

Chapter 8.0

Consciousness

Gold's rustlessness is a sign that escape from ceaselessly changing illusion requires the spirit, soul and body to be united. In Eden, man's spirit, soul and body were gathered together and the Fall represents their scattering.

- Spike Bucklow (*Alchemy of Paint*), p. 278

Consciousness is a substantial (and controversial) topic in its own right. I have reduced the material to suit the specific area of interest, dissociation – and so the view point taken here is not the one that you will usually find. The overall view of consciousness being presented here is one in which Consciousness (with a capital “C”) is a universal; and the brain – rather than being a generator of consciousness – participates in that universal field as a receiver / transducer, selecting “frequencies” with which it can have a coherent interaction¹. Indeed, the wide-ranging phenomenology of conscious experience and its associated trait of expressed intelligence are hard to explain in any other way that does not reduce us all to automatons playing out some meaningless and somewhat random simulation program. Rather than think of phenomena as being “as if it were real”, I prefer to take a simpler face-value view; and (for someone who tends to veer towards the overly complex and to insist on attention to details of variation) this is one of the few instances you will find me applying Occam’s Razor. So single cells and plants behave “as if” they had intelligence (i.e. an applied behavioural consciousness) – and my feeling is that it is rather mealy-mouthed and human-o-centric (or brain-o-centric) to assume that what can be observed might be less than its appearance.

This view of Consciousness as being shared by single cells and all of the rest of the natural world (of which we are a small though recently somewhat obtrusive part) makes for a very different understanding of the day-to-day experience of both consciousness and embodiment/dissociation. In this map, dissociation is a loss or displacement of coherent resonance – something that gels far more with the phenomena seen in somatic treatment

¹ Joachim Keppler (2021) *Building Blocks for the Development of a Self-Consistent Electromagnetic Field Theory of Consciousness*. *Front. Hum. Neurosci.*, 28 September 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2021.723415>

rooms, where memories and reactive states from decades ago can re-form themselves in a matter of minutes when the conditions are right. What takes longer is for a mind accustomed to Western “scientific” thinking (in which such changes are patently impossible) to comprehend and adjust to the changes – or even to allow them to happen at all (by actively resisting their unfoldment).

Given this re-framed understanding of consciousness as a field phenomenon, the experiential phenomenology of dissociation makes more sense, and it can be addressed in a more structured way – structured within a framework that is (in different ways) loose enough to allow for the infinite number of variations that precipitate from individuality. Various aspects of consciousness have been presented in separate sub-chapters as follows :

8.1 Solitons

A coherent and self-contained packet of consciousness has a specific geometry that also exhibits specific kinds of behaviour

8.2 Physical (Functional) Models of Multiplicity

The interface of conscious processes with physiology

8.3 Models of Organisation

How living organisms and fields of consciousness organise themselves

8.4 Spiritual models of Consciousness

A quick look at Huna and Buddhist ways of perceiving consciousness

8.5 Consciousness

... bringing it all back together