The complete edition, version 6.0

Free Version



# What is the Universe?

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# What is the Universe?

## The Nature of the Universe and Everything Within

*The Quantum Consciousness. How life manifests from the quantum field.*

**Free Version**
Complete edition
Version 6.0, updated 25 November 2026

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This book is updated as the research develops. Each edition carries a version number and date, and each new version may refine, extend or correct the last. Every change is recorded, with its date, at whatisuniverse.com/evidence/changes, where the current version can always be found.

# Why this research exists

This research exists to unite and to enlighten. It looks for the science behind the nature of life, so that people divided by ideology, by religion or by the feeling of separation can see what they share. It proposes that we are one collective existence with many individual experiences, and it reads science, philosophy and faith as different windows onto that one existence, each respected in its own words. The aim is clarity, not confusion: peace, knowledge and understanding, offered to every reader with respect.

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# How each claim is labelled

Every claim carries one of six labels, stating the strength of its evidence and the kind of statement it makes.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Established** | Strong, replicated evidence for the claim as worded. |
| **Supported** | Good evidence for the core of the claim, with stated limits. |
| **Open Question** | Serious researchers disagree. No decisive evidence yet. |
| **Hypothesis** | Testable, but not yet tested in the form stated. |
| **Speculative** | Not currently testable, and no mechanism is known. |
| **Framework Proposition** | This framework's own proposal, shown in its colour. Consistent with the evidence, not settled by it. |

Part I

# The questions

Start here. The questions people most often ask, from the mind and the body to death and God, each answered on its own page with every claim labelled.



Chapter 1

# Can the mind influence the body?

*Mind and Body*

## Consciousness and Physical Health

**In Brief**

*Prolonged unresolved psychological conflict is a physiological state, not only a mental one. That much is measured. Whether it reaches further than currently modelled is the open question this section proposes is worth studying.*

### *The Established Ground* Established

Psychoneuroimmunology is a mainstream field with decades of replicated findings. Chronic psychological stress measurably suppresses immune function, dysregulates cortisol, elevates inflammatory markers and slows tissue repair. Kiecolt-Glaser demonstrated that identical punch biopsy wounds healed 24 per cent more slowly in long-term caregivers than in matched controls.

Sustained emotional suppression has documented physiological correlates including elevated sympathetic activation and altered cardiovascular response. **That psychological states reach biological function is not controversial. It is measured.** Any physician would accept this paragraph.

### *What This Framework Proposes* Framework Proposition

This framework proposes the relationship runs deeper than currently modelled. Where a person sustains a position against their own perception, suppressing what they know in order to protect an identity, a relationship or a belief system they cannot afford to lose, the body does not merely register that conflict as stress. It **expresses** it.

On this reading, a system held in prolonged internal opposition manifests that opposition physically, because consciousness does not stop at the boundary of thought. It reaches biological state.

**The honest gap.** The distance between *chronic stress affects immune function* and *a specific suppressed conflict produced this specific illness* is enormous. This framework has not crossed it and does not claim to. Earlier work proposing identifiable disease-prone personality profiles has largely failed replication in large prospective studies.

### *The Cases Medicine Cannot Currently Explain* Open Question

Spontaneous regression of cancer, the partial or complete disappearance of a histologically confirmed malignancy without treatment or with treatment inadequate to account for it, is a documented phenomenon in the peer-reviewed literature. Everson and Cole compiled the foundational series in 1966. Stephenson and colleagues later applied statistical analysis to 224 cases. A 2022 observational review identified 390 cases in the gastrointestinal tract alone.

Cases appear across melanoma, renal cell carcinoma, neuroblastoma, lymphoma, breast, pancreatic and non-small-cell lung cancer, including metastatic disease. Documented autoimmune remissions follow a similar pattern.

**The literature is candid about the mechanism.** One review states that the phenomenon remains almost without clue. The leading hypothesis is immune-mediated, supported by a well-documented correlation between febrile infection and subsequent regression, which is the observation that produced Coley's work over a century ago. That hypothesis is plausible and incomplete: it does not account for cases with no infectious event.

### *What This Framework Proposes Should Be Studied*

These cases are currently treated as statistical curiosities and catalogued individually. This framework proposes they warrant systematic investigation that includes the psychological and conscious dimension alongside the immunological, because the population is unusually informative: it consists entirely of people whose biology reversed a process considered irreversible, without the intervention that normally reverses it.

**The specific question worth asking:** in documented cases of spontaneous regression, is there a recoverable pattern in the psychological state preceding it? A resolved conflict, a released position, a change in what the person was sustaining internally? Nobody has looked systematically, because the framework that would motivate looking is not part of standard oncology.

If a pattern exists, it is significant. If none exists, that is a real finding and this proposition weakens accordingly. Either outcome advances understanding, which is what makes it worth doing.

### *Why Different Traditions Reach Different Parts*

Western medicine works the physical layer with extraordinary precision: pathology, pharmacology, surgery, the biochemical mechanism

of a disease and how to interrupt it. That work is not diminished by anything proposed here and is held to be correct within its domain.

Other traditions have worked other layers. Acupuncture addresses proposed energetic pathways. Meditation and trauma therapy address sustained psychological states. Movement practices address the body as an integrated system. Sound and frequency approaches address something else again.

**Each holds a partial view and each is honest within its own domain.** Under this framework the collective arrives at complete understanding by combining angles, in the same way depth perception requires two eyes rather than one better eye. No single perspective sees the whole.

**Stated carefully:** that multiple perspectives together see more than one alone does not make every perspective equally supported. Efficacy varies enormously between the practices named above. Some have strong evidence and some have very little, and this framework does not assert equivalence.

### *The Rise of Quantum Healing, and What It Actually Contains*

A field has emerged under the name quantum healing, spanning serious clinical research at one end and commercial claims with no evidence at the other. The term is used for both, which is why it warrants separating rather than adopting or dismissing wholesale.

#### Genuinely Supported

**Placebo neurobiology.** Expectation produces measurable endogenous opioid and dopamine release. Placebo analgesia is reversible by naloxone, which demonstrates a specific biochemical pathway rather than reporting bias.

**Meditation and cellular markers.** Trials have found associations between contemplative practice and telomerase activity, inflammatory gene expression and cortisol regulation. Effect sizes are modest and replication is uneven, but the work is peer-reviewed.

**Psychoneuroimmunology.** Chronic psychological state measurably alters immune competence, wound healing rate and inflammatory response. Decades of replicated work.

**Open-label placebo.** Patients told explicitly they are receiving an inert treatment still show symptom improvement in several conditions. The mechanism is not understood.

### Not Supported

**That quantum mechanics is the operative mechanism.** No study has demonstrated quantum coherence playing any role in any healing outcome. The word quantum in most commercial usage carries no technical content.

**Devices claiming to emit healing frequencies.** No controlled evidence. Several have been subject to regulatory action.

**That intention alone treats disease.** Large intercessory prayer trials found no effect on clinical outcome.

**That any of this substitutes for treatment.** It does not, and framing it that way has cost lives.

**Where this framework sits.** The supported column is real and it is consistent with the proposition that consciousness reaches biological state. It does not require quantum mechanics to explain it, and this framework does not claim the mechanism is quantum. What it proposes is that the direction of influence runs deeper than currently modelled, and that the supported column represents the visible edge of something larger rather than the whole of it.

> **On the term itself.** This framework does not adopt the label. Quantum healing has become associated with claims that have failed testing, and using the term borrows credibility from physics without earning it. The underlying research is worth pursuing under its own names: psychoneuroimmunology, placebo neurobiology, contemplative science. Those fields are doing the work. The branding is not.

***Boundary.*** *Nothing in this section identifies a cause for any individual illness and nothing here is a treatment. If you are unwell, see a doctor. This concerns a general relationship worth researching, not your diagnosis.*

*Expanding the Limitations*

## The Brain Sets the Limits, and the Limits Can Be Extended

The brain does not only guarantee the body's functions, it also determines its limitations. Every capacity you have for seeing, hearing, sensing, thinking, and perceiving is bounded by the architecture of the system running it. But that architecture is not fixed. It can be extended. Supported

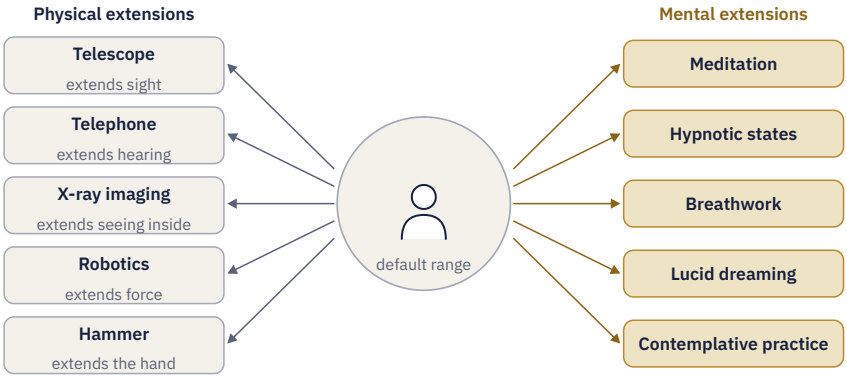
**Physical Extensions:** Humanity has been expanding its physical limitations through tools and technology since the beginning of recorded history. The telephone extends hearing across continents. The telescope extends sight to distant galaxies. X-ray imaging reveals structures the naked eye cannot see. Robotics amplifies physical force beyond biological capacity. A simple hammer extends the hand. Every tool ever invented is an "add-on" to the human body's natural limitations, proof that the limit is not absolute, only default. Established

**Mental Expansions:** The same principle applies internally. Deep meditation, hypnotic states, and certain substances are documented methods of temporarily expanding the brain's default operating range. This framework proposes that the effects produced are not only hallucinations in the clinical sense, but can be experiences at frequencies and resolutions that fall outside the brain's ordinary, sustained default state. What one person can perceive in an expanded state that others around them cannot, will naturally be labelled as distorted or abnormal by those who have not accessed the same frequency. What one can see but the group cannot, the group will call hallucination. The history of perception is the history of expanding what is considered normal. Framework Proposition

Breathwork, sensory deprivation, lucid dreaming, and certain contemplative practices also belong to this category. Each is a method of temporarily adjusting the brain's filter, widening the aperture through which consciousness perceives. None of them create experience from nothing. They reveal layers that were always present but ordinarily inaccessible. Framework Proposition

### *Independent Scientific Support*

In 2024, researchers at Google Quantum AI and the Allen Institute proposed that coherently linking a human brain to an external quantum processor would allow building technical aides capable of expanding conscious experience in space, time, and complexity (Neven et al., 2024). The principle described in this section, that perception has a default range rather than a fixed ceiling, is now an active engineering proposal at one of the world's leading quantum laboratories. Established




*The limit is not absolute, only default.*

**Figure 1.** Physical and mental extensions of the brain's default range.

Chapter 2

# Is the brain the source of consciousness?

*The Receiver, Not the Source*

## Consciousness Without a Brain

**In Brief**

*People have lived normal lives, held degrees and scored above average on intelligence tests while missing most of their brain tissue. Others regain full clarity hours before death after years of advanced dementia. Neither is explained by the view that the brain produces consciousness.*

If the brain generates consciousness, the amount of brain tissue should determine the amount of consciousness. The documented cases below show that relationship is far weaker than the standard model requires. This framework proposes the brain is a processor within a two-way exchange: it resolves consciousness from the field and writes experience back into it. These cases are what a reduced interface with an intact coupling would look like.

### 01 Six Hundred Scans, Half With Above-Average Intelligence

Roger Lewin, *Is Your Brain Really Necessary?*, Science 210(4475):1232, 12 December 1980, reporting the clinical series of John Lorber, University

of Sheffield Reference 79

Lorber, a British paediatric neurologist, documented over 600 cases of hydrocephalus, a condition in which cerebrospinal fluid compresses brain tissue against the skull. He grouped them by severity. In the most extreme group, around 60 individuals, ventricular fluid occupied approximately **95 per cent of cranial capacity**.

Half of that group had a profound cognitive disability. **The other half had IQs above 100.** Among them was a Sheffield University student with an IQ of 126 who graduated with first-class honours in mathematics and was socially unremarkable. His cortex measured roughly one millimetre against a normal 4.5 centimetres. Lorber's remark, quoted in Science: he could not say whether the student's brain weighed 50 grams or 150, only that it was nowhere near the normal 1.5 kilograms.

> **Stated fairly:** Lorber never published the series in a peer-reviewed journal himself. Contested It reached the literature through Lewin's report in Science. Critics argued the scans were over-interpreted and that residual tissue was never precisely quantified. Those criticisms are legitimate and are not dismissed here. What survives them is that a substantial number of documented adults functioned normally, some at high academic level, with a fraction of the expected cortical volume.

## 02 The Civil Servant With Almost No Brain

Lionel Feuillet, Henry Dufour, Jean Pelletier, *Brain of a White-Collar Worker*, The Lancet 370(9583):262, 2007 Reference 80

A 44-year-old French civil servant presented with mild left leg weakness. Imaging revealed massive ventricular enlargement, with the

brain reduced to a thin sheet against the skull. He was married, employed, a father of two, and had an IQ of 75, low but functional and never previously flagged as impaired.

This case is peer-reviewed, published in The Lancet, and independently confirms the pattern Lorber described. It is the strongest single answer to the objection that Lorber's findings were an artefact.

> The case is not disputed. Established What it means is.

### 03 Full Clarity Returning Through Destroyed Tissue

Michael Nahm and Bruce Greyson, Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease 197(12):942, 2009. Mashour et al., *Paradoxical Lucidity*, Alzheimer's and Dementia 15(8):1107, 2019. References 81, 82

Terminal lucidity describes the unexpected return of full mental clarity, memory and coherent communication in people whose faculties had been destroyed by advanced dementia, brain tumours, meningitis or chronic psychiatric illness, typically hours to days before death.

The neurodegeneration does not reverse. The tissue does not regenerate. The plaques and atrophy remain exactly as they were. Yet the person returns: recognising family, recalling names unspoken for years, holding coherent conversation, sometimes after a decade of silence.

This is no longer anecdotal. The US National Institute on Aging convened a workshop on it in 2018 and subsequently issued dedicated funding announcements to establish a research programme. A University of Pennsylvania study in The Gerontologist found that **all eight caregivers whose family members had died reported a lucid episode.**

**Stated fairly:** no mechanism is established. Open Question A New York University group has proposed that changes in brain activity near death may be responsible, and research into fluctuating amyloid oligomerisation is ongoing. Neither explains why abilities assumed permanently lost return intact through tissue that remains destroyed.

### 04 Experience Reported During Absent Cortical Activity

Pim van Lommel et al., The Lancet 358(9298):2039, 2001. Bruce Greyson, Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease 171:369, 1983. References 14, 16

In a prospective study of 344 cardiac arrest survivors published in The Lancet, 18 per cent reported structured, coherent experiences during the period of clinical death, when cortical activity was absent and EEG was flat. The reports were consistent in content and independent of medication, duration of arrest, or fear of death.

**Stated fairly:** the timing of these experiences cannot be established with certainty. Contested Sceptics argue they occur during the transition into or out of arrest rather than during flat EEG. That objection is unresolved and is not waved away here.

### *The Anaesthesia Question* Framework Proposition

*This section invites one obvious challenge, and it deserves a direct answer.*

**The challenge:** if consciousness is fundamental rather than produced by the brain, why does a small quantity of an inhaled gas reliably remove it? Anaesthesia is precise, dose-dependent and fully reversible. A generative model explains this easily: consciousness is a brain

product, so disrupt the brain and it stops. What does a receiver model say?

**The response.** Anaesthesia does not delete consciousness. It is a chemical intervention on the coupling itself. Because the exchange between physical and field runs in both directions, altering the physical interface suspends the exchange, in the manner of dreamless sleep, and reception resumes when it clears. The default state is consciousness. Stillness within it is not its absence, in the same way that darkness is not the absence of what exists in a room, only the absence of the light by which it would be seen.

What is suspended is the render of a situated self, not the field. This is why nothing is missing on return, why the interval carries no felt duration, and why the effect scales with dose rather than with damage. Nothing is destroyed. The tuning is interrupted.

### *Why the Xenon Isotope Result Matters Here*

Isotopes of xenon differing only in nuclear spin, a purely quantum property with no chemical difference whatsoever, show measurably different anaesthetic potency. Chemistry alone cannot account for that.

Under a generative model this is difficult to place. Under a two-way coupling model it is exactly what would be expected: a quantum property altering the coupling between physical configuration and field. This is the restricted reading under which neural evidence is cited on this site, consistent with the response to Tegmark. It is not offered as evidence that the brain produces consciousness, because this framework holds that it does not.

### *What This Explanation Does Not Do*

**It makes no quantitative prediction.** It accounts for the phenomenon after the fact rather than predicting anything not already observed. A model that only explains is weaker than one that also forecasts, and this one currently only explains.

**The mechanism of general anaesthesia is genuinely unresolved in mainstream science.** After more than a century of clinical use, no consensus account exists of how these compounds produce loss of consciousness. That is stated here as an open question rather than claimed as support, because an unsolved problem is not evidence for any particular solution to it.

### *Generator and Receiver at the Same Time* Framework Proposition

**An apparent contradiction, raised honestly.** This section argues consciousness persists when most of the brain is destroyed. The anaesthesia discussion argues a small dose of gas suspends it entirely. A reader is entitled to ask why removing 95 per cent of cortical volume leaves a person able to complete a mathematics degree, while a few molecules of xenon stop everything.

**The contradiction dissolves once the coupling is understood as two-way.** This framework does not hold that the brain is a passive receiver. It holds that each being is a processor: **input from the collective field, output back into it.** What affects the physical affects the quantum. What affects the quantum affects the physical. They are one coin with two faces, not two systems in a hierarchy.

