

Consciousness and Reality

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What is Consciousness? For some, it is a way of talking about the consequence of complex physical brain function – the interaction of neurons. For others, it is an entirely separate immaterial aspect of being in humans and perhaps in all organic phenomena. And for still others, consciousness is the consequence of the totality of human mental function – combining reason and intuition – and perhaps even emotion. Personally, I am in the third group. From this position, I can accommodate – under a unified umbrella – the mostly simultaneous and combined operations of “Mind”: the rational, intellectual, analytical, material, objective and the intuitive, inspirational, synthetic, spiritual and subjective.

Ultimately, my view is that because everything in reality is totally connected and integrated to the point of being one “thing”– at least through the wave and field functions of energy – all of the analytical, language based category separations we make in reality are artificial and only useful for heuristic purposes. These categories do not capture reality; they are approximations – useful tools.

“Mind” is a complicated and artificial construct to begin with. So, separating “consciousness” from “mind,” as the second approach identified above does, is artificial to begin with and then asserting that this separate “entity” is primary in either self or reality invites major difficulties if it is taken literally. The “brain,” “mind,” “consciousness” expansion illustrates the underlying problem of how complex “belief systems” evolve from initially imposed artificial language “categories.” “Brain” is itself a huge separation leap!

In Dynamic Humanism I try to keep the categories as simple as I can, recognizing that all divisions are arbitrary and that most of our oppositions are in fact continua. What most proponents of a separate consciousness contend are its characteristics, I include in the intuitive-spiritual dimension of mind, and I recognize that the broader intuitive-rational opposition functions across a continuum where there is a lot of overlap. I find the proposition that minds interconnect and interrelate through integrated energy fields sufficient to account for the phenomena attributed to a separate “consciousness.” This includes all Psi phenomena. And, I definitely contend that the human intuitive faculty can be much more highly developed than it is in most modern cultures with positive impacts much like those attributed to the notion of “universal consciousness.” For sure, multiple, highly unified and focused minds can provide input into reality – both positive and negative, both socially and ecologically responsible and not.