanks to the Spanish esoteric-friends group "La Caja de Pandora" [Pandora's Box], YouTube channels and podcasts⁷², he publicizes his lectures, books, seminars, etc. Other lines of business are consultations, both private and in groups.

From 2009 he has created, with the same registered office, the same directorships and the same purposes, various entities that give structure to the movement: Natural Enric SL, the Spanish Institute of Biodecoding, later Spanish Institute of Bioneuroemotion or Enric Corbera Institute, and the Spanish Association of Bioneuroemotion⁷³.

At this point, we recall the works of Miguel Perlado on the needs of these kinds of groups to issue diplomas to acquire a sense of prestige.

Dressing up his discourse as a new therapy to achieve health and emotional balance (not as a mere psychologi-

cal technique, but well-nourished with elements of magical thinking), Corbera manages to get several municipalities, professional associations and even universities, to open their doors to his lectures; institutions which, in principle, should ensure that the information that reaches citizens is serious and truthful.

In 2011, Corbera adds to his resume a degree in BNE granted by the Organization for the Integration of Social Welfare (OIBS) of Cuba, in a change of nomenclature from *biodescodificación* to *bioneuroemotion*, perhaps because of an IP lawsuit brought by Christian Flèche¹⁸, although the official explanation is different¹⁹. In reality it is Corbera who took the movement to Cuba⁷⁴, granting himself the title through OIBS, an entity recognized by the Cuban government.

In Argentina he was introduced by the married couple Patrono, project leaders of *Creando tu vida* [Creating your life], which embraces all kinds of new-age pseudotherapies. The couple led him to be appointed Ambassador for Peace by some local foundations in that country⁷⁵, and from there to giving lectures attended by multitudes at the National University of Cordoba in 2013, even in its Faculty of Medicine, which is especially galling as it granted BNE the endorsement of a serious academic institution. In the case of the University of Rosario it is even worse, because there BNE was introduced as an optional subject in the medical degree track⁷⁶.

In a display of egotism, he created the Enric Corbera University (now *Institute*), with the same-purposed as the unofficial institutes and associations already mentioned; an organization dedicated to teaching courses, with prices ranging from 25 € for simple talks to 3,000 € for the “post-graduates”⁷⁷.

In Mexico he has reached agreements with the Universidad Iberoamericana of Torreón, through its computer professor José Navarro Garcia, leader of BNE in that country, and who has managed to obtain the validity of official studies for BNE⁷⁸.

7.2. *Modus operandi* and examples of infiltration

In many of the infiltrations, the following pattern is observed: a sympathizer with the movement introduces it within his professional environment, without any filter to prevent it.

“Social engineering” is also used, like the famous Spaniard social-hacker “Pequeño Nicolas”: you just need a pho-

to with someone of prestige, who does not know you at all, to deceive others with it, and that will open doors, always looking to become an authority figure to give talks or grant titles by creating *ad hoc* institutions. Thus, we arrive at a key moment: the appearance of Corbera being interviewed on *La Aventura del Saber* (The adventure of knowledge) on TVE-2⁷⁹ [a Spanish national public channel] on May 27, 2013, “endorsed” by being the director of the Spanish Institute of Bioneuroemotion. There he spread his unscientific ideas on a presumably serious and rigorous science communication program. So far we have been unable to discover how (or by whom) his appearance was suggested.

But that way, someone capable of blaming you for being the victim of a rape, manages to enlarge his resume as far as the rest of the world is concerned.

He also has more or less recurrent interviews on the program *L'ofici de viure* [The occupation of living] de Catalunya Ràdio (the public Catalanian radio), with its consequent social dissemination. From there, he pontificates about the mentioned *A Course in Miracles*, how to become rich or about Hamer and BNE⁸⁰. Gaspar Hernandez, adept radio-presenter, has recently published a book about Corbera, *No soy de este mundo* [I am not of this world], which can be considered in practice a good manual on how a person can fall into a cult movement because of outdated prejudices and assumptions about what a cult or a guru is.