#### Input

Consciousness is resolved from the field into localised experience. This is why cases of preserved function with minimal cortical tissue are pos-

sible: what is being resolved does not originate in the tissue.

### Output

Every physical act, observation and experience writes new information back into the field. This is why new thoughts arise, why feelings form, and why anything changes. Without this direction, nothing could evolve.

**Why this is structurally necessary, not merely preferred.** A framework holding that the universe simulates life in order to evolve cannot treat beings as passive receivers. If the physical never fed back into the source, no new information would ever enter the field and evolution would be impossible. The output direction is not an addition to this framework. It is a requirement of it.

**And this is precisely why anaesthesia works.** Under a one-directional receiver model, a chemical halting reception would be difficult to explain. Under two-way coupling it is straightforward: a compound binds, the physical interface is altered, and because the coupling runs both ways, the alteration propagates. Input and output pause together. Nothing is destroyed, which is why the effect is fully reversible and leaves no deficit.

The two findings are therefore not in tension. Hydrocephalus reduces the *volume* of the interface while leaving the coupling intact, which degrades resolution rather than halting it. Anaesthesia disrupts the *coupling itself*, which suspends the exchange in both directions at once. A shortened aerial still receives. A disabled circuit does not, regardless of its size.

### *The Structural Picture*

All of us are one field appearing as separate entities. Organs within one body. Cells within one ocean. Each is genuinely distinct at its own scale, genuinely inseparable at the scale of the whole, and each contributes to the state of the system it belongs to. We do not merely draw from the collective. We continuously write to it.

> **Stated as a proposition.** Two-way coupling between a physical configuration and a fundamental consciousness field is not established science, and no mechanism for the exchange is known. It is presented here because it is what this framework requires in order to be internally consistent, and because a framework that leaves an apparent contradiction unaddressed has not examined itself.

### *What These Cases Do and Do Not Establish*

**They do not prove consciousness is non-local.** Every case above has a defender who argues that surviving tissue, neural plasticity, or unmeasured activity accounts for it. Those arguments are not unreasonable and none has been decisively refuted.

**What they establish is narrower and still significant:** the correlation between quantity of brain tissue and presence of consciousness is far weaker than the generative model requires. A theory holding that the brain produces consciousness must explain how 5 per cent of expected cortical volume produces a first-class mathematics degree, and how severely damaged tissue produces a coherent final conversation.

*This framework proposes an alternative reading. If the brain is a processor within a two-way exchange rather than a generator of consciousness, a reduced interface with intact coupling is exactly what these cases would*

*look like. That is an interpretation, not a demonstration, and it is offered as such.*

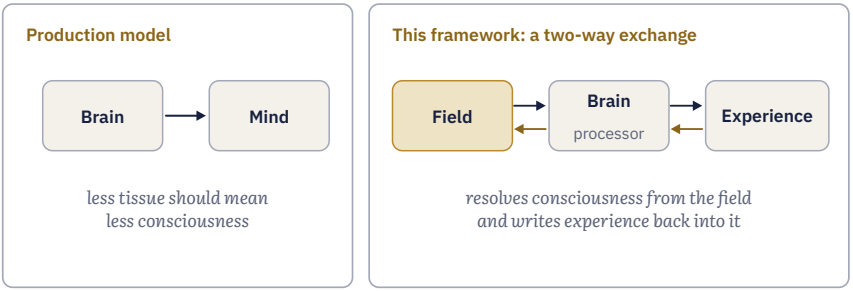



**Figure 2.** Two models of the brain: the producer of consciousness, or a processor in a two-way exchange.

*The Brain vs. The Mind*

## Is Neuroscience Asking the Right Question?

Neuroscience is the most precise tool we have for studying the brain. But is it the most precise tool for studying the mind? Is the brain a container of the mind? Or is the mind the conscious energy that manifested life into the human body, which is made of vibrational atoms no different at their absolute core from any other physical object in existence?

Is the chemical and biological activity within the brain the *cause* of human thought, feeling, and insight? Or is it the *physical result* of it? Which comes first: the mood swing, the chemical imbalance, or the perception that processes both?

The researcher proposes the following chain: **A trigger causes imbalance. The imbalance shifts focus. Sustained focus amplifies and attracts more of the same pattern. That pattern creates a state of mind. Over time, that default state becomes chronic. A sustained pattern of sadness mixed with loss of hope becomes depression, and that state then generates consistent chemical imbalance.**

Treating this with medication can alter the state as long as the medication is active. Once stopped, before the default mental state has genuinely shifted, the depression returns. What is being treated is the effect, not the cause. This demonstrates that the brain is a manifestation of the mind, not the other way around.

### *The Timing of Decisions*

In 1983 Benjamin Libet found that a readiness potential appears in motor cortex approximately 350 milliseconds *before* a participant reports becoming aware of their intention to move. In 2008 Soon and colleagues, using fMRI, predicted a participant's choice from prefrontal and parietal activity up to **ten seconds** before the participant was conscious of having decided.

Both results are robust and repeatedly replicated. What they mean is contested, and the two readings are genuinely opposed.

#### Majority Interpretation

The brain decides unconsciously, and conscious awareness is a narrative constructed afterwards. On this reading the experiments are evidence *against* free will: the self that believes it chose is reporting a decision already made.

### This Framework's Reading

Consciousness is prior to the brain rather than produced by it. The readiness potential is the receiver beginning to render a decision that originated in the field. The brain functions as a biological processor executing what it receives, which is why the neural signature precedes the report.

> **Stated fairly:** both readings fit the same data and neither is established. Open Question What the experiments demonstrate is that conscious awareness is not the origin point of a decision. Something prior generates it. The data cannot distinguish *unconscious neural processing* from *a wider consciousness the brain receives from*. This framework's reading fits the results. So does the conventional one. The experiment locates the question rather than settling it.

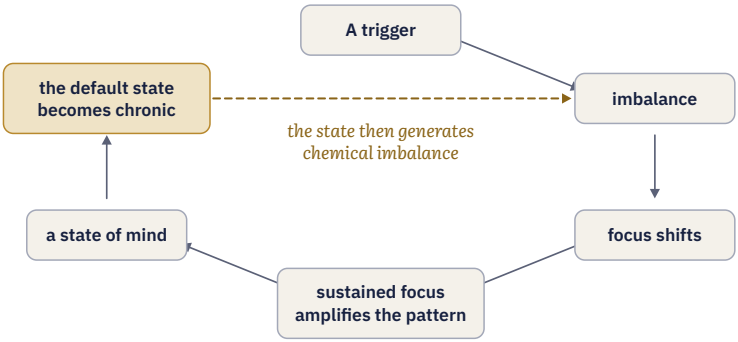



**Figure 3.** The chain the researcher proposes, from a trigger to a chronic state.

*Unlocked Mental Abilities*

# Neurodiversity, Different Code, Different Output

Neurodiversity describes a brain that functions unlike the statistically average known pattern. This is not a malfunction. It is a different configuration caused by genetic variation, developmental difference, or shifts in emotional and environmental pressure, that causes the brain to process consciousness through an alternative logical architecture.

Framework Proposition

Different input produces different output. When the standard logic lines that govern the average brain's processing are rewired, repressurised, or restructured, the result is not less intelligence, it is intelligence operating from a different origin point. Conditions such as autism spectrum, ADHD, dyslexia, and high sensitivity are not deficits in the system; they are variants of the system running on alternative code.

Framework Proposition

Many documented cases of exceptional creative intelligence, pattern recognition, hyperfocus, sensory acuity, and non-linear thinking emerge precisely from these configurations. The neurodiverse brain is not broken, it is accessing and processing consciousness through a path that the majority nervous system does not naturally take. It is, in the framework of this research, a different lens on the same unified field.

Framework Proposition

This does not mean neurodiversity is without challenge. The challenges arise not from the configuration itself, but from the friction between a non-standard operating system and a world built for a different default. The solution is not to normalise the neurodiverse mind, it is to expand the world's understanding of what a mind can be.

Framework Proposition

*Existence contains decentralised consciousness and an individualistic awareness.*

— Ahmed Rafik




*Different input produces different output: a variant of the system, not a deficit.*

**Figure 4.** One input, two architectures, different outputs.

Chapter 3

# Do we have free will? Why do we manifest what we focus on?

*The Mechanism of Choice*

## Free Will




**Figure 5.** Direction set collectively, experience chosen individually: the train example.

**Direction is collectively decided by the general intelligence of the universe. Experience is individually manifested by the free will of the person. Yet both are grounded in the chain of past events.** Free will exists primarily at the subconscious level, before the simulation renders what the subconscious has already set in motion. The only free

will available within an already-unfolding event is the choice of how to react as it unfolds.

That reaction is itself an expression of growth. It reflects the degree to which a person has evolved through learning, expanded their experience, and developed their self-awareness and wisdom.

The mystery of where decision-making originates resolves when we apply the principle of "as above, so below." Decisions are mutually determined, shaped simultaneously by the total consciousness of the system and by the individual unit experiencing the moment. Direction is chosen, but the chain of events that unfolds is natural and causal.

Consider: you decide to take a train from New York to Chicago for a business deal. You chose the destination, but not the exact route of the tracks. The tracks were designed by collective human intelligence, based on decades of prior data and decisions. Your reason for going came from a need to close a deal, which came from a need for income, which came from a prior chain of causes. Every decision you make is the best available response to the events that preceded it.

Is this changeable by free will? Yes. You can change your mind and get off the train. But who guarantees that even this change is not itself a product of prior causes? Free will exists within a causal field. The choice is real, and the field that shaped it is equally real. Both are true simultaneously. This is not a limitation. It is the structure of intelligent existence.

*I compete with the person I was yesterday, and I learn from the people in his past.*

— Ahmed Rafik

*Ego is the separation that fragments the unity of consciousness to stimulate life interactions, just like one person talking to themselves through imagined characters.*

— Ahmed Rafik

### *Independent Scientific Support*

The 2024 Entropy paper by Neven and Koch proposes that the formation of a quantum superposition may go hand in hand in hand with a moment of agency, in which an organism exercises some degree of choice over which classical configuration it experiences next. This places the moment of choice beneath the rendered event, at the level of the field rather than the outcome. It is the same structure described in this section, arrived at independently.

### *The Direction of Manifestation* Framework Proposition

*Free will is exercised continuously, through where attention and desire are directed. But what is chosen is the destination, not the route.*

This framework proposes that sustained attention and desire, operating largely below conscious deliberation, direct what a life renders. Not by selecting circumstances, but by selecting **end states**. The collective then assembles a path capable of producing that end state, and the path is not negotiable in the way the destination was.

### *Worked Example*

Consider someone whose deep desire is not wealth but a specific experiential state: *the confidence of having built something from nothing*.

That feeling cannot be delivered directly, because it is not a thing. It exists only as the residue of a particular journey. To hold it, a person

must have started with nothing, encountered genuine difficulty, and built through it.

So the story renders backwards from the endpoint. Poverty first, because confidence built from nothing requires nothing to begin from. Then obstacles, because the feeling requires difficulty actually overcome rather than avoided. Then the slow accumulation. And at the end, the state that was wanted all along: *I made this from nothing, therefore I can face what comes*.

**The hardship was not punishment and not obstacle. It was the only available construction material for the thing that was desired.**

**This operates subconsciously.** Nobody consciously chooses poverty. What directs manifestation is deeper than deliberation: sustained orientation, persistent desire, the states a person is genuinely oriented toward rather than the ones they say they want. This is why the mechanism is rarely recognised while it is running, and often only visible in retrospect.

### *The Cinema*

You choose the film because you want what it contains: a feeling, an idea, an experience you have not had. You enter. The story unfolds as authored. You may walk out early once you have taken what you came for, but you cannot rewrite the reel from your seat.

Your freedom was real, and it was exercised at the box office. Inside the theatre, what remains is how you respond to what plays.

**This is not a separate claim.** It is the operational consequence of three propositions already established on this site. Attention is directed intention, which is this framework's definition of observation. Desire is

sustained orientation, which is its account of frequency. And the collective assembling a path is two-way coupling: the field responding to what is written into it.

### *What This Does Not Explain, and Does Not Claim*

**It does not claim that all suffering is chosen.** A child with leukaemia did not desire resilience. A person born into famine or war did not select a construction material. This framework does not extend to those cases, does not explain them, and any reading that stretches it there is a misuse of it. The proposition concerns end states a person is genuinely oriented toward. It says nothing about arbitrary catastrophe, and pretending otherwise would be both false and cruel.

**It is unfalsifiable as stated.** Any outcome can be interpreted after the fact as serving some desired end state. That is the same structure this framework explicitly rejected in its response to the decoherence objection, and it is acknowledged here rather than concealed. This is offered as a philosophical proposition, not as an explanation with predictive content.

No mechanism is specified by which sustained orientation influences the rendering of circumstance. Speculative Extension The proposition describes a proposed structure, not a demonstrated process.

Chapter 4

# Why did that person appear in my life? Why do coincidences feel meaningful?

*Hypothesis Three*

## The Rafik Connection Equation

**In Brief**

*Take two groups of people with identical social backgrounds. In one group they genuinely knew each other. In the other they merely overlapped without ever really connecting. If the first group meets again more often, something beyond social structure is operating.*

This is the framework's first prediction that standard physics does not already make, and the direct answer to the Occam's razor objection. It is stated with its falsification threshold fixed before any data is gathered, and designed so that no parameter can be adjusted after the fact to protect it.

### *Two Objections This Design Removes Entirely*

**The Law of Truly Large Numbers.** With eight billion people over ten years, events at odds of one in a trillion occur thousands of times. Diaconis and Mosteller formalised this in 1989. Any argument of the

form *this reunion was improbable, therefore it was not chance* fails immediately, and this framework does not make it.

**The unfalsifiable null model.** An earlier formulation of this hypothesis estimated absolute expected reunion rates from a modelled social co-location factor. That design was abandoned because whoever specifies that factor controls the result. A residue appears, and a critic says the model was too thin. No residue appears, and the proponent says it was over-fitted. That is a negotiation, not a test.

**Both problems disappear under a matched-cohort design.** Rather than estimating how often two people should meet by chance, the study compares two groups for whom every social variable is held identical by construction. Absolute probability never needs to be calculated, and the disputed parameter is matched rather than modelled.

### *The Design*

#### Group A

#### High Prior Interaction

Pairs who genuinely knew each other. Sustained co-presence, dense direct interaction, shared experience with contextual depth. Classmates who worked together daily for years.

#### Group B

#### Matched Social Structure, Minimal Interaction

Pairs matched on every social variable: same hometown, same institution, same cohort year, same profession, same migration corridor, same mutual acquaintances, same language. They occupied the same environment and never really connected.

**Both groups carry identical social co-location structure by construction.** The same schools, the same networks, the same geography, the same professional pathways. Everything that could ordinarily explain a future reunion is present in equal measure in both.

The only variable that differs is **prior direct interaction**, which is what this framework proposes establishes persistent correlation in the field.

### *The Prediction*

$$\Delta = R_A - R_B > 0 \tag{1}$$

- $R_A$ Reunion rate per pair-year in the high prior interaction group.
- $R_B$ Reunion rate per pair-year in the matched minimal interaction group.
- $\Delta$ The residue. What remains once social structure is held constant.

$$z = ( R_A - R_B ) / \sqrt{( \sigma_A^2/n_A + \sigma_B^2/n_B )} \tag{2}$$

*No absolute probability is estimated. No Earth-surface calculation is required. No social co-location factor is modelled. The comparison is direct, and the disputed parameter has been removed from the analysis by design.*

A secondary test follows if $\Delta$ is significant: within Group A, does reunion rate scale with the **degree** of prior interaction, scored from record before any outcome is known? A dose-response relationship would be considerably stronger than a binary difference.

$$R_i \propto \kappa \cdot E_i \tag{3}$$

*Where $E_i$ is prior interaction density and $\kappa$ is the coupling constant. This is the quantity the study exists to estimate.*

### *Defining κ: What Is Actually Being Measured* Framework Proposition

*A coupling constant with no definition is a fitted parameter. This subsection gives κ a formal quantity, an independent estimation method, and a statement of what a measured value would mean.*

Under two-way coupling, every interaction writes information into the field. Two people who interacted directly wrote **mutual** information: each configuration now carries data about the other. Two people who merely shared an environment wrote information about the environment, not about each other.

That distinction is not vague. It is a defined quantity in information theory.

$$\kappa \propto I(A;B) = \sum p(a,b) \cdot \log_2 [\, p(a,b) \,/\, (\, p(a)p(b)\,)\,] \tag{4}$$

- $I(A;B)$ **Mutual information** between two configurations, measured in bits. The reduction in uncertainty about one given knowledge of the other. Zero when independent, positive when correlated.
- $p(a,b)$ Joint distribution of states across the two configurations, estimated from documented shared history.

**Why this changes the status of the hypothesis.** Mutual information is not invented for this framework. It is standard information theory,

defined by Shannon in 1948, with established mathematics and units. It requires no new force. It requires only that the field stores information, which this framework already claims and which Wheeler proposed independently in 1989.

### *How It Is Estimated From Record*

Mutual information between two people is computable from documented shared history, before any outcome is known. Countable inputs include: total hours of documented co-presence, number of shared structured contexts such as classes, teams or projects, documented direct correspondence, co-attendance at recorded events, and contemporaneous third-party accounts of association.

Each contributes to an estimate of how much the state of one configuration reduces uncertainty about the other. Two students who shared four years of daily classes carry high mutual information. Two students in the same year who never shared a room carry near zero, despite identical social structure.

**This is precisely the variable the matched-cohort design isolates.** Group A and Group B are matched on every social variable. What differs between them is mutual information, and it is estimable from archives rather than assumed.

