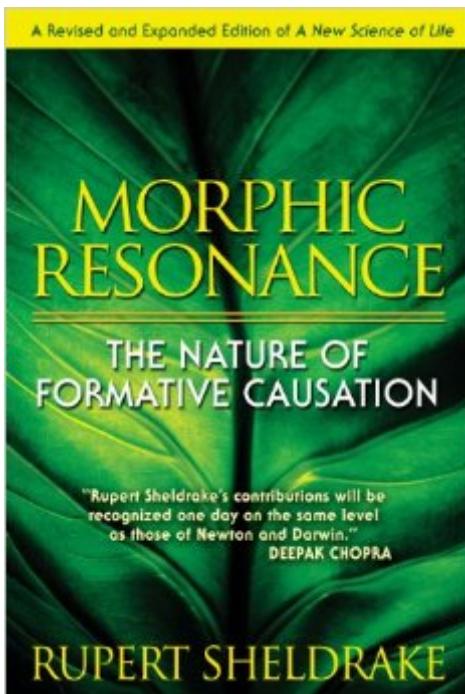


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# Morphic Resonance: The Nature Of Formative Causation



## Synopsis

New updated and expanded edition of the groundbreaking book that ignited a firestorm in the scientific world with its radical approach to evolution • Explains how past forms and behaviors of organisms determine those of similar organisms in the present through morphic resonance • Reveals the nonmaterial connections that allow direct communication across time and space When A New Science of Life was first published the British journal Nature called it *the best candidate for burning there has been for many years.* • The book called into question the prevailing mechanistic theory of life when its author, Rupert Sheldrake, a former research fellow of the Royal Society, proposed that morphogenetic fields are responsible for the characteristic form and organization of systems in biology, chemistry, and physics--and that they have measurable physical effects. Using his theory of morphic resonance, Sheldrake was able to reinterpret the regularities of nature as being more like habits than immutable laws, offering a new understanding of life and consciousness. In the years since its first publication, Sheldrake has continued his research to demonstrate that the past forms and behavior of organisms influence present organisms through direct immaterial connections across time and space. This can explain why new chemicals become easier to crystallize all over the world the more often their crystals have already formed, and why when laboratory rats have learned how to navigate a maze in one place, rats elsewhere appear to learn it more easily. With more than two decades of new research and data, Rupert Sheldrake makes an even stronger case for the validity of the theory of formative causation that can radically transform how we see our world and our future.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When the first edition of this book came out in 1981 with the title "A New Science of Life," I well remember getting one of the first copies and being electrified by the ideas and the data to support them. There was also the guilty pleasure of reading a book that the editor of the esteemed journal *Nature* had declared, "This infuriating tract... is the best candidate for burning there has been for many years." In the intervening years Rupert Sheldrake has worked tirelessly to either prove or disprove his hypotheses, published many peer-reviewed papers as well as several more books on this and related topics. I have also had the pleasure of meeting him several times and discussing his ideas with him in great detail. There are three things that have always come across: his intelligence, his integrity and his humility. It is sad that when that *Nature* editor - Sir John Maddox - passed away last year, a number of commentators took the opportunity to renew their attacks on Sheldrake's work. Many of those attackers have clearly not examined the research - some even admitted it! - neither were they aware of the fact that Rupert had provided Sir John with detailed scientific responses to his critique of a later book, "Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home: And Other Unexplained Powers of Animals," but never received a response. So most students of biology and behavior have probably never even heard about this work, and many online sites simply dismiss the notion of "morphic resonance" as pseudoscience. This is the third edition of the book that started all the controversy.

I've followed Rupert Sheldrake in videos and essays. He's a well-spoken gentleman and is very knowledgeable in his field of study, biochemistry. His other works seem well-grounded in experimental science, such as the unexplained power of animals and telepathy, which deserve much more research support from the scientific community. I found "Morphic Resonance: The Nature of Formative Causation" to be very thought-provoking and inspiring. I disagree with other reviewers who say the book is too complicated or too dense. I found it easy to understand and a pleasure to read, although the Kindle version leaves something to be desired in the way of diagrams and figures. However, I can give Dr. Sheldrake only three stars for the following reasons. I agree with Dr. Sheldrake that material reductionism, which forms the basis of orthodox science, is incapable of fully explaining reality, especially as it pertains to biology. Dr. Sheldrake correctly points out many instances where material reductionism is at odds with observations. His mistake is that instead of simply pointing out these inconsistencies and stating that science doesn't have the

answers, he supplies his own hypothesis which simply opens him up to ridicule. In other words, he has turned the problem of material reductionism into his problem by putting forth an unprovable and unfalsifiable theory. I'm not a biologist, and I'm sure that Dr. Sheldrake could counter what I'm about to say, but it seems to me that he grossly underestimates the power of DNA in morphology. All systems are self-organizing if they are non-linear, are not in a state of equilibrium and possess feedback. This occurs with mathematical certainty; it requires no morphic resonance to explain it.

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