

The Derek Chauvin Murder Trial Verdict

The death of George Floyd became an international focus, and the trial of his killer was a culmination in the sense that tremendous attention and emotional concern attended the trial. We set a quasi-formal analysis for the period beginning with the announcement of the guilty verdict, which generated celebrations and relief for large numbers giving this tragedy their attention. The following excerpt from a local news report gives an outline of the circumstances leading to the trial verdict.

MINNEAPOLIS (WCCO) — Following nearly a year of protest, introspection and raw emotion, former Minneapolis officer Derek Chauvin, who last May held a knee down on George Floyd's neck for more than 9 minutes, has been found guilty of second-degree murder and two other charges in Floyd's death.

[...]

The verdict was read in Hennepin County court just after 4 p.m. Tuesday. In addition to the second-degree murder conviction, the jury found Chauvin guilty of third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

A typical Global Consciousness Project event is six hours in duration. The graph below shows the data beginning at 4:00 pm local time, shortly before the verdict was announced, ending at 10:00. The figure shows a persistent deviation during the event, culminating with a p-value of 0.074. This corresponds to an odds ratio of about 15 to 1 against chance as an explanation.

The usual caveats about single events apply, so that no firm interpretation can be made, but this graph provides evidence for the GCP hypothesis -- that the deep engagement of large numbers in shared emotions generated by an event will correspond to deviations in the data.