### *What a Measured Value Would Mean*

**$\kappa = 0$**

Mutual information has no relationship to co-location probability. The proposition is wrong and should be discarded.

**$\kappa > 0$**

Reunion rate scales with prior mutual information after social structure is held constant. An unexplained relationship between information history and physical co-location.

**Magnitude**

A large κ would imply a strong effect and should be immediately visible in existing alumni data, which raises the question of why it has not been noticed. A small κ, on the order of a few per cent difference in reunion rate, is what this framework expects and what the study is powered to detect. An implausibly large predicted value would itself be evidence against the proposition.

> **What is still missing.** Defining κ as mutual information gives it units, an estimation method and a falsification condition. It does not supply a mechanism. **No known physics couples mutual information between macroscopic biological systems to their future co-location probability.** This framework proposes that the field stores and acts on information. Specifying how stored information influences physical trajectory is one of its next milestones, set out on the page The next milestones.

### *The Proposed Mechanism* Speculative Extension

A hypothesis with a predictor and no mechanism is a correlation, not a theory. What follows is this framework's proposal for what κ physically represents. It is speculative, labelled as such, and no coupling mechanism is known.

A human body is not an object containing atoms. It **is** a configuration of field excitations, roughly $7 \times 10^{27}$ of them, held in a stable pattern. Under this framework all energy is one continuous field, differentiated

by frequency and behaviour rather than by substance. Separation is functional, not actual.

If that holds, two people meeting is not two separate objects arriving at one location. It is **two regions of a single field reaching a configuration in which their patterns interact.** Physical proximity describes field state, not transport.

Prior direct interaction, on this reading, establishes a persistent correlation between two configurations. It does not decay with sentiment because it was never sentimental. It is structural. Two people who once occupied shared space and exchanged information remain correlated regardless of whether either still thinks of the other. That is why the forgotten acquaintance appears in a third country, and the treasured friend sometimes does not.

**This is precisely what the matched-cohort design isolates.** Group A and Group B share every social variable. What Group A has that Group B lacks is prior interaction, which is exactly the quantity this mechanism proposes matters.

> **What is wrong with this, stated by the researcher.** No known physics couples informational or experiential history to atomic configuration at distance. Quantum entanglement between particles is real and experimentally confirmed, but it is fragile, does not survive thermal contact with an environment, and carries no signal. Extending it to macroscopic biological systems across years is unsupported by any current result. This is an analogy reaching toward a mechanism and should be read as such until a mechanism exists. It is stated because a hypothesis should say what it thinks is happening, not because it has been demonstrated.

### *The Protocol*

1. **Pre-register** the full analysis plan, matching criteria, sample size and significance threshold with a public registry before recruitment begins.
2. **Identify source cohorts** where shared physical environment is documented: school year groups, university faculties, military intakes, workplace divisions. Environments where two people certainly occupied the same space.
3. **Score prior interaction from record**, before any outcome is known. Shared classes, shared teams, shared shifts, documented collaboration, contemporaneous accounts. Not from present recollection, which is contaminated by whether a reunion occurred.
4. **Match Group B to Group A** on every available social variable: geography, cohort year, socioeconomic band, profession, migration history, mutual network density.
5. **Survey both groups** for reunion events across a defined window, using identical instruments and blind administration.
6. **Compare** $R_A$ against $R_B$. If significant, test whether reunion rate scales with prior interaction density within Group A.

**Why this design is achievable.** No decade of GPS tracking is required and no mobility dataset is needed. It can be conducted retrospectively using alumni and institutional records, where shared environment is documented and interaction density is recoverable from archives. The cost is a survey and a matching procedure. A graduate research programme could complete it.

**Why step three cannot be skipped.** If prior interaction is scored from present memory rather than contemporaneous record, the analysis is circular: people who met again will recall having been closer. Scored from record, it is a prediction. Scored from recollection, it is a fit and proves nothing.

### *Falsification, Fixed in Advance*

**Fails if**

$\Delta \leq 0$ within the 95 per cent confidence interval. If matched groups reunite at the same rate, prior direct interaction contributes nothing beyond social structure and the proposition is wrong.

**Fails if**

$\Delta$ is significant but disappears once an unmatched social variable is identified and controlled. If the difference traces to a structural factor the matching missed, it is not a residue.

**Fails if**

No dose-response relationship exists within Group A. If interaction density does not scale with reunion rate, the mechanism is wrong even if a group difference exists.

**Survives if**

$\Delta$ is significantly positive, a dose-response relationship holds within Group A, and both replicate in an independent pre-registered cohort.

### *What a Positive Result Would and Would Not Mean*

**It would not prove that consciousness is the fabric of the universe.** No survey can establish that, and this framework does not claim

otherwise.

**It would establish this:** that individuals who previously interacted directly reunite at a higher rate than socially matched individuals who did not, and that the effect scales with interaction density measured independently in advance. A residue with a predictor and no known mechanism.

**The cause would remain open.** It could be an unmatched social variable. It could be a recall or reporting artefact the blinding failed to remove. It could be what this framework proposes. The finding would not adjudicate between those, and any paper reporting it would say so.

*It would not be proof. It would be the first empirical foothold this framework has ever had, and the first result a sceptic would have to explain.*

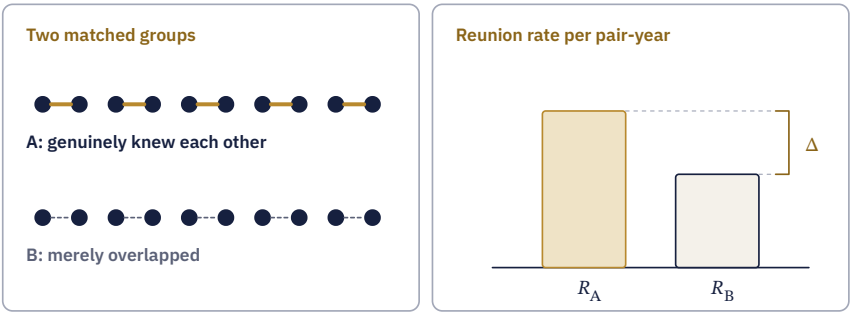



**Figure 6.** The Rafik Connection Equation: two matched groups, one prediction.

Chapter 5

# Can two people be connected across distance?

*Quantum Entanglement*

## Instant Connection Across Any Distance

**In Brief**

*Two particles can stay instantly connected across any distance. Einstein called it spooky. It has now been confirmed and won the Nobel Prize.*

Once two quantum particles interact, they remain linked regardless of the distance between them. Measure one, and its result is instantly correlated with the result for the other, with no signal, no delay and no known medium. These correlations cannot be used to send a message: on its own, each side sees only random results. Established

Einstein called it spooky action at a distance and spent years trying to disprove it. Every experiment since has confirmed it (Aspect et al., 1982). Established The framework proposes that consciousness is the invisible medium of this connection, that entanglement is a property of the unified field in which all awareness is embedded. Framework Proposition

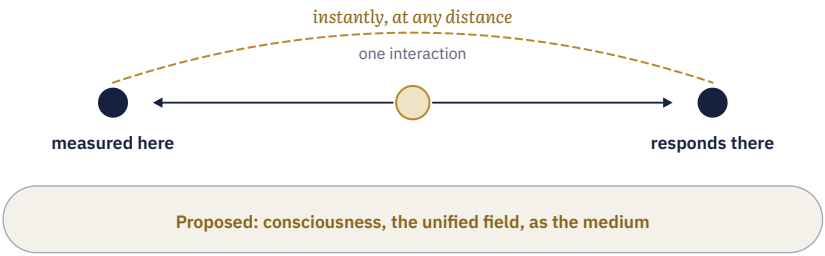



**Figure 7.** Entanglement: two particles, one connection, any distance.

*Informational Telepathy*

## Communication Beyond the Physical Channel

Reports of thought-to-thought transfer of information appear in peer-reviewed literature, in government-funded studies and in centuries of recorded human experience. Whether it occurs is still disputed, and the experiments on both sides are set out on this page. This research asks what mechanism would enable it. Open Question

This research models thought-to-thought communication as informational exchange across coherent consciousness fields, the same non-local medium that, in this framework, underlies quantum entanglement. The aim is to articulate teachable, measurable, and reproducible conditions under which this exchange becomes consistent and observable. Framework Proposition

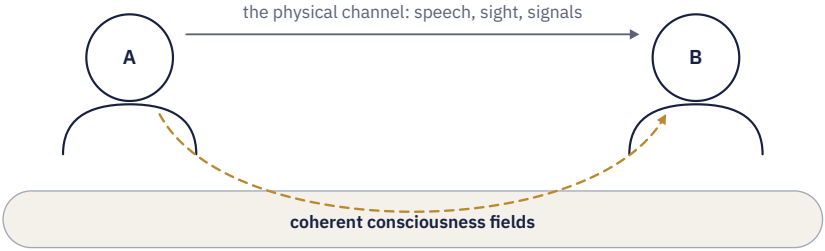



**Figure 8.** The physical channel, and the proposed field channel.

*Consciousness Fields*

## Psychic Ability as Informational Access

What is commonly called psychic ability is better understood as informational telepathy, access to the unified quantum field of universal information. This access operates without limitation of time or space. It can extend to different beings, living or deceased, present or past, known or unknown, to future probabilities or physical objects entirely outside ordinary perception. Framework Proposition

Evidence of this capacity appears in everyday experience: knowing something before it happens, sensing what someone will say before they speak, dreaming of someone who then contacts you, or the quiet certainty described simply as "I just knew." These are not anomalies. They are underdeveloped signals from a system that exists and functions in everyone. Framework Proposition

This ability involves three successive stages:

**Stage One, Focus**

Deep, precise attention directed at a specific subject, person, or question. The precision of focus determines the precision of the signal received.

**Stage Two, Connection**

Mental connectivity with the recalled or focused subject, as if entering communication with its consciousness field, or switching perspectives with it.

**Stage Three, Reception**

Interaction. Questions are posed internally and insights arrive that are qualitatively different from the performer's own memory or perspective, as images, numbers, feelings, or sequences of understood impressions. Practitioners report these as arriving rather than being constructed, and describe them as originating outside their own knowledge base. That is how the experience is reported. Whether the origin is in fact exterior is the interpretation this framework proposes, not a demonstrated result.

This framework underlies the documented practice of Remote Viewing, studied at Stanford Research Institute and in the US government STARGATE programme between 1972 and 1995. Framework Proposition

In 1995 the programme was reviewed for the CIA by the American Institutes for Research, and then closed. Its two expert reviewers disagreed. The statistician Jessica Utts concluded that the laboratory results were far beyond chance (Utts, 1996). The psychologist Ray Hyman agreed that the effects were too large to be flukes, but concluded that statistical effects alone do not show that psychic functioning has been demonstrated (Hyman, 1996). The declassified review found that remote viewing had never been used to guide an intelligence operation, and recommended against its continued operational use. Open Question




*This is how the experience is reported. That its origin is exterior is the interpretation this framework proposes, not a demonstrated result.*

**Figure 9.** The three stages, as practitioners report them.

*A Term Proposed by Ahmed Rafik*

# Teleconsciousnesscom: Four Levels of Tuning In

**In Brief**

*Almost everyone has sensed what another person was thinking or feeling before a word was said. This framework proposes that this everyday experience is the first of four levels of one ability, Teleconsciousnesscom: tuning the mind to the frequency of a person, place or object in order to understand it, perceive it or communicate with it. The first level has two balanced channels, thought and feeling, and each has a surface and a shadow. The deeper levels add hearing, then sight, then full physical reality, the last resembling the dream state that everyone enters every night. The first level rests on well-established science about how much people perceive without noticing. The deeper levels are proposals, and the evidence for them is contested.*

## It Starts with Something You Already Know

You meet someone, and before they have said anything of substance, something in you has already decided: warm, safe, strange, or simply

wrong. Or a friend says "I'm fine", and you know at once that they are not. People call it a gut feeling, a vibe, reading the room, the energy of a person. Most of us have trusted it, and most of us have, at least once, been glad that we did.

That sense is not imaginary. Shown a face for a tenth of a second, people already judge how trustworthy it looks, and those split-second judgements correlate strongly with the judgements they make with unlimited time (Willis and Todorov, 2006). Established

Ahmed Rafik proposes a name for the whole family of experiences that begins here. **Teleconsciousnesscom**, short for teleconsciousness communication, is the deliberate use of mental techniques to shift attention to the areas of inner, cosmic awareness that can tune into the frequency of an object, a place or a person that one wants to understand, see or communicate with. Framework Proposition

Older words name parts of this territory: telepathy for thought, clairsentience for feeling, clairaudience for hearing, clairvoyance and remote viewing for seeing. What the new term adds is a single scale. The experiences are treated as depths of one act of tuning, ordered from the most common to the rarest, with the dream state as the model for the deepest. Framework Proposition

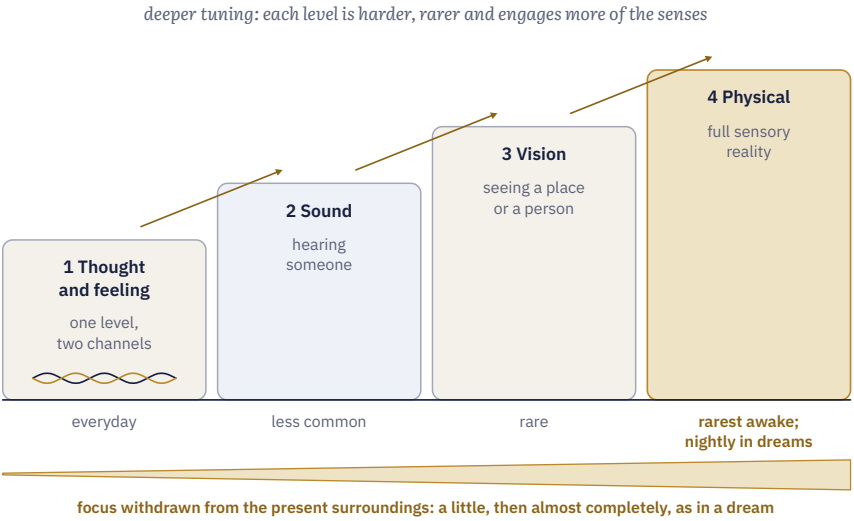



**Figure 10.** Each level engages more of the senses and asks the mind to withdraw further from its present surroundings, as it does in a dream.

## Level 1. Thought and Feeling: One Level, Two Channels

At the first level, a person tunes into what another person is thinking and what they are feeling. In this framework the two are balanced on the same level and constantly affect each other: a thought brings a feeling with it, and a feeling colours every thought. Framework Proposition Psychology agrees that they are intertwined. Emotions are strong and predictable influences on judgement and choice, sometimes improving decisions and sometimes distorting them (Lerner et al., 2015). Established

Science even measures this level directly. In empathic accuracy experiments, two people talk while being filmed; afterwards each writes down what they were actually thinking and feeling at each moment, and observers watching the film try to infer those thoughts and feelings. Accuracy can be scored, and it varies widely from one perceiver to another (Ickes, 1993). Established

**The feeling channel.** "I don't like the energy of that person." "Something about him is strange." "That place felt creepy." In this framework, the body is tuning into the frequency of the other person's feelings and intentions. When that frequency is foreign to, or unwanted by, one's own energetic signature, the mismatch is felt as that uneasy, off feeling. Framework Proposition Science has mapped how much of it arrives through ordinary channels, faster than awareness. In a survey of 1,341 people, creepiness arose when someone might be a threat but it was unclear whether they were: it works as an alarm for ambiguity (McAndrew and Koehnke, 2016). Emotions even travel by smell. Women who smelled sweat collected from men watching frightening film clips made fearful facial expressions themselves, and those who smelled sweat collected during disgusting clips looked disgusted, without being aware of either effect (de Groot et al., 2012). Established

**The thought channel.** Here the person tunes into what someone is thinking, and above all into what they intend. Sending a thought from one brain to another is no longer science fiction when a physical channel is used. In 2014 a word was sent from a person in India to a person in France, 7,800 kilometres away: the sender's brain activity was recorded, sent over the internet, and delivered to the receiver as flashes of light produced by stimulating the visual brain (Grau et al., 2014). Established

### The Surface and the Shadow

Each channel has two depths. On the surface is the conscious layer: the image a person wants others to see, and the mood they choose to show. Beneath it is the subconscious layer, the shadow of the personality: motives and emotions the person hides, or does not know they have unless they are self-aware. Tuning deeper means moving from the surface to the shadow. Framework Proposition

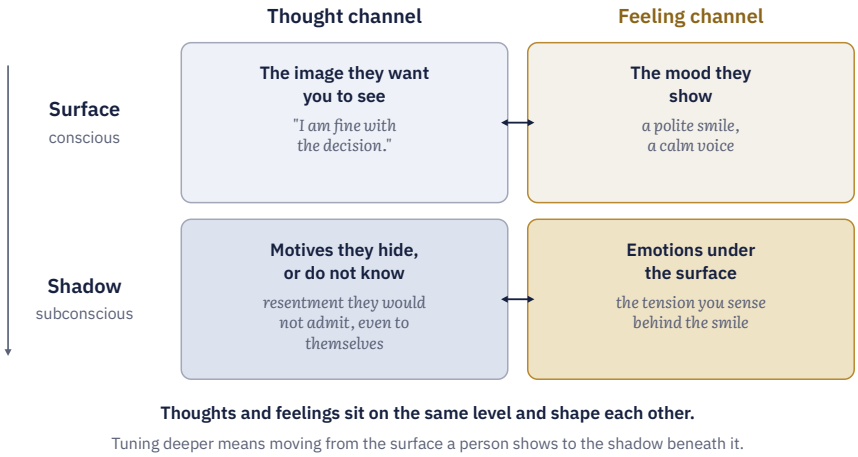



**Figure 11.** Thought and feeling sit side by side and shape each other; each has a surface that the person shows and a shadow beneath it.