He also claimed for a while to have taught at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, although that entity has confirmed to us that he is not teacher. They told us he “only participated in a debate” proposed by the teacher of 4th year of Nursing (that was also responsible for psycho-oncology at the Hospital Sant Pau of Barcelona). In the end, the teacher lied to the University, as Corbera said in the aforementioned radio program that they both planned to introduce BNE in the University and create a post-grad as he had done in other places.

As result, a complaint to the College of Psychologists of Catalonia was formulated, who as we saw, had already repeatedly denied the therapeutic validity of BNE. Much more information on this case and the infiltration of the movement in several town councils can be found within the blog *Qué mal puede hacer*⁸¹ [Spanish version of *What's the harm*, a famous blog about pseudotherapies].

Another case of infiltration has been in the Faculty of Tourism of Oviedo, who in 2014 promoted *bioturism* “as factor of balance between body, mind and spirit” and ex-

If BNE has deceived several professionals who we can assume are well-trained, it is easy to imagine how far it can get with an average citizen.

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Example of a talk pretending to be linked to a university (photo: www.mundoalternativo.es/)

plicitly tied in BNE in a summer course.

At the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, BNE was brought in via a medical doctor, Miguel Paggi⁸², follower of the ideas of Hamer. In this case there was no complaint to the province's Medical Association Ethics Committee, as the doctors who introduced the talk, Sergio Martinez and Esteban Perez Alonso, are the president and a member of the committee itself. Despite all this the talk was stopped a few hours before it was due to be held.

Another example of interference in the health system has been in medical colleges like Benalmádena⁸³, which also organized a talk about BNE; the College of Psychology of Malaga, the College of Pharmacists of Tenerife⁸⁴, some attempts in the Odontology field⁸³ and some links to physiotherapy professionals.

At the University of Alcalá de Henares there was a case of a proposed summer course of BNE taught by Montserrat Batllo (the #2 in the BNE "Institute") and two senior lecturers of physiotherapy. The College of Physiotherapists of Madrid did not respond to the complaints about these practices outside of their deontology. Finally, after bringing the case to the Rector and the Student's Ombudsman, the course was cancelled *in extremis*, opening a wound in the University's Governing Council, as the departments of Physics and Biochemistry have long warned of the presence of pseudoscience in the centre facing no opposition from other departments. The wound is still open: courses

like the one above can be re-proposed, and the teachers involved (who complain of inquisitorial manoeuvres) continue their teaching and defending BNE as a healing technique; and while they don't urge people to abandon conventional medication, they consider it a merely an unnecessary placebo⁸⁴, and defend their position claiming that some universities such as those mentioned in Rosario or Torreon officially recognize BNE⁷⁸. But as we saw, they sneaked in there in the same way they were trying to infiltrate Alcalá's University: taking advantage of the failure of its control mechanisms and using as a pretext other places where it has already been infiltrated, never offering evidence of its effectiveness. Finally, the teachers managed to introduce the movement in the University as talks⁸⁵; it also appears veiled in another nomenclature in some of their EOG project proposals as "the emotional origins of disease." An infiltration was also reported in some branches of sociology at the same University.

At the University of the Basque Country it also appears in some psychology syllabuses, and as recommended reading.

Sometimes, BNE is offered through workshops in centres annexed or attached to universities, but selling them as if they were officially organized by the University itself, as was the case at the University of Murcia. On this occasion, the centre did not know the content that it was housing, and did its best to avoid similar situations, like the subsequent

master's degree in holistic nursing⁸⁶, whose block on BNE was removed (although the full master should have been withdrawn).

Thus, if BNE has deceived several professionals who we can assume are well-trained (nurses, doctors, physiotherapists, psychologists, etc.), it is easy to imagine how far it can get with an average citizen and professional groups outside of medical practice: press, publishing, municipalities, even primary schools and high schools.

