

Consciousness

Before we venture into the morass called “consciousness“, let’s examine 15 official definitions:

1. An alert cognitive state in which you are aware of yourself and your situation; "he lost consciousness"
2. Awareness: having knowledge of; "he had no awareness of his mistakes"; "his sudden consciousness of the problem he faced"; "their intelligence and general knowingness was impressive"
3. Consciousness is a quality of the mind generally regarded to comprise qualities such as subjectivity, self-awareness, sentience, sapience, and the ability to perceive the relationship between oneself and one's environment. Philosophers divide consciousness into phenomenal consciousness which is experience itself and access consciousness which is the processing of the things in experience (Block 2004).
4. A philosophical explanation of what consciousness is or how it might be explained eludes us. If we stick to what it is like to be a conscious human being, we have no explanation; if we try to explain consciousness in terms of what goes on in our brains, the sheer feel of consciousness itself is left aside.
5. The ultimate reality or substratum of creation, whose primary intention to fully be itself forms the basis of a multi-dimensional Relative Field of Experience or the Creation Game with its involutory and evolutionary cycles.
6. State of awareness; if consciousness is preserved during a seizure, the person can respond (either in words or actions, such as raising a hand on command) and recall what occurred during the spell.
7. The Ego or personality with which we normally identify. The quality of being aware of what is happening around us and responding in kind.
8. Perception, awareness, apprehension. There are many layers or levels of consciousness ranging from the ordinary, every-day consciousness of our body and mind to omniscient states of super consciousness. Consciousness aware only of itself is Pure Consciousness.
9. Self-awareness but not necessarily caring, wanting or sentient, which see.
10. The active state of spirit or the supreme fundamental in manifested existence. Like light, consciousness can become manifest only by means of a vehicle, and it can have various degrees of manifestation according to the planes. Individual consciousness originates in the Logos of any hierarchy. Every manifested entity is conscious to some degree, and is an expression of divine consciousness or spirit. ...
11. A mental faculty, is being aware of one’s environment, one’s own existence, sensations and thoughts, to be mentally perceptive or alert, awake, and capable of thought, will or perception. Light is God’s conscious identity!
12. Orientation with respect to time, place and self, with responsiveness of the mind to impressions made by the senses.
13. The intelligent, supremely independent, divine Energy, which creates, pervades, and supports the entire universe.
14. The state of awareness of the self and the environment.

15. The primary causal force in all universal action and manifestation. That ultimate cause in nature, composed of Energy, Awareness and Intent, which is responsible for the ways and means by which all forms are generated.

Thoughts, perceptions and consciousness are essential in understanding the relationship between the Normal and the Paranormal. Way back In 1982, Alain Aspect and his research associates performed a series of non-locality experiments in which he proved that space is non-local, and the universe is not made up of separate objects, but that the observer and the object observed were connected and part of an invisible unified universe with everything affecting and influencing everything else. A kind of universal entanglement of entities to other matter, so to speak.

Some physicists believe that the Zero Point Field is the Cosmic Consciousness that observed and continues to observe the universe into being. Linked to this cosmic intellect is the individual human mind, who observes his or her own reality into being. So in other words, they believe the ZPF is a web of information operating with a degree of intelligence. To extend this, it may be that the synching of frequencies, in the background electromagnetic field with the thought process or perception process frequencies of the human brain, may influence or lead to an experience of something out of the ordinary, such as a paranormal experience.

Ok, now stop rolling your eyes just because I am starting to sound like a religious zealot or a New Age Nut Job and not a scientist. And yes, I am starting to correlate the Physical with the Metaphysical and am probably throwing you for a loop. But in the end, I believe that is really what it is all about. Unification of the physical and the Metaphysical. But perhaps we are already well on our way to establishing proof to support these concepts. Physicist Amit Goswami states in his book *Self-Aware Universe: How*

Consciousness Creates the Material World that the material world of Quantum Physics is only possibility, and through that conversion of possibility to actuality, consciousness creates the manifest world. He elaborates further that the universe is self aware, but that its self awareness is through us, through our individual consciousness. This guy is one of the leading experts in the New Science of consciousness and its role physical manifest reality. He references the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle as the beginning of the era of the concept of the observer affecting the observed. This began a whole series of experiments and research linking the world of matter to the world of the mind.

Recently, a new field of study sprung up as a website on the internet called Neuro-Quantology. Described as "NeuroQuantology: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Neuroscience and Quantum Physics (ISSN 1303-5150)" it is a quarterly interdisciplinary scientific journal that crosses the boundaries of neuroscience and quantum physics. NeuroQuantology was established by Sultan Tarlacı, a neurology specialist. The journal was first published in April 2003. It is indexed in the Science Citation Index Expanded. The "journal" focuses primarily on original reports of experimental and theoretical research. It also publishes literature surveys, methodological articles, empirical findings, book reviews, news, comments, letters, and abstracts. The intended audience of NeuroQuantology is scientists, other educated adults, and inquiring students, and it emphasizes that articles should be approachable by a cross-disciplinary audience. Dr. Michael Persinger, whose research in Neurological responses to artificial electromagnetic stimulation promises to create a new discipline in science and medicine.

But that is just the tip of the quantum iceberg. Information Theory also takes into account the role of consciousness. Many physicists suggest the process of quantum superposition and collapse mimics the way the mind works. British mathematician and quantum theorist Roger Penrose compared the human brain to the quantum computer with his research with Tubulins, tiny protein tubes that may be the seat of the quantum nature of the brain. Tubulins act in the same way that particles in a state of superposition do. By existing in both the expanded and contracted form, they may also affect adjacent Tubulins, much like the quantum computer. Penrose and Hameroff have gone so far as to propose that consciousness resides in this quantum brain. Others seem to differ of course. University of Pennsylvania Scientist Max Tegmark doesn't think the brain is a very good quantum computer at all, citing the rapid decoherence of the superposition and the inability of neurons to respond quickly enough to the information. In other words, the Brain has severe latency issues.