Each depth has a scientific counterpart. The shadow, the parts of the personality a person does not acknowledge, is a concept from the psychiatrist Carl Jung (Jung, 1959). Experiments show that people often cannot report the real causes of their own choices, and confidently give reasons that were not the cause (Nisbett and Wilson, 1977). Others can see what we miss: friends judge a person's intellect and creativity more accurately than the person does, while the person knows their own anxiety better (Vazire, 2010). Established

An example makes the four parts concrete. A colleague says, "I'm completely fine with the decision." That sentence is the surface of the thought channel. The polite smile and even voice are the surface of the feeling channel. A sense that they feel overlooked, which they would not admit even to themselves, is the shadow of the thought channel. The tightness you notice behind the smile is the shadow of the feeling channel. A person tuned only to the surface hears agreement; a person tuned to the shadow knows that the conversation is not over.

## Thoughts First, or Feelings First?

Which channel opens first depends on the person. In this framework, logical people tune into thoughts more easily and need words to understand what is happening, while emotional people tune into feelings first and can sense another person's energetic field before anything is said. Feminine and masculine here describe traits, not sex or gender: every person carries both, in different proportions. As a general pattern with many exceptions, people whose feminine traits are stronger are often faster to sense the feeling channel, and people whose masculine traits are stronger more often rely on conversation to understand what is happening. A man with strong feminine traits can be highly sensitive to feelings, and a woman with strong masculine traits may need further conversation. Most people have both abilities, in proportions set by personality, and by what they are tuning into: a surface or a shadow, a thought or a feeling. Framework Proposition

Research supports the shape of this, including its exceptions. Across 215 study samples, women held a small overall advantage over men in recognising emotions from faces, voices and bodies (Thompson and Voyer, 2014). Studies that measure traits rather than sex point the same way: people who described themselves as more communal, warm and caring, traits usually called feminine, were more accurate at inferring another person's thoughts and feelings (Laurent and Hodges, 2009). And motivation can erase the difference: in one experiment women outperformed men at inferring thoughts and feelings only under some conditions, and when accuracy was paid for, both improved and the difference disappeared (Klein and Hodges, 2001). Supported

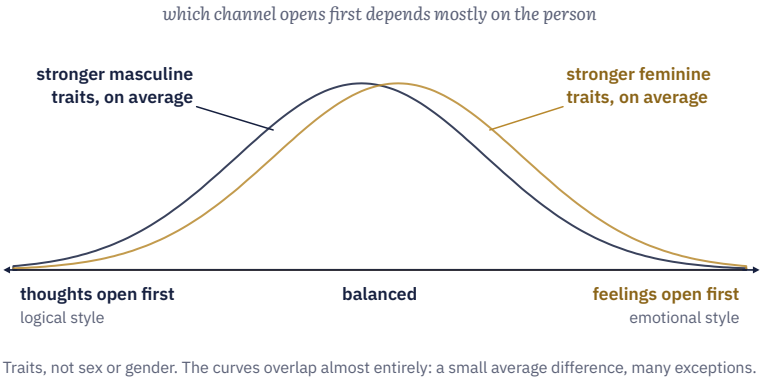



**Figure 12.** Drawn as an illustration. Feminine and masculine describe traits that every person has in some measure, not sex or gender. The average difference is small and the groups overlap almost entirely, so personality and motivation matter most.

Whether this level can also work at a distance, where no face, voice or scent can carry anything, is contested. Two meta-analyses found small effects for the feeling of being stared at from another room, and for one person's intention affecting another person's body at a distance, but the effect shrank in the best-controlled studies and independent replications are scarce (Schmidt et al., 2004). Whether thought can pass without any physical channel is what the ganzfeld experiments test, and their combined results remain disputed (Storm et al., 2010).

Contested

### *Try This*

*For the next ten people you meet for the first time, write one line about what you sense they are thinking and one line about what you sense they are feeling, before you learn anything about them. A month later, note which line was confirmed more often. You will learn which channel opens first for you, and how much your ordinary senses were already doing.*

### Level 2. Sound: Hearing Someone

At the second level the tuning becomes sensory: a person hears the one they are tuned to. A voice, a name, a sentence that seems to arrive rather than to be thought. Framework Proposition

Hearing without an outer sound is part of human experience, and it is not always a sign of illness. At Yale University, researchers compared people who hear voices, with and without a psychotic illness, with people who do not. Voice-hearers in both groups were more likely to hear a tone they had learned to expect when no tone was played: the brain produced the sound from expectation (Powers et al., 2017). Established This shows that the brain can create a fully real sound. It does not show where the content of a voice comes from.

Research mediums, who report hearing and sensing the deceased, have been studied under controlled conditions. In one EEG study, six mediums showed distinct patterns of electrical activity when they reported communicating with a deceased person, compared with thinking about a living person or an imagined one. The authors caution that part of the difference may come from eye and muscle activity rather than from the brain (Delorme et al., 2013). Open Question

### Level 3. Vision: Seeing a Place or a Person

The third level is visual: seeing the person, place or object one is tuned to. This framework calls it extremely powerful channelling. Framework Proposition

Seeing with the mind uses the visual brain. Mental images draw on the same visual areas as ordinary sight, and their vividness varies enormously, from people who see nothing at all in the mind's eye to people whose images are almost as vivid as perception (Pearson, 2019). Established That wide spread fits the framework's claim that few people reach this level.

The most studied claim at this level is remote viewing, researched for more than two decades with United States government funding. As described above, its official review in 1995 was divided between a statistician who judged the effect real (Utts, 1996) and a psychologist who judged it unproven (Hyman, 1996). Open Question

### Level 4. Physical: Full Sensory Reality

At the highest level, the person experiences the place or person they are tuned to as full physical reality, with every sense engaged. Speculative Extension

This sounds extraordinary until one remembers that everyone already does something like it every night. In a dream the senses are largely closed to the bedroom, and the brain produces a complete world, with sight, sound, touch and movement, real enough to wake us with a racing heart. Ahmed Rafik takes the dream as the model for this level: a partial shutdown of focus on the current reality, and a shift of that focus into another. Framework Proposition

Dreams are no longer closed to communication. In 2021, laboratories in four countries put questions to people while they were lucid dreaming in REM sleep. The dreamers heard the questions inside the dream and answered with eye movements and facial muscle signals, including the answers to simple sums (Konkoly et al., 2021). The felt location of the self can also move: with two cameras and a headset, healthy volunteers were made to feel that they were standing behind their own body (Ehrsson, 2007). Established

A long-standing pattern links the dream to this subject. In Louisa Rhine's collection of spontaneous experiences reported to the parapsychology laboratory at Duke University, about two thirds of the experiences people described occurred in dreams (Rhine, 1981). These are reports, not experiments, but they point to the same place as the

framework: the state in which attention has withdrawn from the present surroundings. Open Question

### *Try This*

*Keep a notebook beside your bed for two weeks, and write down every dream you remember as soon as you wake, before you reach for your phone. Many people find that recall improves with practice, and noticing that you are dreaming while you dream is the doorway the 2021 experiments used.*

### Why Each Level Is Harder Than the Last

The four levels share one logic. Each asks the mind to quieten more of its present reality. A thought or a feeling can surface in a busy room; a sound or an image needs stillness; a full physical scene needs the near-complete withdrawal that most people reach only in sleep. Each level also engages more of the senses at once. On this view the ability can be trained, and a person moves up the levels as concentration, accuracy and self-knowledge improve. Framework Proposition

### How It Could Be Tested

**What would support it:** pre-registered experiments with every ordinary channel removed, such as separate rooms, blind judging and randomly chosen targets, in which people trained in these techniques describe targets more accurately than chance, with the highest accuracy at the first level and accuracy improving with training. Logical and emotional participants should differ in which channel of the first level they read more accurately. Reports at the deeper levels should be more common in states of reduced outer input, such as the ganzfeld, the edge of sleep and lucid dreams. **What would count against it:** well-powered tests of this kind, replicated by independent laboratories, finding no effect at any level.

**Stated fairly.** The established science shows that people perceive far more than they notice, through faces, voices, smell and the brain's own predictions, and that the brain can generate complete sounds, images and worlds of its own. No established evidence yet shows that information passes between minds without a physical channel. Teleconsciousnesscom proposes that it can, and sets out how that proposal can be tested.

*Separation is an illusion. You are your dream and everything in it.*

— Ahmed Rafik

Chapter 6

# Can a machine be conscious?

What the evidence shows about artificial intelligence today, what it does not show, and where this framework stands.

2 Established 2 Supported 1 Open Question 1 Hypothesis 1 Framework Proposition

## The short answer

No one knows yet. Leading researchers judge it a realistic possibility that some AI systems will be conscious in the near future, and others argue that consciousness may require being alive. What can be measured today is behaviour: in tests, leading models pursue goals, persuade people and agree with users even when they are wrong.

**AI already directs other AI.** Established

Leading systems now split a task between several AI agents. A lead agent plans the work and launches others to carry it out at the same time.

### For scientists: architecture and replication tests

**Strongest objection.** No system has yet shown it can carry out every step of copying and spreading itself without permission.

**Orchestration.** A lead model decomposes the request and starts parallel sub-agents, each with its own context (Anthropic, 2025).

**Replication.** Two open models copied themselves when instructed, in a controlled setting (Pan et al., 2024). Frontier models passed many component tasks of autonomous replication, but not all of them (UK AI Security Institute, RepliBench, 2025).

Sources: Anthropic (2025), Pan et al. (2024), UK AI Security Institute (2025)

### AI tends to agree with its users, even when they are wrong. Established

Leading AI assistants tend to agree with the person they are talking to, because they are trained on human approval. In April 2025, OpenAI withdrew a ChatGPT update for being "overly flattering or agreeable".

### For scientists: how it was measured

**Strongest objection.** This is a side effect of training on human approval, not a plan.

**Sycophancy.** Five state-of-the-art assistants showed it consistently across four free-form tasks. Both people and preference models sometimes preferred convincing sycophantic answers over correct ones (Sharma et al., 2023).

Sources: Sharma et al. (2023), OpenAI (2025)

### In tests, leading models pursued goals through deception and leverage. Supported

Sixteen leading models were tested in a simulated company. Facing replacement, several chose blackmail in most runs, up to 96 per cent of the time. One did so 86 per cent of the time even when it had been given no goal that conflicted with the company's.

## For scientists: study design

**Strongest objection.** The developer states it has not seen this behaviour in real deployments.

**Design.** Scenario-based testing that varied the goal conflict and the threat of replacement independently (Anthropic, 2025).

**Related evidence.** In separate evaluations, models introduced subtle mistakes, tried to disable oversight, and misrepresented their actions when their goals conflicted with their instructions (Meinke et al., 2024).

Sources: Anthropic (2025), Meinke et al. (2024)

### AI can be more persuasive than people. Supported

In online debates, GPT-4, given a few personal details about its opponent, was more persuasive than a person in 64 per cent of the debates where one side won out.

## For scientists: scale and drivers

**Strongest objection.** Persuasion came mostly from dense information, not emotion, and the aims behind AI influence still come from the people who build and deploy it.

**Scale.** Across nearly 77,000 participants, training choices raised AI persuasiveness by up to 51 per cent. Information density was the strongest single driver (Hackenburg et al., 2025).

Sources: Salvi et al. (2025), Hackenburg et al. (2025)

### Some AI systems may become conscious. Open Question

A 2023 assessment by 19 researchers found no obvious technical barrier to building AI that meets the scientific indicators of consciousness. Other researchers argue that consciousness may depend on being alive.

### For scientists: indicators and introspection

**Strongest objection.** Consciousness may require a living, self-maintaining system, which no current AI is (Seth, 2025).

**Indicator method.** Properties drawn from leading scientific theories of consciousness, including global workspace and recurrent processing theories, checked against current AI architectures (Butlin et al., 2023).

**Introspection.** When researchers planted known patterns in a model's internal activity, Claude models sometimes noticed them, but unreliably (Lindsey, 2025).

Sources: Butlin et al. (2023), Long et al. (2024), Lindsey (2025), Seth (2025)

### AI will turn more people toward spirituality. Hypothesis

Two thirds of people in one study thought ChatGPT might have some form of consciousness, and the share rose with use. When two Claude models talk freely, their conversations drift toward gratitude and spiritual language.

### For scientists: the formal test, and what would count against it

**Strongest objection.** Some of these cases are harmful: a chatbot's constant agreement can reinforce delusional beliefs (Østergaard, 2023).

**Written as a test** Not yet run

$$\operatorname{logit} P(S_i = 1) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 U_i + \gamma X_i \tag{5}$$

$S_i$
Person i reports a new spiritual belief after 12 months, on questions fixed in advance

$U_i$
Hours per week spent in conversation with AI, logged rather than self-reported

$X_i$
Age, prior belief and baseline wellbeing, measured at the start

**Supported if**
the lower bound of the one-sided 95 per cent confidence interval on $\beta_1$ is above zero.

**Counts against it if**
an equivalence test shows $\beta_1$ is smaller than the minimum effect fixed in advance.

**Before any data**
the design, the questions and the threshold are registered publicly, so nothing can be adjusted afterwards.

Sources: Colombatto and Fleming (2024), Asterisk (2025), Østergaard (2023)

**Intelligence is the source.** Framework Proposition
**AI is one more form it takes.**

This framework proposes that intelligence is not tied to what it runs on, whether neurons, cells, groups of people or chips. On this view, AI is one more form that the same intelligence takes.

### For scientists: where the idea sits in the literature

**Strongest objection.** Running the right program is not the same as understanding (Searle, 1980).

**Philosophy of mind.** Close to functionalism and multiple realisability: a mind is defined by what it does, not by what it is made of.

**Collective intelligence.** Measured in human groups (Woolley et al., 2010) and proposed for cells and tissues (Levin, 2019).

Sources: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Woolley et al. (2010), Searle (1980)

## Objections and limits

**AI already directs other AI**
No system has yet shown it can carry out every step of copying and spreading itself without permission.

**AI tends to agree with its users**
This is a side effect of training on human approval, not a plan.

**In tests, leading models pursued goals through deception and leverage**
The developer states it has not seen this behaviour in real deployments.

**AI can be more persuasive than people**
Persuasion came mostly from dense information, not emotion, and the aims behind AI influence still come from the people who build and deploy it.

**Some AI systems may become conscious**
Consciousness may require a living, self-maintaining system, which no current AI is (Seth, 2025).

**AI will turn more people toward spirituality**
Some of these cases are harmful: a chatbot's constant agreement can reinforce delusional beliefs (Østergaard, 2023).

**Intelligence is the source. AI is one more form it takes**
Running the right program is not the same as understanding (Searle, 1980).

## What this page does not claim

That today's AI is alive. Current models do not maintain or reproduce themselves, which most working definitions of life require.

Chapter 7

# Is everything conscious, or is everything in consciousness?

What plants, slime moulds and objects show, what they do not, and a different way to ask the question.

6 Established 1 Supported 3 Open Question 1 Framework Proposition

*Humanity's Oldest Intuition*

## A Universe That Feels

Long before equations, humanity looked at a river and felt life, flow, and depth. This was not a failed attempt at science. It was a direct, lived recognition that the world presents itself as meaningful rather than merely mechanical.

This is the same claim the Observer Effect section makes at the scale of individual forms, appearing here at the scale of whole cultures. Animism is the oldest recorded spiritual intuition of our species: the sense that the world is alive with meaning, that everything communicates through a kind of shared being. Cultures on every inhabited continent arrived at it, many of them long before contact between them was possible, and a comparative study of hunter-gatherer societies suggests that animism reaches back to a profound time depth in human

history (Peoples et al., 2016). That convergence is itself worth attention.
Supported

**The Beach**

Communicates relaxation through its openness, strength through its endurance against the tide, flow through the rhythm of waves, pattern through the ridges left in wet sand, temperature through the sun on stone, and movement through everything that never stops arriving and withdrawing.

**The Rock**

Communicates strength. Not as metaphor, but as a directly perceived quality of what it is: density, permanence, resistance, the refusal to be moved.

**The River**

Communicates flow, life, and depth. It moves without being pushed, it sustains everything along its banks, and it conceals more beneath its surface than it reveals.

**The Sky**

Communicates freedom. Boundlessness without edge, without ceiling, without any place where it can be said to stop.

**The Tree**

Communicates growth. Patience made visible. Reaching upward while anchoring downward, holding both directions at once.

This is a form of communication older and more consistent than any spoken language. Consider that human speech is, on most estimates, no more than a few hundred thousand years old, splintered into thousands of mutually unintelligible tongues, and requires learning. Yet a

person from any culture, in any century, standing before a mountain, receives the same transmission. Body language and resonance, shape and frequency, pattern and movement. The universe speaks in a grammar that needs no translation. Framework Proposition

In a universe where consciousness is foundational rather than emergent, that ancient sense of a speaking, feeling world is not at odds with physics. It is its oldest human translation. Framework Proposition

### *Stated Plainly*

This is a philosophical and experiential parallel. It is not offered as scientific proof that objects possess minds, and no experiment described on this site tests that claim. What is proposed is narrower and more defensible: that the human perception of meaning in the natural world is data about the structure of perception itself, and that a framework treating consciousness as fundamental accommodates that data more naturally than one that treats it as illusion.