Among the latter, we found the case of the high school Rodrigo Botet from Manises (Valencia), which told us an overwhelming case: they deeply regret having allowed Corbera to give a talk with absolutely inappropriate content for the young students. This talk was proposed by an adept of the movement and endorsed by the above mentioned appearance in *La Aventura del saber* on TVE (again, we have the scheme of an adept from the institution proposing Corbera, endorsed with the prestige of the coverage that the media gave him). It ended with a complaint from the parents association, requesting the removal of any reference to the center in the video that Corbera recorded of this talk and uploaded to Youtube⁸⁷. This video is shown by the movement as a paradigmatic example of the inclusion of BNE in education, and will allow them to keep on infiltrating new places. In this case, this interference could also represent a crime of non consented indoctrination, aggravated by involving minors.

Another case was a talk about BNE in 2014 in the city hall of Alicante, defended as a supposed social demand, as "a clearly growing new psychological trend", as not doing any therapeutic practices in the talk and as being taught by a collegiate psychologist⁸⁸. Our request for explanations from the Valencian College of Psychologists still goes unanswered three years later.

The last case we want to show (of many more), was at the city hall of Ingenio (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria): it is the leading exponent of deception: a talk by Corbera and first action of *Enric Corbera Social*, a new trademark to disguise their actions, this time in the form of an NGOs with social ends, which incidentally allows him to save taxes. It was an infamous hoax involving food banks and an association for the protection of female victims of gender violence in the area (*Women, Solidarity and Cooperation*), in addition to the Department of Social Services and Equality. Ironically, by a movement that degrades women in almost every sentence of its practice⁸⁹.

The conference was held and Corbera expressed his anger against their "inquisitors", while thanking the council for standing up to pressure, suggesting that critics believe that people "are stupid and unable to think for themselves." That trick opened several doors for him: it asks people to think for themselves, after offering them biased and false information, providing as well a list of prestigious places where BNE appeared (although the acts were cancelled in many cases), so they may think, "if it were not true, they won't allow him to spread this around." Or being associated with academic degrees, as if becoming a PhD in a subject, for example, might lead necessarily to the acquisition of critical thinking.

Ineptitude, inefficiency, ignorance, bad professionals, good faith. Whatever the causes, BNE is stealing prestige and growing in the number of its followers, and what they call *applicants* and *companions*. Some of them, like Diego Callizo in Belgium, serve in turn as the engine of the international spread of this dangerous coercive movement⁹⁰.

8. Current structure of BNE

We will summarize here, at the beginning of 2016, the status of the structure and main lines of business of the movement initiated by Corbera.

Books. As a way to disseminate their ideas and generate income⁹¹. There are diverse works by Corbera published mainly by El Grano de Mostaza, a Catalan publishing company that specializes in pseudotherapies and "spiritual awakening".

The last book by the author, *The art of unlearning*, presents BNE as "cutting-edge science", as if he was at a more advanced level respect to its critics, who are usually described as backward or narrow-minded.