Speaking of Decoherence, no mysterious stuff here. It is just a mechanism, really. It provides an explanation about how quantum systems interact with their environments to exhibit probabilistically additive behavior.

Quantum decoherence gives the appearance of wave function collapse and justifies the framework and intuition of classical physics as an acceptable approximation.

Decoherence is the mechanism by which the classical limit emerges out of a quantum starting point and it determines the location of the quantum-classical boundary.

Decoherence occurs when a system interacts with its environment in a thermodynamically irreversible way. This prevents different elements in the quantum superposition of the system plus the environment's wavefunction from interfering with each other. But here is the catch;

They DO interfere with each other.

Many theorists believe that the act of decoherence is what prevents two different dimensions of the multiverse from interfering with each other. Many, but not all. Physicist Brian Josephson, for example, in his paper, *The Paranormal: The Evidence and Its Implications for Consciousness*, co-written with statistics professor Jessica Utts, puts forward the notion that decoherence does not answer the question as to why our experience is of one dimension and not the other. Perhaps, he states, the experiencers of reality are also the selectors. This would suggest that a deeper subquantum domain exists, whereby a psychic can direct random energy at the subquantum level for his or her own purposes. Again, the keys are that the Observer, the selector, and the experiencer, directly influences the manifestation of reality, including the psychic or psi phenomena. This would explain why some folks have reported psychic ability, and others do not.

So, consciousness is the key... and the observer chooses the dimension of the experience. This makes a rather bold statement concerning human will. In the paper *String Theory, Universal Mind and The Paranormal*, Josephson writes that some aspects of mentality involve a realm of reality largely, but not completely, disconnected from the phenomena manifested in conventional physics. He references the informational aspect of life in that there is a biological character involved with the informational processing of organisms that can shape its environment and interact with it. Two life forms sharing their

mental states could account for ESP and telepathy. He describes a shared mental bubble in which both life forms share. The point to bear in mind is that in the biological realm the phenomena that manifest are governed not only by what is physically possible, but also by which of those physically permitted possibilities are likely to be of overall benefit to the organism concerned.

Recently, a series of quantum experiments demonstrated that measurements performed in the future can influence the present. Could this possibly indicate that our universe has a destiny? A research group led by Jeff Tollaksen believes there is a destiny so to speak. In fact, his group is exploring the notion that time may indeed flow backwards, allowing the future to influence the past. By extension, the universe might have a destiny that reaches back and conspires with the past to bring the present into view. Does this make the idea of free will a pipe dream?

As crazy as all this sounds, this hypothesis of reverse causality is gaining ground among respected theoretical physicists. Why? Because a succession of quantum experiments has confirmed its predictions, demonstrating that measurements performed in the future can influence results that happened before those measurements were ever made! How cool is that???

As we have discussed earlier in a previous paper, the theories found in QUANTUM MECHANICS are rife with oddities. A key oddity is the uncertainty principle, which states fundamentally that you can't know all of the properties of a particle at the same time. It is impossible to measure both where the particle is and how fast it is moving; the more accurately you determine one aspect, the less precisely you can measure the other. At the quantum level, particles demonstrate a certain duality or multiple personality in that they seem to be able to exist in more than one place at the same time until you take a peek and check on them. This fragile state, in which the particle can possess multiple contradictory attributes, is called a **superposition**. If we accept the standard view of quantum mechanics, just the simple act of measuring a particle's properties is a violent process that instantly snaps the particle out of superposition and collapses it into a single identity. Why and how this happens is one of the central mysteries of quantum mechanics. Working with Yakir Aharonov (codiscoverer of a bizarre quantum mechanical effect in which particles can be affected by electric and magnetic fields, even in regions where those fields should have no reach, AND proposer of the notion that if you want to understand what is happening at any point in time, it's not just the past that is relevant. It's also the future... time-symmetric quantum mechanics) they discovered evidence that you can see the effects of the future on the past only after carrying out millions of repeat experiments and tallying up the results to produce a meaningful pattern. Focus on any single one of them and try to cheat it, and you are left with a very strange-looking result, i.e. an amplification without cause and without meaning. Simply put, the universe may have a destiny, and we may have a destiny, but our consciousness allows us to make an error in the past that defies the future, giving us Free Will. So in essence, do we have a choice to be psychic or to see a ghost? Yes, Virginia, we do indeed. The remaining question is, at what level do we perceive it? Is it subconscious, leaving us off the hook, or when we make that choice on a conscious level, can our brains sync with the exact frequency necessary to perceive what is considered beyond normal perception? I believe the answer lies in our *intent*.

It is a shame that they closed the Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research Laboratory. They were deeply involved with the study of how thoughts can affect matter. They had a degree of success, too, but empirical science rejected the research outright without peer review, as it often does.

Mystics believe that consciousness creates reality. Now, many scientists are starting to believe this as well, agreeing that our consciousness has the special ability to assist in shaping the world of our experience. The illusion of separation of space and time makes us think that we are also separate, but we are not. We are in fact, like all matter in the universe, intricately entangled. Science can continue to turn a deaf ear to the paranormal, but until it seeks the connection between the physical AND the metaphysical, we will never discover the unification of all aspects in physics.