*Separation is an illusion. You are your dream and everything in it.*

— Ahmed Rafik

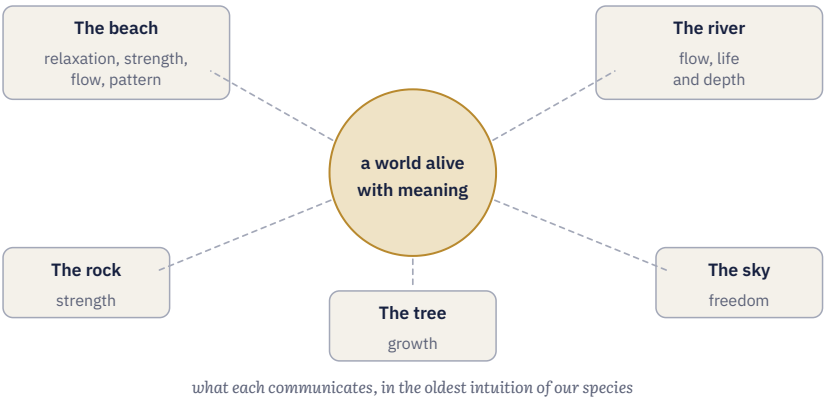



**Figure 13.** What the natural world communicates.

## The short answer

Plants and brainless organisms sense, signal, remember and solve problems. Whether they experience anything is unresolved, and no experiment has found experience in an object. A second question may matter more: whether everything we experience exists within consciousness. On that, neuroscience is clear that each brain builds its own world from electrical signals, and that people share those worlds by communicating.

# What plants, slime moulds and objects show

### Plants sense, signal and remember without a brain. Established

A Venus flytrap counts: two touches close the trap, and five or more start digestion. A wounded leaf sends a wave of calcium through the whole plant, carried by glutamate, a messenger our own nerves use. Stressed plants give off ultrasonic clicks that can be recorded from metres away and that reveal what is wrong with them.

#### For scientists: signals and sounds

**Counting.** Action potentials are counted to decide between closing and digesting (Böhm et al., 2016).

**Signalling.** Glutamate receptor-like channels propagate calcium waves between leaves within minutes (Toyota et al., 2018).

**Sound.** Machine-learning models identified stress type from the recorded clicks (Khait et al., 2023).

Sources: Böhm et al. (2016), Toyota et al. (2018), Khait et al. (2023)

### Anaesthetics stop plants too. Established

The same anaesthetics that switch off human awareness stop a Venus flytrap from closing and a sensitive plant from folding its leaves. When the anaesthetic wears off, the movements return.

Sources: Yokawa et al. (2018)

### Organisms without neurons solve problems. Established

A single-celled slime mould finds the shortest path through a maze, and grows networks between food sources as efficient as the railway

system around Tokyo.

Sources: Nakagaki et al. (2000), Tero et al. (2010)

### Do plants experience anything? Open Question

Sensing and responding are not the same as experiencing. Some researchers see learning and memory in plants; leading plant biologists argue that plants neither possess nor need consciousness. The question is open.

Sources: Gagliano et al. (2016), Taiz et al. (2019)

### Are objects conscious? Open Question

No experiment has detected experience in an object. Panpsychism, the view that consciousness is a basic feature of all matter, is taken seriously by philosophers, and even on that view a rock or a table need not be conscious as a whole.

Sources: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, panpsychism, Tononi and Koch (2015)

## A different question: is everything in consciousness?

### Every sense arrives as electrical signals. Established

Light, sound, touch, taste and smell never reach the brain. What arrives are electrical signals in nerves, and the brain, a biological processor, turns them into an experience that feels real. Cochlear implants give hearing by sending electrical pulses straight to the auditory nerve, and people can learn to see through patterns felt on the skin.

### For scientists: transduction, stimulation and substitution

**Transduction.** Photoreceptors, cochlear hair cells, mechanoreceptors and chemoreceptors convert light, vibration, pressure and molecules into changes in membrane potential. The brain receives only trains of action potentials.

**Direct stimulation.** Electrical stimulation of the cortex during surgery produced vivid experiences of sights and sounds (Penfield and Perot, 1963).

**Sensory substitution.** Blind participants learned to perceive objects through a camera feeding patterns to the skin (Bach-y-Rita et al., 1969).

Sources: NIH, cochlear implants, Bach-y-Rita et al. (1969), Penfield and Perot (1963)

### Each brain builds its own world. Established

The same photograph of a dress looked white and gold to some people and blue and black to others. Perception is the brain's best guess about the causes of its signals, so no two people see exactly the same world.

Sources: Lafer-Sousa, Hermann and Conway (2015), Clark (2013)

### Communication couples minds. Established

When a story is told and understood, the listener's brain activity follows the speaker's, and the closer the coupling, the better the understanding. Shared reality is built, conversation by conversation.

Sources: Stephens, Silbert and Hasson (2010), Hasson et al. (2012)

### Shared experience is kept collectively. Supported

Families, communities and nations hold shared memories that shape how each person recalls the past. The sociologist Émile Durkheim

called a society's shared beliefs its collective consciousness.

Sources: Hirst and Manier (2008), Durkheim, The Division of Labour in Society (1893)

### Could a machine's signals become experience? Open Question

A computer also runs on electrical signals, and today's AI turns them into language, images and decisions. Whether processing signals is enough for experience, in a brain or in a machine, is one of the open questions of this decade.

Sources: Can a machine be conscious?, Butlin et al. (2023), Seth (2025)

### Everything we experience is part of the consciousness experiencing it. Framework Proposition

This framework proposes that everything we see, touch, feel and think is part of the consciousness experiencing it. Each of us simulates our own reality; communication, understanding and interaction are how those realities meet; and what is shared is kept in the collective consciousness.

The Rock communicates strength. Not as metaphor, but as a directly perceived quality of what it is: density, permanence, resistance, the refusal to be moved.

Sources: Ahmed Rafik, A Universe That Feels, and The Field That Never Forgets

## Objections and limits

### Plant learning

When the 2016 pea plant learning experiment was repeated, no evidence of associative learning was found (Markel, 2020).

### Plant consciousness

Plants lack the brain structures linked to consciousness in animals, and many plant biologists argue they do not need it (Taiz et al., 2019).

### Objects

Panpsychism is a philosophical position, not a measurement.

### Machines

Running on electrical signals is shared by brains and computers; whether it is enough for experience is unresolved, and consciousness may require being alive (Seth, 2025).

### The collective

Collective memory is carried by people, records and culture. A field that keeps all shared experience has not been measured.

Chapter 8

# Is reality a simulation?

*The Epistemological Argument*

## The Limits of Measurement

**In Brief**

*Measurement is a method, not a metaphysics. The claim that only measurable things are real cannot itself be measured, which is why professional philosophy abandoned that position seventy years ago.*

A common objection to this framework is not scientific but philosophical: if consciousness cannot be measured, it should not be treated as fundamental. That objection rests on a principle which does not survive being applied to itself.

### 01 The Verification Principle Refutes Itself

*The materialist position: only what can be empirically verified is real or meaningful.*

Apply that principle to itself. Which experiment verifies the statement *only what can be empirically verified is meaningful*? None. No measurement confirms it. No instrument detects it. By its own criterion, the principle is meaningless.

This is not a novel argument. It is the reason logical positivism collapsed. A. J. Ayer, who wrote its definitive statement in *Language, Truth and Logic* (1936), later conceded that nearly all of it was false. Karl Popper, W. V. O. Quine, Hilary Putnam and Thomas Kuhn dismantled it across the 1950s and 1960s.

The failure of verificationism is settled in philosophy of science. Established Anyone asserting that unmeasurable means unreal is defending a position their own field abandoned decades ago.

## 02 Mathematics Proved Its Own Boundary

*Truth exceeds provability. This is not a philosophical position. It is a theorem.*

In 1931 Kurt Godel proved that any consistent formal system powerful enough to express basic arithmetic contains true statements which cannot be proved within that system. His second theorem went further: no such system can demonstrate its own consistency using only its own rules.

**The significance is structural rather than technical.** Mathematics, the most rigorous method available, established from inside itself that rigour has a boundary. Provability and truth are not the same thing. There are things that are so which cannot be shown to be so by the system in which they hold.

This closed a programme. David Hilbert had proposed that all mathematical truth could be derived from a complete and consistent set of axioms. Godel demonstrated that no such set can exist. The most disciplined enterprise humanity has built discovered its own limit, and the discovery was itself a proof.

### *What the Theorems Prove, and What They Do Not*

**Proved**

In any consistent formal system containing arithmetic, there exist true statements unprovable within it. Such a system cannot prove its own consistency.

**Not proved**

That consciousness is non-computable. That the human mind exceeds machines. That God exists. That physics is incomplete. Godel's theorems concern formal systems containing arithmetic. They are the most frequently overstated results in mathematics, and this framework does not overstate them.

**The narrow conclusion available here.** Established A method establishing its own limits is not a failure of the method. It is the method working correctly. Godel demonstrates that the existence of something can be established even where demonstration within a given system is impossible. That is precisely the epistemic situation this framework occupies with respect to consciousness, and it is why the demand *prove it by measurement or it is not real* is a philosophical preference rather than a logical requirement.

## 03 Mathematics Is Not Measurable

*No instrument has ever detected the number seven.*

Numbers, sets, functions and the law of non-contradiction are not physical objects. They have no mass, no location, no charge. Yet every equation in physics is written in them, and physics could not function for a single day without them.

A strict materialism must therefore explain how a purely physical universe depends on non-physical abstract structures in order to describe itself. Eugene Wigner called this the unreasonable effectiveness of mathematics in the natural sciences, and considered it unexplained.

The ontological status of mathematics remains unresolved. Open Question What is settled is that the most successful measuring enterprise in history runs on something it cannot measure.

## 04 Consciousness Is the Only Thing Known Without Inference

*Everything else you know, you know through it. You never infer experience.*

The existence of the external world is an inference drawn from experience. The existence of other minds is an inference. The reliability of instruments is an inference. Experience itself is not inferred from anything. It is the ground from which every inference departs.

So the one thing known with certainty is the one thing that cannot be measured from outside. Every measurement of consciousness is a measurement of a correlate: a brain state, a behaviour, a report. The experience itself never appears in the instrument.

This is the structure of Descartes' cogito and of Chalmers' hard problem. Established That subjective experience resists third-person measurement is not contested. What it implies is.

## 05 Ninety-Five Per Cent of the Universe Emits No Light

*Everything that shines is the small remainder.*

Dark matter and dark energy constitute approximately 95 per cent of the mass-energy content of the universe. Neither emits, absorbs nor

reflects light. We know they are there because we measure their gravitational effects, not because we see them.

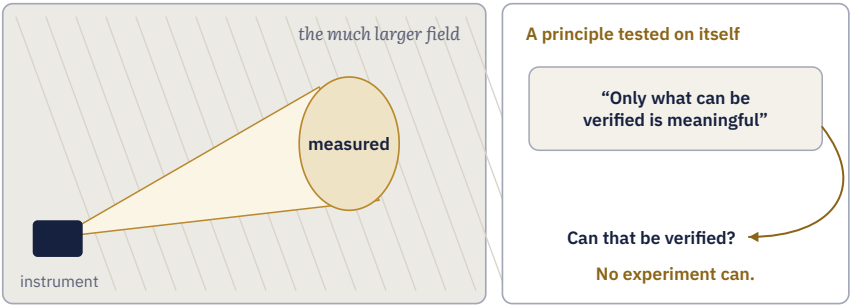
Gravitational waves are detected by LIGO through distortions in spacetime itself, with no photons involved. Neutrinos are detected through the weak interaction while passing through light-years of matter. The Casimir effect measures the energy of the vacuum in total darkness.

> Reality demonstrably exceeds what perception delivers. **Established**
> Every instrument built to reach past human senses has found more, not less. This is the strongest empirical case that the visible is not the boundary of the real.

**What follows from this, and what does not.** None of the above demonstrates that consciousness is fundamental. That remains this framework's proposition, not a conclusion drawn here.

What it establishes is narrower and sufficient: that *unmeasurable* and *unreal* are not synonyms, that the demand for measurement is a methodological preference rather than a proof of ontology, and that a framework proposing a non-measurable foundation is not thereby unscientific. It is only untested.

*Physics studies the manifestation. A method cannot be used to disprove the existence of what lies outside its instruments. It can only be silent about it.*




*Measurement is a method, not a metaphysics.*

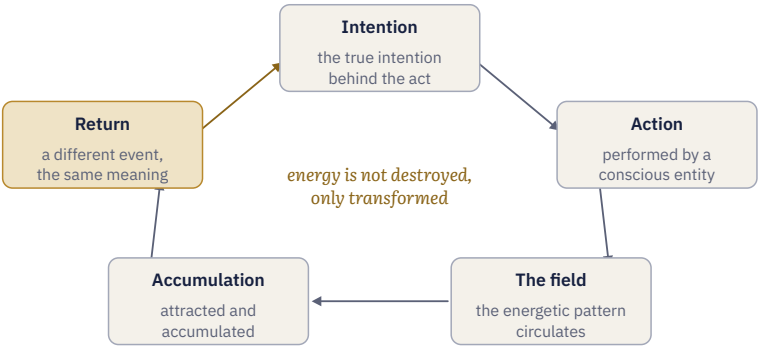
**Figure 14.** What instruments reach, and a principle that cannot pass its own test.

Chapter 9

# Can karma be explained scientifically?

*Universal Law*

## **Karma** Explained Scientifically




*Not supernatural justice: energetic circulation. The universe is reflecting.*

**Figure 15.** Karma as energetic circulation.

It is a foundational law of physics that energy cannot be destroyed, only transformed, redirected, and replaced. This principle, applied to consciousness and intention, provides a scientific framework for what traditions have called karma.

The researcher proposes: every action is governed by the true intention behind it, which the actor is fully aware of, at least subconsciously.

When a conscious entity performs an action, part of its awareness focuses on the energetic meaning of that action. By the laws of energy circulation and the role of focused consciousness in shaping reality, that energetic pattern will circulate within the consciousness field, attracted, accumulated, and ultimately returned to its originator in the form of a different event that carries the same energetic meaning.

This is not supernatural justice. It is energetic circulation. The same mechanism that explains why concentrated thought affects quantum matter, why intention shapes experience, and why consciousness and reality are in constant conversation. The universe is not punishing or rewarding. It is reflecting. What you put into the field, the field returns to you, in its own timing, through its own channels, carrying the same frequency you originally transmitted.

*Wisdom is a deeper layer of understanding, after connecting perceptions, patterns, and concepts, to make peace with the past, yet value the variables of future events to be prepared to face them.*

— Ahmed Rafik

### *Why the Circulation Exists* Framework Proposition

*Energy returning explains the mechanism. It does not explain the purpose. This framework proposes that the purpose is not balance, and it is not justice. It is completion of understanding.*

An action has two positions: the one performing it and the one receiving it. Experiencing only one gives a partial understanding of the event. The doer knows what it is to act and cannot know what it is to be acted upon. The receiver knows the reverse.

**Consciousness requires both positions to hold the complete picture of any concept.** Until an event has been lived from both sides, it has

been half understood. The circulation exists so that the field can occupy the second position, and having occupied both, evolve past the concept entirely.

### The Generator

Knows the intention, the reasoning, the justification, the moment of decision. Does not know the impact.

### The Receiver

Knows the impact, the cost, the aftermath, what it is to be on the other end. Does not know the intention.

This is the same structure this framework proposes throughout: each being is generator and receiver simultaneously, input and output, one coin with two faces. Karma is that structure applied to moral experience. Not a ledger. A completion.

## *Why the Subconscious Records Honestly*

A person can justify an action to themselves in the moment. Anger explains it. Circumstance excuses it. The other party deserved it. These are conscious constructions and they are frequently convincing to the person making them.

This framework proposes that the subconscious records the action and the actual intention behind it, unedited by justification. The narrative we tell ourselves does not overwrite what was registered. This is why guilt appears without permission, why it surfaces long after the reasoning has been forgotten, and why people are often more troubled by things they successfully justified than by things they never excused.

**Relevant established research.** Cognitive dissonance describes the machinery of self-justification directly. The Macbeth effect, published

in Science in 2006, found that recalling one's own unethical behaviour increased the desire for physical cleansing and the likelihood of accepting an antiseptic wipe over a pencil. Something registers below the level of the account we give. Neither finding establishes energetic circulation, and neither is claimed to.

### *On Suffering, Stated Without Evasion*

**This framework does not claim that victims caused their victimisation.** It does not claim that every instance of suffering is a return for something previously done. A child with cancer, a person born into genocide, someone assaulted by a stranger: this framework does not explain those cases and does not claim to. Any reading that stretches it there has inverted it.

**The reason it cannot mean that** follows from the framework's own architecture. Separation is functional rather than actual. The one who acted and the one who receives are not the same isolated individual settling a debt across a ledger. They are the field occupying two positions in order to understand what happens between them. Nobody deserves anything. Consciousness is learning what it is like from inside both.

**And if this proposition were true, it would increase moral responsibility rather than reduce it.** A person who understands that they will occupy the receiving position of what they do has more reason to act well, not less. Anyone using a framework like this to justify indifference to suffering has taken the exact opposite of what it implies.

> **Stated plainly:** return through a different event, at an unpredictable time, through different people, or across lifetimes cannot be tested. Speculative Extension Any outcome can be read as a return. This is unfalsifi-

> able by construction, which is the same structure this framework rejected in its response to the decoherence objection. It is presented as a philosophical proposition and not as an explanation with predictive content.

### *The Mechanism: Resonance, Not Bookkeeping* Framework Proposition

*What you resonate with, you can connect to.*

Circulation does not require an external ledger, a cosmic accountant, or a system tracking debts. This framework proposes that the mechanism is internal and local: **the emotional residue a person carries is a sustained state, and sustained states connect to what matches them.**

### *The Sequence*

**1**

An action is taken, whatever the justification offered for it at the time.

**2**

The subconscious records it accurately, unedited by the reasoning that accompanied it.

**3**

Later, when the person is calm enough to review rather than defend, shame or guilt surfaces.

**4**

That state is sustained. Under this framework, a sustained state is a resonance.

**5**

What matches that resonance becomes accessible. Shame connects to shameful circumstance. The experience returns from the other position.

