

Short Summary of Consciousness Assumptions

Working Group meeting

26th June 2014



A short synthesis of underlying Consciousness assumptions has been conducted by team members

Consciousness Assumptions and Assertions	Key Themes
Consciousness is a subjective experience	Subjective
Consciousness requires a sense of self	Self
Consciousness is emergent	Emergent
Consciousness requires a holistic lens, i.e. body & mind integrated	Holistic
Consciousness is adaptive	Adaptive
Consciousness is evolutionary	Evolves
Consciousness is not reductionist	Holistic
Consciousness exists between states and not at one point in time	Change
Consciousness is The Observer	Self
Consciousness necessitates experience of things	Experiential
Consciousness emerges from mind which emerges from brain which emerges from neuronal networks	Emergent
Emergence is not singular and can be described as distributive	Holistic
Consciousness is a change in neuronal activity	Change
Consciousness have a critical linkage to desires	Experiential
Studying a brain will never fully comprehend Consciousness or subjective experience	Holistic
Consciousness cannot be defined purely as physical	Holistic

**Common themes have been identified for further discussion:
A: Experiential Self B: Emergence, and C: Holistic**

Key Themes	"A"	"B"	"C"
Subjective	Subjective	Subjective	Subjective
Self	Self	Self	Self
Emergent	Emergent	Emergent	Emergent
Holistic	Holistic	Holistic	Holistic
Adaptive	Adaptive	Adaptive	Adaptive
Evolves	Evolves	Evolves	Evolves
Holistic	Holistic	Holistic	Holistic
Change	Change	Change	Change
Self	Self	Self	Self
Experiential	Experiential	Experiential	Experiential
Emergent	Emergent	Emergent	Emergent
Holistic	Holistic	Holistic	Holistic
Change	Change	Change	Change
Experiential	Experiential	Experiential	Experiential
Holistic	Holistic	Holistic	Holistic
Holistic	Holistic	Holistic	Holistic

Questions

A: Classification

1. Of the assumptions what can be classified as having strong consensus vs not?
2. What are the most academically “agreed” and academically “debated” lenses?

B: Discussion

1. Can consciousness happen without experiences?
2. Can consciousness happen without emergence (i.e. remains static)?
3. At what reductionist point does consciousness not exist?

C: Other

1. What is a core assumption and what is a frontier assumption?
2. Can we develop an integrated framing if consciousness assumptions?