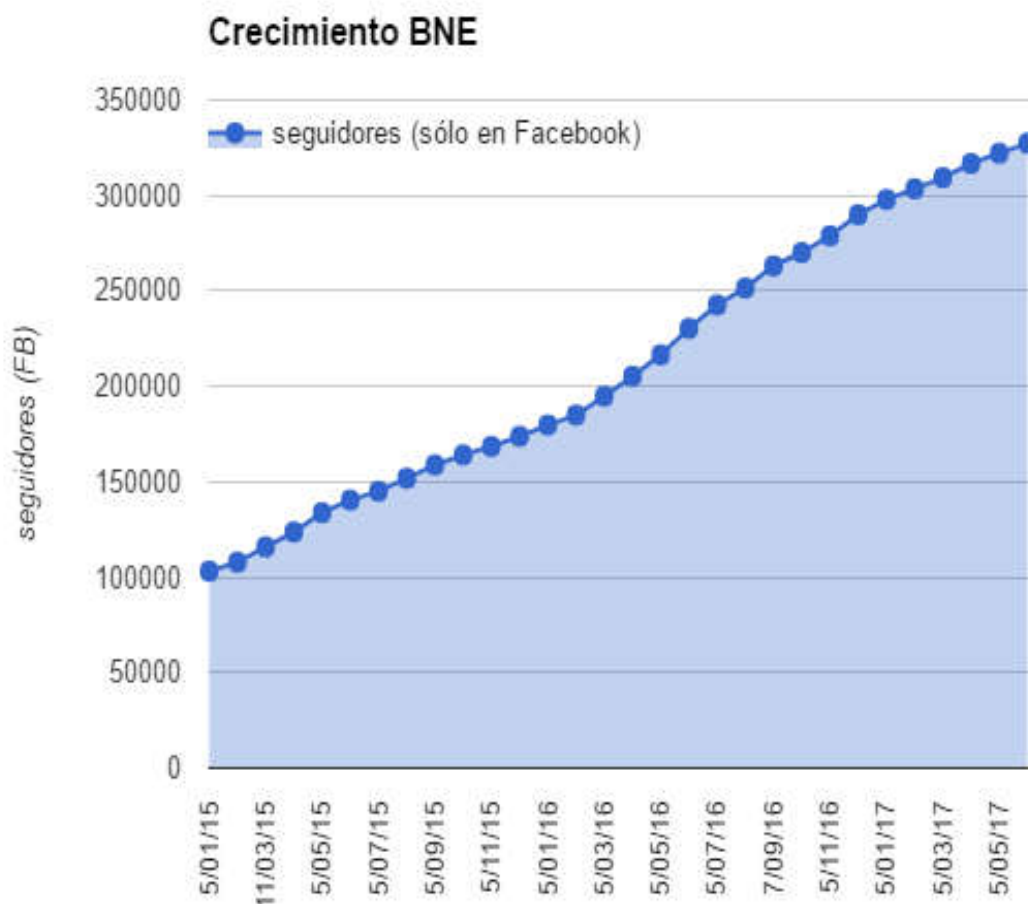
Another example is *The observer in Bioneuroemotion* (Eds. Synchrony, Kier and El Grano de Mostaza), where the author, haphazardly and with absolute ignorance, mixes concepts of Quantum Physics, Biology and Psychology, and their presumed impact on the family tree of a person and hence on the illnesses suffered by them.

On the website of El Grano de Mostaza, Corbera's book packs are sold under the dangerous title of *Healing*.

Finally, Corbera has prefaced the book *To let go: the way of delivery*, by David R. Hawkins, psychiatrist considered by his followers as an "Outstanding teacher of the way to enlightenment".

Courses. As already mentioned, through the aeBNE, the

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(photo: www.facebook.com/EnricCorberaOficial)

ieBNE (whose only administrator is Corbera) and the Enric Corbera University, he carries out his training activity⁷⁷.

Currently they claim they are preparing a master's in BNE.

Content Advertising (videos, podcasts). On his YouTube channels and podcasts⁷², his main talks and presentations can be viewed. Some of them already have over one million visitors on YouTube, which is an additional source of incoming because of the associated advertising.

Consultations: Although a private consultation usually costs around 90€, some cases are known where the person affected has been asked to pay amounts of the order of 7000 € to be “treated” for terminal diseases such as cancer or ALS. Sometimes he also offers “group” consultations for 50 €.

Conferences: although some of them are presented as free (or even disguised as a social action) in order to increase his user base and “clean his public image”, he takes advantage of them to sell his books and there is also, usually, an entrance price which varies depending on the occasion.

Other: There are some particularly dangerous programs because of their involvement with children, like the Sense Project, The importance of Being a Mother or Bioneuroemotion in teaching, where they use the already mentioned intrusion at the Institute of Manises (Valencia) to have access to other high schools, schools and nurseries.

The Social Enric Corbera initiative seeks to impersonate social action to improve his corporate image, sell his products during the events, and get some tax exemptions.