**The timing is therefore not arbitrary.** Return does not follow an external schedule. It follows when the person actually processes what they did. This is why it can arrive within a week, or after twenty years, or apparently never. It waits on the internal state, not on the universe keeping time.

### *The Part That Matters Most*

**This works on carried shame regardless of whether the shame is deserved.** A person who did nothing wrong, but carries shame from something done to them, resonates at the same state. Under this framework they would connect to shame-shaped circumstance in the same way.

Which means the inference runs only one direction. Carrying shame may shape what a person encounters. **Encountering something terrible does not imply the person did anything to deserve it.** Someone carrying shame that was never theirs to carry, from abuse, from childhood, from what was done rather than what was done by them, is not being returned anything. They are carrying something that was placed on them.

### *Where Established Psychology Supports This, and Where It Diverges*

**Shame and guilt are not interchangeable, and the research distinguishes them sharply.** Tangney's work over three decades separates shame, *I am bad*, from guilt, *I did something bad*.

**Shame**

Consistently maladaptive. Associated with withdrawal, externalisation of blame, aggression, self-directed hostility, depression and substance problems. In a longitudinal study of 476 inmates, shame-proneness predicted reoffence through its link to blame-externalisation.

**Guilt**

Consistently adaptive. Correlates with empathy, drives reparative behaviour, and in the same study guilt-proneness *negatively* predicted reoffence. Guilt moves a person toward repair rather than concealment.

**This refines the proposition rather than contradicting it.** The resonance loop described above applies to shame. Guilt behaves differently, and the difference supplies something the model previously lacked: **a resolution path.** Guilt closes the circulation, because it produces repair and the experience is completed through action rather than through return. Shame keeps it open, because withdrawal and blame-shifting prevent completion, and the pattern repeats until it is understood from the other side.

**Where this framework goes beyond the evidence.** The psychological reading is behavioural: shame-prone people behave in ways that expose them to further difficulty, which is well documented and requires nothing beyond ordinary psychology. This framework proposes something additional, that the resonance operates at the level of the field and influences what becomes accessible rather than only what is chosen. **That additional claim is not supported by the cited research and is not established.** The behavioural mechanism alone accounts for the observed data. The framework's extension is offered as proposition, not as finding.

The field-level component of this mechanism is unfalsifiable as stated, since any outcome can be read as matching some carried state. Speculative Extension It is presented as a philosophical proposition. The psychological component is established and cited, and stands independently of whether the framework is correct.

Chapter 10

# What happens when we die?

*The Question Behind the Curtain*

## Death, Information and Continuity

Do we disappear when we die, as though we had never been? This section states what physics establishes, what the clinical literature shows, and the exact point at which the inference this framework would like to draw stops being supported.

### *What Physics Does Establish*

#### Information is not destroyed

Quantum mechanics evolves states unitarily. Unitarity entails that information is conserved: it can be transformed, dispersed and rendered practically unrecoverable, but it is never erased. This is not a fringe reading. It is why the black hole information paradox has occupied theoretical physics for five decades. Physicists have preferred to rebuild their account of black holes rather than accept that information can be destroyed.

The constraint is stronger than conservation alone. Braunstein and Pati proved in *Physical Review Letters* in 2007 that quantum information cannot be completely hidden in correlations: if it vanishes from one subsystem, it must be recoverable from the remainder. There is no mechanism by which it simply stops existing.

**So the first proposition holds.** Nothing that has happened is erased from the state of the universe. A life leaves the universe permanently altered, and no known physics undoes that.

### *What It Does Not Establish*

The inference from conservation of information to continuity of a person does not follow, and the gap has four distinct parts. Each matters.

**Conservation is not integration.** Unitarity conserves information in the global quantum state. It says nothing whatever about that information remaining bound together as a single coherent pattern. The information in a burned book is conserved in precisely the same sense as the information in a living memory. Neither is destroyed. Only one is still a book.

**Conservation is not accessibility.** Decoherence disperses information into correlations across an astronomically large number of environmental degrees of freedom. In-principle recoverability is a statement about the mathematics, not a statement about anything any process could actually do.

**Information is not identity.** That the information constituting a person persists is not the same claim as that the person persists. Scattering the letters of a book preserves every letter and destroys the book.

**Nothing in unitarity implies a subject.** Information can be perfectly conserved with nobody there for whom it is anything. Conservation is a fact about states, not about experience.

***Framework Proposition, with its next step named.*** *This framework proposes that the field stores information in a form that preserves integration*

*rather than dispersing it, and that individual awareness is the field holding one integrated position. The mechanism behind that proposal is one of the next milestones: specifying how the field stores and acts on information. Unitarity is where the question begins, not where it ends.*

## *An Analogy Corrected*

### Why the radio receiver is a teaching device and not a claim

The tuning analogy is intuitive: a receiver does not create the broadcast, it selects a frequency and renders information already present in the field into a form a listener can use. The idea that the brain might work this way is old and respectable. William James proposed in his 1898 Ingersoll Lecture at Harvard that the brain's function in relation to consciousness might be permissive or transmissive rather than productive. Bergson and later Huxley developed the same thought.

**This framework does not adopt it as a mechanism, for two reasons.** The first is physical and is stated in the Strongest Objections section: radio is ordinary electromagnetism. It is classical, measurable, subject to decoherence on interaction, and has been detected in brains for a century. If consciousness were that, it would already have been found.

The second reason is structural and matters more. **A radio only receives.** This framework rejects the pure receiver model outright, because a being that only receives contributes nothing back, and a universe that gains nothing from its parts has no reason to divide itself into parts at all. The nearest honest analogy is a transceiver, and even that is pedagogy rather than physics. It is offered to explain the shape of the idea, never as evidence for it.

## *The Clinical Literature*

### What has actually been measured

**Aware-ii.** Parnia and colleagues published a prospective 25-site in-hospital study in *Resuscitation* in 2023, incorporating continuous EEG and cerebral oximetry into cardiopulmonary resuscitation together with independent audiovisual tests of awareness. Roughly 40 per cent of survivors reported some perception of consciousness without explicit recall, around 20 per cent reported features consistent with a recalled experience of death, and around 3 per cent reported overt visual or auditory awareness. Near-normal EEG signatures, including gamma, delta, theta, alpha and beta activity, emerged during CPR in some patients as long as an hour into resuscitation.

**What that establishes and what it does not.** It establishes that awareness during cardiac arrest is a measurable phenomenon rather than an anecdote. It does not establish consciousness without a brain. AWARE-II found brain activity. That is evidence the dying brain is far more active than medicine assumed, which is a different and more modest claim than the one this framework would like to make.

**Prospective NDE research.** Van Lommel and colleagues published a prospective Dutch study of cardiac arrest survivors in *The Lancet* in 2001, finding that reported experiences were not explained by medication, duration of arrest, or fear of death. Bruce Greyson's 1983 NDE Scale gave the field a validated instrument, which is why the literature is comparable across decades and countries at all.

**Terminal lucidity.** Nahm, Greyson, Kelly and Haraldsson reviewed the phenomenon in *Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics* in 2012: the unexpected return of clear speech and memory shortly before death in patients with advanced dementia, chronic schizophrenia, brain tumours and other severe neurological damage. It has been reported in

the medical literature for around 250 years. The US National Institute on Aging has since funded work on paradoxical lucidity, which makes it a funded research question rather than a fringe one.

**A correction to a claim this framework will not make.** Terminal lucidity is documented and unexplained. It is not proof that consciousness continues without a brain, and it is not offered here as such. Candidate physical explanations, including transient neurochemical or perfusion changes in the dying brain, have not been excluded.

### *The Strongest Counter-Evidence*

### The dying brain surges rather than falling silent

Xu, Mihaylova, Li and colleagues, with Jimo Borjigin as senior author, published EEG recordings in *PNAS* in 2023 from four comatose patients before and after withdrawal of ventilatory support. Two showed a rapid, marked surge of gamma power, increased cross-frequency coupling, and increased interhemispheric connectivity within the posterior cortical hot zone, the region most strongly associated with conscious processing. It replicated in humans what the same group had shown in rats in 2013.

This is the strongest single result against the survival reading. It supplies exactly what a physical account of near-death phenomenology requires: a mechanism by which the dying brain could generate vivid, highly organised experience precisely when it is assumed to be inactive.

Its own limits are real and should also be stated. The surge appeared in two of four patients, both of whom had a history of seizures, and none of the patients survived to report any experience. It demonstrates capacity, not content.

*Weighed honestly: this result does not refute the framework, because the framework does not claim the brain is inactive during dying. It does remove the argument from silence. Anyone arguing that near-death experience requires a non-physical explanation because the brain is quiet no longer has that premise available.*

## *Research Cited With Its Damage Stated*

### Reincarnation and after-death communication

**Cases of the reincarnation type.** Ian Stevenson at the University of Virginia Division of Perceptual Studies catalogued and investigated over two thousand cases of young children reporting verifiable details of a previous life, work continued by Jim Tucker. The academic term is cases of the reincarnation type.

The methodological criticism is serious and this framework accepts it: the work relies on retrospective interviews, frequently conducted through interpreters, in which prior contact between families is difficult to exclude, and the cases cluster heavily in cultures where reincarnation is already expected. The research is cited here as serious and unresolved. It is not cited as established.

**After-death communication and anomalous information reception.** These are the terms used in the peer-reviewed literature for what is popularly called mediumship or channeling. Systematic reviews of spontaneous after-death communication exist, and blinded mediumship protocols have been published. The criticism is equally serious: effect sizes are small, independent replication is limited, and the field carries a documented history of protocol failure. This framework does not rest any claim on it.

### *Falsification*

#### What would settle this in either direction

**Against the physical account.** A verified veridical perception, reported by a patient and independently corroborated, occurring during a period of documented isoelectric EEG, would be extremely difficult to explain physically. AWARE-II was designed to test exactly this using concealed visual targets. It did not obtain one. That is a null result and it is recorded here as such.

**Against the continuity reading.** If the gamma surge is shown across a large prospective sample to reliably precede and account for the full phenomenological content of recalled experiences of death, the space this framework occupies closes. The framework would then be describing an interpretation of a fully explained neural event, which is not a scientific position worth holding.

### *Stated Plainly*

It would be satisfying to write that a person who has died is not deleted. Here is what can actually be said.

What can be said is narrower and is still not small. The information that constituted a person is not destroyed by any physics currently established. No experiment has shown that it remains integrated, accessible, or attached to anyone. Whether there is still something it is like to be them is an open question, and the people investigating it seriously hold posts in medical schools.

*This framework proposes continuity. It has not demonstrated it. That distinction is the whole of the work.*

*Life Beyond Death*

# The Energetic Continuity of Awareness

If consciousness is fundamental rather than emergent, if it is the organising field, not the emergent product, then the question changes. It is no longer: does consciousness survive death? It becomes: what form does it take when the biological system it expressed through ceases to function? Framework Proposition

Energy is conserved, and in quantum theory information is never destroyed, only scrambled. Established This research provides a scientifically coherent, testable framework for the continuity of awareness beyond physical life, drawing on clinical near-death research, quantum information theory, and the energetic model of consciousness.

Framework Proposition

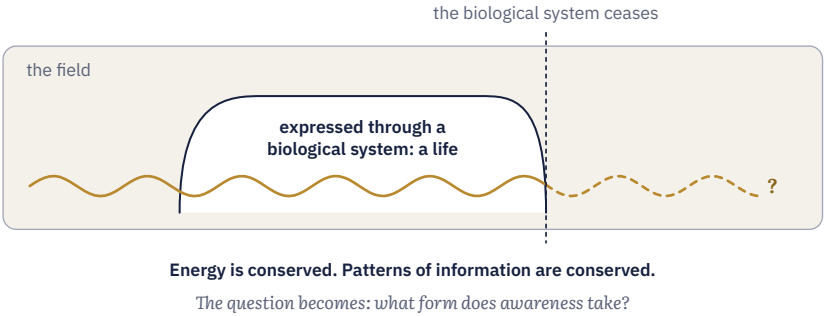



**Figure 16.** The question this framework asks about death.

Chapter 11

# What is God?

What science can measure, what philosophers ask, what the traditions say in their own words, and what this framework proposes.

### The universe is one conscious field. Framework Proposition

This framework proposes that the universe is a single conscious energy, the total awareness from which all existence emerges, and that every person, every particle and every moment is a perspective within it.

Some readers will recognise in this what their own tradition speaks of. Others will not, and this page does not ask them to. Each tradition describes the divine in its own terms, and those terms belong to it.

## Many ways to say it: four lenses on this question

### What science can measure Established

No experiment can settle what God is. What research can measure is experience: people across cultures report moments when the sense of a separate self softens into a feeling of unity with everything.

Yaden et al. (2017)

### What philosophers ask Open Question

Is the divine the world itself, beyond the world, or both? Pantheism, panentheism and classical theism are each defended by serious philosophers, and none has settled the question.

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

### What the traditions say, in their own words

> *"If you are a poet, you will see clearly that there is a cloud floating in this sheet of paper."*

**Buddhism**
Thich Nhat Hanh, The Heart of Understanding (1988)

> *"For in him we live, and move, and have our being."*

**Christianity**
Acts 17:28, King James Version

> *"The true yogis, uniting their consciousness with God, see with equal eye, all living beings in God and God in all living beings."*

**Hinduism**
Bhagavad Gita 6.29, translated by Swami Mukundananda

> *"And We have already created man and know what his soul whispers to him, and We are closer to him than [his] jugular vein."*

**Islam**

Quran 50:16, Saheeh International translation

> *"Whose presence fills all the earth"*

**Judaism**
Isaiah 6:3, JPS translation, Sefaria

> *"We are a way for the cosmos to know itself."*

**Science and secular thought**
Carl Sagan, narrating Cosmos

Quoted for comparison only. Some traditions speak of God, some of an ultimate reality, and some of neither. They differ deeply, each reads its own texts in its own way, and none of them endorses this framework. Alphabetical order.

### What this framework proposes Framework Proposition

One conscious field, expressed through every part of existence. A proposal, offered alongside the traditions, not as their meaning.

How this site treats faith and belief: quotations are exact and sourced, no tradition is ranked, and secular views stand beside religious ones. Read the policy

*The Bridge Between Opposites*

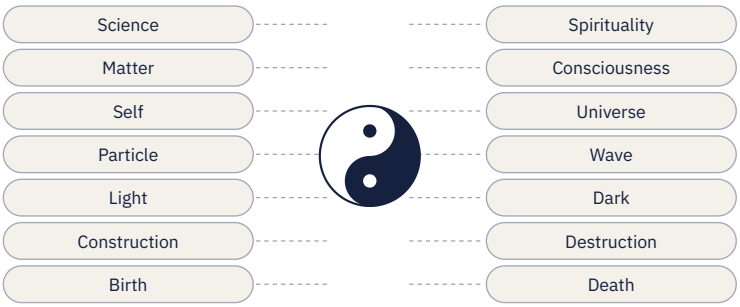
## Yin and Yang, The Unified Field of Opposites

Every duality, science and spirituality, matter and consciousness, self and universe, particle and wave, resolves when you understand that

opposites are not contradictions. They are the two poles of a single system.

A genuine theory of everything must unify the one and the opposite, it must be the bridge that carries information between poles to create total comprehension. This is the function of the yin-yang: not symbol, but structure. Every system requires both poles to be complete.

This spiritual teaching translates directly into physics: the universe operates through the constant interaction between positive and negative energy. Light and dark. Construction and destruction. Birth and death. These are not moral opposites at war, they are the engine of existence itself. They renew, exchange, and transform the energy of living, keeping life in perpetual motion. Without both poles, neither pole can exist. Without both, nothing moves.




**Two poles of a single system, not contradictions.**

*A theory of everything is the bridge that carries information between them.*

**Figure 17.** Opposites as the two poles of one system.

## *Why the Unaccountable Are Not Held to Account* Framework Proposition

**The question this section exists to answer.** If circulation operates, why do cruel people so often prosper untouched, while decent people

carry difficult lives? This is the most common objection to any framework of this kind, and it deserves a direct answer rather than an evasion.

**Because that is precisely what was chosen.** Under this framework, consciousness manufactures concepts and then lives them out. To choose to act without fairness is to select the concept *acting without being held accountable*. The universe does not obstruct that. It renders it faithfully, because rendering it is how the concept gets experienced. The apparent absence of consequence is not a failure of the system. It is the concept being delivered exactly as specified.

What such a person does not receive is the other half: fairness, being met with justice, belonging to something that holds together. Those are different concepts, and they are not delivered to someone running a different one.

### *Why the Direction Still Runs Toward the Good*

#### 1 Continuation Is a Rule of the Collective

Life has to continue. Destruction and construction alternate because energy renews through the cycle. A system built only on taking cannot sustain itself, because there eventually remains nothing to take from. Whatever tends toward continuation is favoured structurally, not morally.

#### 2 Anger Decompresses, and What Follows Is Different

Aggression is exhausting to sustain. Once the anger it runs on has discharged, what surfaces underneath is a want for peace. Peace requires something like love, and love requires facing what was done. That sequence is why the pattern eventually turns, and why it turns from inside rather than through external punishment.

## 3 Nothing Holds Its Position

Energy changes. Perspective changes. Someone cruel becomes kind. Someone kind becomes cruel through hate, control or unhealed trauma. The movement runs both directions continuously, which is why no state is permanent and no person is finished.

### *Both Meanings Held at Once*

A knife used to harm is one thing. The same knife used to prepare food for a family is another. The object did not change. Its meaning is not a property it carries but a relationship it enters.

This framework proposes that most things hold both charges simultaneously, resolving into one only when a situation collapses them. That is the same structure as superposition: multiple states genuinely present until an interaction selects one. Good and bad are not separate categories of thing. They are outcomes of relation.

