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NEWS EXCLUSIVE

Jeffrey Epstein agreed to fund 'mind-reading' experiments at UK university

Documents in the Epstein files outlined plans for the convicted paedophile to donate £41,000 to a study of telepathy in London in 2017

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THE  PAPER

Files show Jeffrey Epstein planned to donate to Goldsmiths, University of London, to fund a study by a professor known for his work on near-death experiences. Goldsmiths refused the gift (Photo: Rick Friedman/Corbis via Getty)

**Alexa Phillips**

News Reporter

British university professors tried to take a €47,000 (£41,000) donation from **Jeffrey Epstein** for a study into telepathy – nine years after his child sex conviction, *The i Paper* can reveal.

Documents **released by US authorities** outlined plans for the convicted paedophile to donate the money to Goldsmiths, University of London, in 2017 to fund a study by a professor at the

university.

Peter Fenwick – an emeritus professor at King’s College London, and a world-renowned researcher on near-death experiences – made arrangements for the donation with collaborator Joydeep Bhattacharya, who was professor of psychology at Goldsmiths.

Fenwick later tried to find a way of hiding the “gift” from university bosses after Epstein emerged as its source.

The study Epstein wanted to support involved “expert meditator” Alain Forget, who claimed he could transmit energy in the form of light, which was seen and felt around him by his pupils.

The research would use EEG hyperscanning – the process of simultaneously monitoring two brains – to measure students’ brain signals and how activity in Forget’s brain might be mirrored in theirs.

A draft document detailing the study claimed Forget’s pupils “often report experiences while meditating with him” and that abnormal “gamma activity” in his brain produced a “causal linking with the student’s brain”.

The document added that it was hoped the research would reveal details of “the information transfer between the brains of teacher and pupil”.

In a pilot study, Fenwick and Bhattacharya wrote individuals can potentially exchange energy through “telepathic” connections.

Telepathy, the purported transfer of information between minds, has never been proved scientifically but is often linked with the concept of mind-reading.



Peter Fenwick asked for Epstein to fund his research projects despite the financier's child sex conviction (Source: Netflix)

Emails released by the US Department of Justice (DOJ) have previously revealed how Epstein looked to fund telepathy experiments in the US.

His interests also included telekinesis – the purported ability to move objects without touching them, using mental powers – and clairvoyance – the supposed ability to see events, people or objects in the future, far away, or in claimed other planes of existence.

Epstein's associate Ghislaine Maxwell has told the DOJ that he was fascinated by brain science.

Fenwick – who died in 2024 – sent emails to Epstein in December 2016 saying his hyperscanning research could “give us a better understanding of how we control/influence each other”.

A second option he pitched to Epstein in December 2016 was to study near-death experiences and the “changes in consciousness and all the non-local effects that occur when we die – amongst which is also ‘light’”.

Forget appears to be named elsewhere in the Epstein files, sharing political analysis with the financier. In one email he posts a BuzzFeed news article in 2016 about Donald Trump's former chief strategist Steve Bannon, with the subject line “interesting”.

Academics asked for more money

Epstein's donation was later turned down by the Goldsmiths' ethics committee due to the financier's conviction for soliciting a minor for prostitution, *The i Paper* understands.

“Goldsmiths have rejected the gift!! (I could wring their necks),” Fenwick wrote to Epstein on 23 March, 2017.

From: "Peter Fenwick" <peter_fenwick@compuserve.com>

To: "jeffrey E." <jeevacation@gmail.com>

Cc: ' [REDACTED] >

Subject: New plan

Date: Thu, 23 Mar 2017 22:19:21 +0000

Goldsmiths have rejected the gift!! (I could wring their necks)

Plan B. Could you send the money to the Network (an educational trust), they will contract with the Enhanced Education Trust and Andy to have the work carried out in Cyprus, and the rest of the team will visit and organise.

Fenwick was outraged when Goldsmiths' ethics committee blocked the donation (Photo: US Department of Justice)

Fenwick later told Epstein they had found a workaround of channelling the funds via a Spanish university, if Epstein increased his donation so that people facilitating the arrangement could take a cut.

However, the paedophile axed the plans, telling the academics: “I'm looking for a more streamlined solution then [sic] paying unnecessary people.”

Fenwick appears to have carried out the research with Epstein at a later date, and emails as late as 2018 make reference to payments between Epstein, Fenwick and other people working with the scientist.

In one email on 21 September, 2017, Fenwick told Epstein the hyperscanning project would “contribute to our understanding of consciousness and human evolution”.

In a 2021 essay, Fenwick said the effect of Forget’s energy on other brains could help explain phenomena such as telepathy.

Forget also claimed that when he meditated he could transmit into his pelvic region and the pelvic regions of others, dissolving “psychic blocks” that were there. In his 2019 book, Fenwick said this was something he experienced in meditating sessions with him.

University says rules were followed

A spokesperson for Goldsmiths said: “The matter was referred to Goldsmiths’ Ethical Committee for Acceptance of Gifts, who took a decision to refuse the funding.

“It was made clear that any future offer of funding either directly or indirectly from the same source would be refused, and based on extensive searches of our financial systems we can find no record of any funds being received by Goldsmiths from Enhanced Education.”

Joydeep Bhattacharya, who left Goldsmiths last year after nearly two decades, said he did not receive any funding from Epstein and never met him in person.

King’s College London said they had no prior knowledge of the project proposal, which was pursued by Fenwick “entirely independently of King’s in his own personal time”.