Additionally, the possibility of collateral businesses has arisen, such as renting houses for the quarantine period.

Growing of BNE by its Facebook followers (data source: www.facebook.com/EnricCorberaOficial)

9. Conclusions.

As seen throughout this work, BNE –and in general, schools of thought based on the emotional origin of diseases– is not exactly a classic cult movement, although it has several features that distinguish these organizations, resulting in what we can label as “cults 2.0”, formally known as a “Training Program for the Awareness of Large Groups”.

It also meets in virtually all respects the character of a pseudoscience. Taking as reference the seven traits that show a pseudoscience or pseudoscientist stated by Robert L. Parker in his *Seven Warning Signs of Bogus Science*, we can find that:

- Their theories and supposed discoveries are not subject to critical peer review in scientific journals or congresses of psychology or of general medicine, but rather they present them directly in other environments, such as newspapers, books and informative talks, without any prior scientific evaluation.
- Responds to the criticisms talking about the existence

of a conspiracy, due to obscure interests, to silence the movement.

- Often the data that supposedly guarantees their ideas, are not presented clearly or are at the detection limit of analytical techniques; in this case, we can cite the *Hamer focus* of German New Medicine, alleged brain structures that are actually distortions resulting from inadequate calibration of medical devices.

- The evidence is anecdotal, selecting only the results that fit with their conclusions, which are always pre-investigation. Thus, these pseudotherapies don't undergo standard clinical trials or don't monitor the evolution of patients after the treatment.

- The prestige given by tradition or the antiquity of the technique as proof of its veracity. It is not the case; On the contrary, in this case they speak of "cutting-edge science", of a mechanism that perhaps is not yet known, but it works and that someday we will know how, and appeal to sciences like quantum physics or epigenetics, absolutely distorting their principles. It fits into what is called *third generation psychological therapies*, in which some techniques and rituals much closer to New-Age religious movements than to scientific psychology can be found.

- The "research" to get to the development of the technique was performed by a lone illuminated "genius" that pulls some ideas out of their sleeve, rather than being the result of teamwork, essential in today's science.

- To be correct, we should radically revise what is firmly known in many sciences (biology, physics, chemistry, pharmacology, medicine), which would lead to discovery of new laws of nature. As Mario Bunge says, a scientist (or technique) has to show an external consistency, i.e. it must not contradict that formulated by other sciences in which it rests or shows interrelationships.

Bioneuroemotion is a pseudotherapy that was born perverted, as it derives from German New Medicine, one of the greatest aberrations of modern medical practice. Its diffusion takes the form of a social cancer, so the treatment is complex. As a suggestion, it is proposed:

- Stop its angiogenesis in the form of intromissions in education centres (from schools to universities) and institutions (municipalities, media, professional associations, cultural centres), of which it steals their prestige.

- Get the shutdown of its broadcast channels on social networks, something that has been achieved in some other fields, such as pages that promote anorexia.

- Review the list of professionals and companies linked to these pseudotherapies in order to take appropriate action. Given the nature of thought reform it produces, a huge reluctance by them to abandon their practice is expected in this regard.

- Achieve the dissolution of entities specifically created to give the appearance of rigor to the movement: centres, associations, NGOs, "university", professional schools, etc... In this regard, It is interesting to consider article 515 of the Spanish Penal Code:

Are punishable unlawful associations taken such consideration:

2nd. Which, even having as object a lawful purpose, will employ violence or disorder or means of personality con-

trol to achieve it.

- Achieve the withdrawal of the publications of these institutions for their dissemination.

- And in parallel, a social awareness campaign against pseudo-therapeutic movements in general.

New German Medicine was one of those cancers in its day. The lack of measures of control and monitoring, have allowed its return twenty years later, stronger, metastasized within every imaginable social corner.

As citizens, we only ask that things are done correctly. Overall, we adhere to proposed legislative changes promoted by the Association for the Protection of Patients from Pseudoscientific Therapies⁹².

Notes: (web links verified on March 2016)

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