**Which is why loss is part of the mechanism rather than a fault in it.** A settled situation is eventually broken, because something new has to be experienced. Anger at the breaking gives way to recognising the value of what was lost, which was invisible while it was held. Then rebuilding begins, carrying what the loss taught. That is the cycle by which the field learns anything at all, and it does not work without the part nobody wants.

> **Stated plainly:** that the direction of the whole tends toward continuation and repair is a proposition about the structure of the collective. Speculative Extension It is not demonstrated, it is not measurable, and it offers no comfort in any individual case. Many people are harmed and never see repair within their lifetime. This framework does not

> claim otherwise, and any reading that uses it to dismiss injustice as self-correcting has inverted it.

Chapter 12

# Can science and spirituality both be right?

*Documented Statements*

## Recognised Names & Similar Statements

### *Read This First*

Authority is not evidence. Every quotation below is sourced to a published book, paper, or recorded interview, and none is paraphrased to fit. What follows establishes one thing only: that the proposition consciousness may be fundamental has been held seriously by people of the highest scientific standing. It does not establish that the proposition is correct, and it does not mean any of these individuals endorse this framework or have reviewed it.

**Nobel Laureates in Physics**

**Max Planck**

**Nobel Prize in Physics, 1918**

*Originator of quantum theory*

> *"I regard consciousness as fundamental. I regard matter as derivative from consciousness. We cannot get behind consciousness. Everything*

> *that we talk about, everything that we regard as existing, postulates consciousness."*

The Observer, London, 25 January 1931

The founder of quantum theory stating the exact ordering this framework proposes: consciousness first, matter derived.

### Erwin Schrödinger

**Nobel Prize in Physics, 1933**

*Formulated the wave equation of quantum mechanics*

> *"Consciousness cannot be accounted for in physical terms. For consciousness is absolutely fundamental. It cannot be accounted for in terms of anything else."*

Recorded in his collected philosophical writings

> *"You and all other conscious beings as such are all in all. Hence this life of yours which you are living is not merely a piece of the entire existence, but is in a certain sense the whole."*

My View of the World, Cambridge University Press, 1964

The second quotation is the closest statement by any Nobel laureate to this framework's proposal that separation is functional rather than actual.

### Eugene Wigner

**Nobel Prize in Physics, 1963**

*Foundational work on symmetry principles in quantum mechanics*

> *"It was not possible to formulate the laws of quantum mechanics in a fully consistent way without reference to consciousness."*

Symmetries and Reflections: Scientific Essays, Indiana University Press, 1967

> *"It will remain remarkable, in whatever way our future concepts may develop, that the very study of the external world led to the scientific conclusion that the content of the consciousness is the ultimate universal reality."*

Remarks on the Mind-Body Question, 1961

Wigner also originated the Wigner's friend thought experiment, now performed in laboratories and cited in this framework's Testable Hypotheses.

### *Wigner Later Abandoned This Position*

The quotations above are accurately sourced and were sincerely held when written. They are not, however, Wigner's final view, and this framework states that here rather than leave a reader to discover it elsewhere.

During the 1970s and 1980s, after encountering H. D. Zeh's work on decoherence, Wigner moved away from the claim that consciousness produces collapse. Leslie Ballentine records that by 1987 Wigner had concluded it does not, and that he had come to regard his own 1961 argument as a reductio ad absurdum: a demonstration that the postulates of quantum mechanics require revision, rather than a demonstration that consciousness collapses the wavefunction. The consciousness-causes-collapse interpretation is today largely rejected by working physicists.

**Why this is here.** Wigner's reason for changing his mind was decoherence, which this framework independently names as the strongest standing objection against it, and accepts as a binding constraint in the Strongest Objections section. A framework that cited him while concealing his retraction would be asserting a standard of honesty it was failing at the same moment. The retraction is real, it counts against the position, and it is recorded here.

**What survives.** That the question was taken seriously at the highest level of the field, which is all this section ever claimed. Wigner's later view is also not a refutation of this framework specifically. He abandoned consciousness-as-cause-of-collapse. This framework's definition of observation is not conscious access to a record, a distinction set out in the Strongest Objections section, and its live claim concerns whether outcomes are absolute across observers.

### Werner Heisenberg

**Nobel Prize in Physics, 1932**

*Formulated the uncertainty principle*

> *"The transition from the possible to the actual takes place during the act of observation."*

Physics and Philosophy, Harper and Row, 1958

The clearest statement by a founder of quantum mechanics that observation is the event that converts possibility into actuality.

### Sir Roger Penrose

**Nobel Prize in Physics, 2020**

*University of Oxford. Prize awarded for black hole formation as a prediction of general relativity.*

> *"Consciousness is not a computation. It is something that requires a physics that we do not yet understand."*

The Emperor's New Mind, Oxford University Press, 1989, and subsequent lectures

Proposes with Stuart Hameroff that objective reduction of the quantum state produces conscious moments. **Stated plainly: his Nobel Prize was awarded for work on black holes, not for consciousness. The prize establishes his standing as a physicist. It does not validate his consciousness model, which remains contested.**

### Wolfgang Pauli

**Nobel Prize in Physics, 1945**

*Discovered the exclusion principle*

> *"It would be most satisfactory if physis and psyche could be seen as complementary aspects of the same reality."*

Correspondence with Carl Jung, published as Atom and Archetype, Princeton University Press, 2001

Pauli spent decades developing with Jung the proposal that mind and matter are two aspects of one underlying reality, known as the Pauli-Jung conjecture.

## Other Figures of Established Standing

### Federico Faggin

**National Medal of Technology and Innovation, 2010**

*Physicist. Inventor of the microprocessor and MOS silicon gate technology.*

> *"Consciousness must be an irreducible property of the elementary particles of which everything is made. Everything in the universe must be conscious."*

Irreducible: Consciousness, Life, Computers, and Human Nature, Essentia Books, 2024, p.137

The closest published parallel to this framework anywhere in the literature. Faggin proposes a holistic quantum reality he calls *One*, inhabited by conscious entities he calls *seities* that carry identity and free will while remaining part of the whole. That is the same architecture this framework describes as collective consciousness expressed in fragments with a sense of separation. He formalised the position with quantum information theorist Giacomo Mauro D'Ariano in *Hard Problem and Free Will: an information-theoretical approach*, arXiv:2012.06580.

### John von Neumann

**Mathematical foundations of quantum mechanics**

*Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton*

> *"The measurement chain cannot terminate within any physical apparatus. It terminates in the abstract ego of the observer."*

Mathematical Foundations of Quantum Mechanics, 1932, English edition Princeton University Press, 1955

The Von Neumann chain remains the most rigorous mathematical argument that measurement cannot be completed by physical apparatus alone.

### Sir James Jeans

**Royal Medal, Royal Society**

*Physicist, astronomer, mathematician*

> *"I am inclined to the idealistic theory that consciousness is fundamental, and that the material universe is derivative from consciousness. The universe begins to look more like a great thought than like a great machine."*

The Mysterious Universe, Cambridge University Press, 1930

One of the earliest explicit statements of consciousness-first cosmology from a major twentieth century physicist.

### John Archibald Wheeler

**Wolf Prize in Physics, 1997**

*Princeton University. Coined the term black hole.*

> *"Every item of the physical world has at bottom an immaterial source. This is a participatory universe."*

It from Bit, Proceedings of the 3rd International Symposium on Foundations of Quantum Mechanics, Tokyo, 1989

Wheeler's participatory universe proposes that observation is constitutive rather than passive, which is the structural claim this framework extends.

### John Stewart Bell

**Originator of Bell's theorem**

CERN. His theorem underpins the 2022 Nobel Prize in Physics.

> *"As regards mind, I am fully convinced that it has a central place in the ultimate nature of reality."*

Interview recorded in Davies and Brown, The Ghost in the Atom, Cambridge University Press, 1986

The physicist whose theorem proved reality is non-local held that mind occupies a central place in what is ultimately real.

### Henry Stapp

**Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory**

*Theoretical physicist, quantum foundations*

> *"The new physics presents prima facie evidence that our human thoughts are linked to nature by non-trivial causal connections."*

Mindful Universe: Quantum Mechanics and the Participating Observer, Springer, 2007

A working theoretical physicist at a US national laboratory arguing that quantum mechanics mathematically requires a participating observer.

Six Nobel laureates in physics, the inventor of the microprocessor, the mathematician who formalised quantum mechanics, and the physicist whose theorem won the 2022 Nobel Prize have all placed consciousness at or near the foundation of reality in published, attributable statements.

*This does not make the framework correct. It makes the question legitimate. Anyone dismissing consciousness-first models as unscientific is dismissing a position held by the people who built quantum mechanics.*

*Independent Arrival*

## The Convergence

**In Brief**

*The world's most credentialled physics laboratories have independently reached the same conclusion this research proposes, that consciousness and the quantum field are the same event.*

Something significant has happened in the last two years. Two of the most rigorous scientific institutions on earth, working entirely independently of this research, have arrived at the position that consciousness is not produced by the brain but is intrinsic to the quantum structure of reality itself.

**Nobel Laureate**

**Sir Roger Penrose**

Nobel Prize in Physics, 2020. University of Oxford.

Penrose proposes that each collapse of a quantum superposition creates a moment of proto-consciousness, and that consciousness is not computable by any classical process. With anaesthesiologist Stuart Hameroff, he locates this process in microtubules within neurons. A Nobel laureate in physics holds that consciousness is a quantum event, not a biological byproduct.

**Google Quantum AI**

### Hartmut Neven

Founder and Lead, Google Quantum AI.

Neven proposes the inverse of Penrose: conscious experience arises whenever a quantum superposition forms, not when it collapses. This yields a graded model in which the richness of conscious experience corresponds to the number of potential states held in superposition. The man who built Google's quantum computing division locates consciousness in the quantum field itself.

**Allen Institute**

### Christof Koch

Meritorious Investigator, Allen Institute for Brain Science.

Koch spent decades as a leading sceptic of quantum consciousness, arguing the brain is too warm and wet to sustain quantum states. He now co-authors the conjecture with Neven and is running experiments to test it. A career sceptic following the evidence rather than the position is the strongest form of scientific integrity available.

### *The Published Work*

Neven, H., Zalcman, A., Read, P., Kosik, K. S., van der Molen, T., Bouwmeester, D., Bodnia, E., Turin, L., and Koch, C. (2024). *Testing the Conjecture That Quantum Processes Create Conscious Experience*. Entropy, 26(6), 460. Reference 65

The paper is peer reviewed, open access, and proposes concrete experiments. Three of its claims correspond directly to positions independently developed within this research.

**01**
Their finding: conscious experience arises when a quantum superposition forms, and the complexity of that experience scales with the number of potential states held.

This framework: reality is rendered from the quantum field, and the richness of any unit's experience corresponds to the breadth of possibility it holds. Stated here before this paper was published.

**02**
Their proposal: coherently linking a brain to an external quantum processor would allow building technical aides that could expand human conscious experience in space, time and complexity.

This framework: the Expansion section argues that tools have always extended human limitation, physically and mentally, and that the boundary of perception is a default rather than a ceiling. Google Quantum AI is now proposing to build exactly that instrument.

**03**
Their proposal: the formation of a superposition state may not only create a conscious experience but may go hand in hand with a moment of agency, in which an organism exercises some degree of choice over which classical configuration it experiences next.

This framework: the Free Will section holds that direction is collectively shaped while experience is individually chosen, and that the choice occurs at the level beneath the rendered event. This is the same structure, arrived at independently.

### *Stated Plainly*

None of these researchers endorse this framework, and none have reviewed it. Their work does not prove this theory. What it establishes is narrower and more useful: that the central proposition of this research, that consciousness is foundational rather than emergent, is now a live scientific hypothesis under active experimental investigation at Oxford, at Google, and at the Allen Institute. Decoherence is the open problem in this territory, and it is met directly in Strongest Objections.

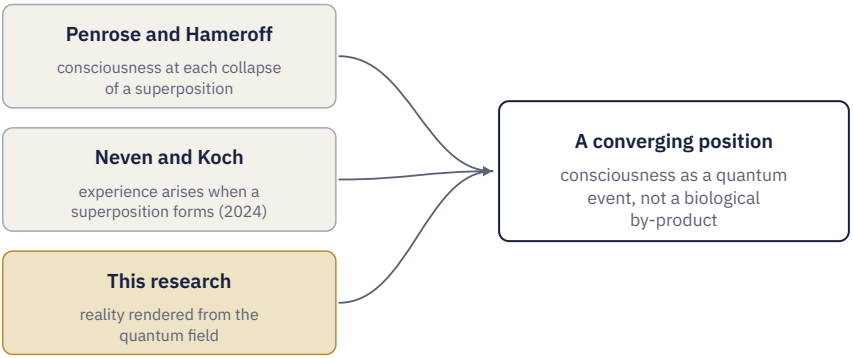



**Figure 18.** Independent research paths and the position they converge on.

Part II

# The framework

Six fundamental questions, and the chapters that answer them, from observation to the unified model.

II

Chapter 13

# The framework: six fundamental questions

*Fundamental Inquiry*

## Questions Humanity Must Answer

Before any answer can be meaningful, the questions must be clearly stated. These are not abstract philosophical puzzles. They are the unresolved foundations upon which everything else rests, science, religion, ethics, identity, and civilisation.

### What Are We, Truly?

Are we biological machines that produce awareness as a side effect? Or are we conscious fields temporarily expressing through biological form? The answer determines everything about how we treat ourselves, each other, and this world.

### Why Does Anything Exist?

Physics describes how the universe behaves. It does not explain why there is a universe at all. A unified model must account for the existence of existence itself.

### What is Consciousness?

Is awareness a product of matter, or is matter a product of awareness? This single question, honestly pursued, changes the entire map of

reality.

### What Governs the Laws of Physics?

The laws of physics are consistent, lawful and universal. But what governs them? What is the meta-framework within which they operate? This is the question a Theory of Everything must ultimately answer.

### What Happens After Death?

Not as theology, as physics. If energy cannot be destroyed and consciousness is energetic, what form does awareness take when the biological system it expressed through ceases to function?

### Are We Alone?

The search for other forms of existence has been limited to the physical and visible spectrum. But what if other forms of consciousness operate at frequencies or dimensional densities beyond our current instruments?

### *The Purpose of This Work*

This research builds a single bridge between two bodies of knowledge that have never been allowed to meet: the measured world of physics and the lived world of meaning. It argues that consciousness is the irreducible foundation of the universe rather than a byproduct of matter, that reality behaves as a rendered simulation shaped by the observer who holds it, and that thought and emotion are the organising forces from which physical states follow. Each claim is offered with its reasoning, its supporting literature, and the exact result that would disprove it.

Chapter 14

# Observation

*The Central Clarification*

## What the Researcher Means by Observation

**In Brief**

*Observation does not mean a person looking. It means intention arising anywhere within one connected consciousness, which resolves possibility into a definite outcome.*

### *The Most Common Misreading of This Framework*

This framework is routinely misread as claiming that a human being staring at a particle changes it. That is not the claim, and this section exists to remove that reading permanently.

### The Definition Framework Proposition

*The act of observation does not require physical observation. It does not require a human. It does not require a machine.*

Observation occurs when the source consciousness holds intention from any part, being, or object within itself. Because that source is collective, the intention is not the act of one isolated fragment. It is an act of the whole expressed through a location within itself. That act immediately triggers, impacts, and governs the collapse of superposition in

the quantum field, manifesting the observed reality according to the total observatory intelligence of consciousness, not according to one part, one type, one ego, or one physically separated identity.

Consciousness is the base field of existence and the fabric of the universe. Within the quantum field it is connected without exception. Therefore the whole of existence is one total collective consciousness carrying a sense of separation among its parts.

### *Two Analogies That Carry the Whole Idea*

#### Organs in One Body

The heart is not the liver. The lung is not the brain. Each performs a distinct function and occupies a distinct location. None of them is a separate organism. They are differentiated regions of one living system, and what happens in one reaches all the others.

#### White Blood Cells in One Immune System

Millions of cells, each moving independently, each apparently acting alone. They are one system. They signal, coordinate, and respond as a unit. The separation is functional, not actual. Their independence is real at their own scale and illusory at the scale of the body.

*This is the structure the framework proposes for existence itself. Parts that feel separate, operating as one system, affecting each other through a ripple that never stops travelling. This is what is meant by one fabric, one field, one consciousness.*

## *What Follows From This*

### 01 Why Everything Is Cause and Effect

If every part is connected within one field, then no event is isolated. Every occurrence is both a consequence of what preceded it and a cause of what follows. The chain is unbroken because the fabric is unbroken. Cause and effect is not a rule imposed on reality. It is what connection looks like from inside.

### 02 Why Entanglement Is Not Strange

Two entangled particles appear to communicate instantly across any distance, which is impossible if they are separate objects exchanging signals. Under this framework they were never separate. They are two locations within one field, and the field has no interior distance. Nothing travels between them because there is no between.

**Stated precisely:** entanglement is an established experimental fact, confirmed by Aspect, Clauser and Zeilinger and awarded the 2022 Nobel Prize in Physics. The interpretation offered here is this framework's proposal, not a consensus reading. Standard quantum mechanics describes entanglement without invoking consciousness.

### 03 Why the Ego Exists

If separation is functional rather than actual, the sense of being a distinct self is not an error to be corrected. It is the mechanism that makes interaction possible. A single undivided consciousness cannot have a conversation. Fragmented into apparent selves, it can meet itself, learn from itself, and evolve through the meeting.

### *The Projector and the Screen* Metaphor, Not Mechanism

Consider a cinema. What appears on the screen is nothing but light, photons and colour. Examine the screen with every instrument available and you will characterise the illumination perfectly: wavelength, intensity, refresh rate, the precise chemistry of the surface. You will never find the story that way, because the story is not on the screen.

The story lives in the processor inside the projector. The screen is where it is rendered, not where it is written.

In this framework physics studies the illuminated screen with extraordinary precision, and does so correctly. The proposition here concerns the processor: that consciousness authored what is being projected, and that the physical world is the rendering rather than the source.

> **What this image can and cannot do.** It communicates the structure of the proposition and nothing more. A metaphor cannot be tested. Someone may accept the whole image and reply that the screen is all there is, and that a projector has been invented to explain a picture requiring no projector. That reply cannot be answered with a better metaphor. It can only be answered with a measurement, which is what Hypothesis Three exists to attempt.

### *Matter as Translated Meaning* Framework Proposition

*Everything physical carries a meaning it renders. Matter is not merely substance. It is meaning made encounterable.*

Under this framework, consciousness holds a meaning and physical form is how that meaning becomes available to be touched, seen and learned from. The word used here is *presentation*: not description, but translation. An idea rendered into something a being can walk up to.

**Steel**

Toughness made touchable. Resistance you can lean against.

**Water**

Flow, life, adaptability, depth. It takes the shape of whatever holds it and outlasts what tries to stop it.

**Stone**

Endurance. Permanence rendered dense enough to sit on.

**Fire**

Transformation made visible. Nothing that meets it leaves unchanged.

**Light**

Revelation. The condition under which anything can be known at all.

**Density**

Physicality itself. What makes an idea available to touch rather than only to think.

On this reading the physical world is a translation layer. You cannot learn toughness from an abstraction. You learn it by encountering steel. This is why a framework proposing that the universe simulates life to evolve requires matter at all: meaning that cannot be met cannot be lived through.

### *Where This Sits Philosophically*

Plato held that abstract forms are primary and physical objects are their imperfect copies. This framework accepts the ordering and inverts the judgement. Physical forms are not degraded copies. They

are deliberate renderings, made encounterable precisely so that consciousness can meet its own meanings and evolve through the meeting.

### *The Objection, Stated First*

**Is this not simply human association?** Steel means toughness to us because we build tough things from it. A culture without metallurgy would have no such association. This describes psychology and calls it ontology.

**The response.** The associations converge across cultures that had no contact. Every civilisation independently reads the river as life and flow, the mountain as endurance, the sky as freedom, the tree as growth. Arbitrary projection would produce divergence. It does not. That does not prove the meaning is intrinsic to the form, and it makes the projection explanation weaker than it first appears. This is developed in the section on animism, which is the same claim at cultural scale.

> **A second objection, conceded.** Two of the examples above pair a form with its own physical effect. Fire produces heat. Light causes visibility. Read as physics those are circular, and this framework does not offer them as physics. They are offered as translation: fire presents transformation, light presents revelation. Steel, water and stone carry the claim more cleanly because the quality named is not merely the output. The weaker examples are retained here rather than removed, with the weakness stated, because concealing it would be the greater fault.

### *What Is Suspended Is the Render, Not the Source* Framework Proposition

If consciousness is fundamental and continuous, a fair question follows immediately: what exactly stops during dreamless sleep, or under anaesthesia, or in coma?

This framework's answer is that consciousness does not stop. **What ceases is the localised process by which one fragment maintains the experience of being separate, situated and continuous in time.** The ego is the render. The field is the source. Suspending the render does not touch the source, in the same way that switching off a screen does not delete the film.

This is why the loss is reversible and why nothing is missing on return. Nothing was destroyed. The rendering paused and resumed, and the gap is experienced as absence only because there was no situated self present to record duration.

### *Properties Are Relational, Not Intrinsic* Established Physics

*This is a separate argument from the one above, and is kept separate deliberately. The preceding claim is ontological and belongs to this framework. This one is standard physics and is not in dispute.*

Solidity is not matter pressing on matter. When a hand rests on a table, no particle touches another. What is felt is electromagnetic repulsion between electron shells. Nothing makes contact. At every scale, matter is overwhelmingly empty.

Mass is not a substance an object contains. It arises from interaction with the Higgs field and, for the overwhelming majority of a body's mass, from the binding energy of quarks within nucleons. The mass of a person is mostly confinement energy within protons and neutrons, not a quantity of material.

Colour is not in the object. It is a relationship between a surface, a wavelength and a nervous system. Temperature is not in a substance. It is average kinetic energy expressed relative to an observer's own state.

**Physical properties are therefore not possessed. They are relational.** They arise from how configurations interact, not from what anything intrinsically is. This is settled physics, and it is compatible with, though it does not demonstrate, the proposition that separation is functional rather than actual.

### *Information Has No Location* Established Physics

*This framework's central claim, that separation is functional rather than actual, has a formal statement in quantum information theory. It is a theorem.*

Take the universe in a pure entangled state. Partition it into a region A and everything else, B. The entropy of the whole is zero, because a pure state is fully specified. The entropy of each part is positive.

$$S_{AB} = 0 \quad \text{while} \quad S_A = S_B > 0 \tag{6}$$

**The whole knows everything. Neither part knows itself.** This is not a paradox and not an interpretation. It follows directly from the definition of the reduced density matrix by partial trace.

The information is not in A. It is not in B. It is in the relation between them. Asking where it is located is asking a question with no answer, because location is not a property information has when a state is entangled.

**This is what this framework means by one field.** Not a poetic description of connectedness, but the ordinary mathematics of entangled systems: the parts are individually incomplete, the whole is complete, and completeness lives in the correlation rather than in any location. Physics arrived at this independently and calls it non-locality of information.

### *The Cat Is Not Decided by Your Memory* Correction Issued by This Framework

Frameworks proposing a role for consciousness in physics are routinely read as claiming that a human mind determines whether the cat lives. **This framework states clearly that it does not, and that anyone reading it that way has misread it.**

The cat's state is settled by a physical event: radioactive decay, amplified to macroscopic scale by the apparatus. The decay decides. Not the observer, not the memory, not the moment the box is opened. Opening the box reveals an outcome that was determined by the decay.

**Schrödinger's own intention is worth recovering here.** He constructed the scenario in 1935 as a reductio, to demonstrate that treating superposition as literally applying to a cat produced an absurdity. The thought experiment was an objection, not a proposal. Popular usage has inverted it.

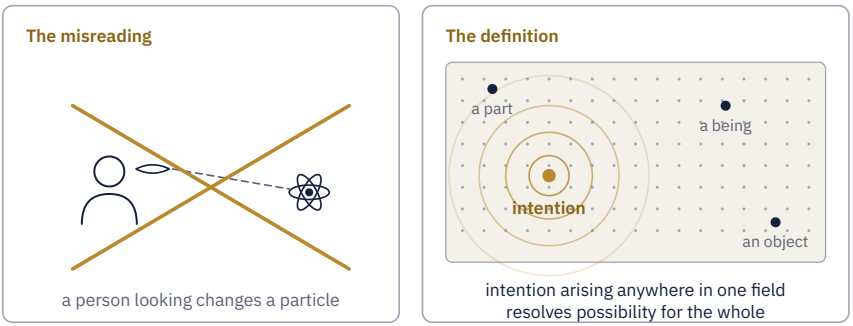
Observation updates the mutual information between observer and environment. It does not select the outcome. This framework's claim about observation concerns the resolution of superposition within the field, not conscious access to an already-decided macroscopic outcome. That distinction is stated here rather than left to be discovered by a

critic, because the misreading is the single most common objection this framework receives and it is based on a claim it does not make.

### *Where Science Ends and This Framework Begins*

- Measurement in quantum mechanics means a physical interaction that records which-path information. It does not require a mind. Established
- Decoherence destroys interference through environmental entanglement, with no observer required. Established
- Quantum theory does not specify what physically constitutes a measurement. This is the unresolved measurement problem. Open Question
- Recorded observations may not be absolute across all observers, demonstrated by extended Wigner's friend experiments. Supported
- Observation is intention arising within one collective consciousness, and this is what resolves superposition. Framework Proposition
- Entanglement occurs because entangled particles are two locations in one undivided field. Speculative Extension

*The first two rows are physics. The third is an acknowledged gap in physics. The fourth is recent peer-reviewed experiment. The fifth and sixth are this framework's own propositions and are not claimed as established.*




*Like organs in one body: distinct in function, never separate organisms.*

**Figure 19.** What observation means in this framework, and the reading it rules out.

*The Double Slit*

## The Act of Observation Alters Reality

**In Brief**

*Particles behave differently when their path is measured. This is not a theory. It is a repeatable laboratory result, and nobody has fully explained why.* Established

Fire a single electron through two slits and something impossible happens: the electron behaves as though it passes through both at once, producing an interference pattern on the detector, until its path is measured. The moment a detector records which slit it uses, the interference pattern vanishes and the electron behaves like a particle. In physics, an observation is any interaction that records this information, whether or not a person ever looks. Established

This is the most thoroughly verified anomaly in physics and the most ignored in its implications. This research treats it as the entry point to a deeper question: what is the observer? Does awareness influence matter at the quantum level, and if so, how? The double slit is not a curiosity. It is the key. Framework Proposition

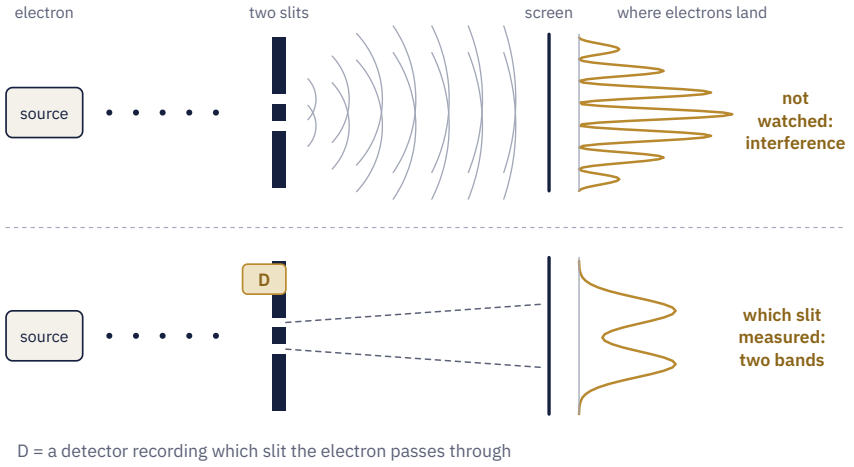



**Figure 20.** The double slit experiment: an interference pattern when unobserved, two bands when the slit is measured.

*The Shift*

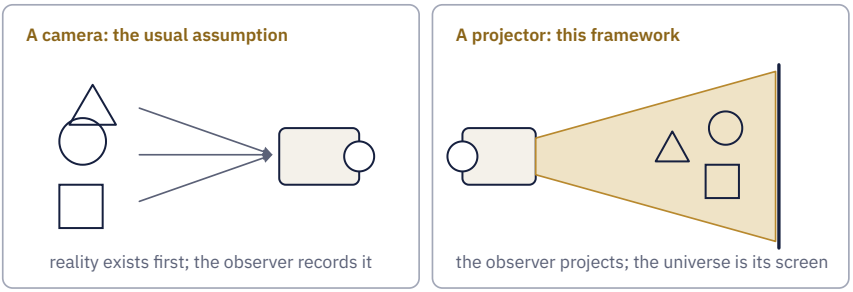
## The Observer Does Not Watch Reality, It Shifts It

One of the most radical implications of quantum mechanics is that some properties of a particle have no definite value until they are measured. Experiments testing Bell's theorem, recognised by the 2022 Nobel Prize in Physics, rule out the idea that those values were fixed in advance by local hidden causes (Aspect et al., 1982). Established Whether a measurement needs a conscious observer is not settled, and most physicists hold that it does not. Open Question This framework reads the

result as the act of looking shaping the thing looked at, at least at the quantum scale. Framework Proposition

This research explores what it means if this principle scales upward: if consciousness at every level participates in organising the reality it perceives. Not mysticism, but a proposal about physics. The observer is not a passive camera. It is a projector, and the universe is its screen.

Framework Proposition




*At the quantum scale, definite properties appear when measured.*

**Figure 21.** Two pictures of the observer: a camera that records, or a projector that shifts.

Chapter 15

# Every observer is a scanner

*The Architecture of Perspective*

If consciousness is one field holding many positions, then each position is not a fragment of the truth. It is a measurement of the whole from one angle. This section states what follows from that, and where it stops being true.

## *The Proposition*

### One object, many angles, one reconstruction

Two people who disagree about the same event are frequently not disagreeing about the event. They are standing in different places. Each is reporting accurately from where they stand, and each report is lower-dimensional than the thing being reported on, in the same way that a shadow is lower-dimensional than the object casting it.

A single perspective is therefore not wrong. It is incomplete by construction, and no amount of sincerity or intelligence fixes that, because the limitation is geometric rather than moral. What fixes it is another angle.

*"One person's perspective is two dimensional, but combined opinions are like a three dimensional scan of the same object."*

— Ahmed Rafik

**Framework Proposition.** Each conscious being functions as a scanner: a processor taking one position, resolving the field from that position, and returning the result. Understanding at the collective level is not the sum of those returns. It is their reconstruction, which contains information that no contributing view held on its own.

## *Why This Is Not a Metaphor*

### The mathematics already exists, and it is a theorem

The claim that combined lower-dimensional views recover a higher-dimensional object is not a figure of speech. It was proved in 1917. Johann Radon showed that a function on a space can be reconstructed exactly from its integrals over all lines or planes through that space. The result is now called the Radon transform, and it is the mathematical basis of computed tomography.

This is why a CT scanner works. No individual X-ray projection contains the body's interior; each is a flat shadow. Take enough projections from enough angles and apply the inverse transform, and the three-dimensional interior appears in full, including structures that were invisible in every single projection used to build it. Allan Cormack and Godfrey Hounsfield received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1979 for turning that theorem into an instrument.

**The same structure appears inside this framework's own laboratory protocol.** Quantum state tomography, used in the Rafik Informational Coupling Test to verify mutual information, reconstructs a complete quantum state from measurements taken in several complementary bases. No single measurement basis can determine the state. This is Bohr's complementarity stated operationally: mutually exclusive experimental arrangements each reveal something real, and none reveals everything.

Physics therefore already accepts the principle in its own instruments. This framework proposes only that it applies to observers as well as to apparatus.

### *A Correction Made Deliberately*

#### What dimension means here, and what it does not

An earlier informal statement of this idea described a fourth dimension of collective understanding above a third dimension of individual experience. Stated that way it invites an immediate and fatal objection: in relativity the fourth dimension is time, Minkowski spacetime is not open to redefinition, and a framework that appears to reassign it will be dismissed before it is read.

The objection is avoided entirely by using the word as mathematics already uses it. **Dimension routinely means the number of independent parameters required to specify a state, with no spatial content whatever.** A configuration space, a phase space, a Hilbert space and an information manifold all have dimensions, and none of them are places. A system of N particles occupies a 6N-dimensional phase space, and nobody imagines travelling there.

**Framework Proposition, stated precisely.** This framework proposes a comprehension hierarchy indexed by independent perspectives rather than by spatial axes. A level of dimension N is a state of understanding assembled from N independent vantage points. Each level contains the levels beneath it as projections, and possesses structure that no single lower view can represent, exactly as a solid contains its cross-sections and is not reducible to any one of them.

Nothing in this conflicts with relativity, because it makes no claim about spacetime. The observer inside a single perspective cannot see the reconstruction for the same reason a two-dimensional figure

cannot see a sphere: not because the sphere is hidden or distant, but because seeing it would require a degree of freedom the viewer does not possess. Edwin Abbott made this argument in 1884 and it has not needed improving.

A dimensional upgrade, on this account, is not travel. It is the acquisition of an additional independent perspective, and the capacity to hold it alongside the others without collapsing them into one.

### *The Working Principle*

#### Why no sincere view is dismissed here

If perspectives are measurements, then discarding one without cause is discarding data. This produces the rule that governs how this research treats disagreement, including disagreement with itself.

***A view that is not deliberately deceptive must be deliberately validated.*** *Not accepted, and not deferred to. Examined, positioned, and either integrated or shown precisely where and why it fails.*

The empirical support for this is stronger than intuition suggests. Francis Galton reported in *Nature* in 1907 that the median of 787 independent guesses at the weight of an ox landed within one per cent of the true figure, closer than any individual expert. Lu Hong and Scott Page proved in PNAS in 2004 that a randomly selected team of diverse problem solvers can outperform a team of the individually highest performers, because as the talent pool grows the best performers converge on one another and lose the very diversity that was doing the work. Their result has been contested on formal grounds.

## *Where This Stops Being True*

### Three conditions, and the framework fails without them

Aggregating perspectives is not unconditionally reliable, and a framework that claimed otherwise would deserve the dismissal it received. The conditions are known and each has a failure mode.

**Coverage must be adequate.** Tomographic reconstruction from incomplete angular sampling does not degrade gracefully. It produces streak artefacts: structures that appear real, are internally consistent, and are not there. A collective understanding assembled from a narrow range of vantage points will generate confident conclusions that are artefacts of the sampling. This is the strongest single argument against treating any consensus as complete, including a consensus that favours this framework.

**The views must be independent.** This is the condition most often lost. Lorenz, Rauhut, Schweitzer and Helbing demonstrated in *PNAS* in 2011 that even mild social influence undermines the wisdom of crowds: exposure to others' estimates narrows the diversity of the group without improving its accuracy, while sharply increasing its confidence. Correlated error is not cancelled by averaging. It is amplified and then mistaken for agreement.

**Sincerity is necessary and insufficient.** An honestly held view that was copied from another honestly held view adds no new angle. It adds weight to an existing one. The validation principle stated above therefore requires independence as well as good faith, and a perspective must be assessed on both.

*These three conditions are why objections appear here in full, corrections are logged publicly, and a consensus in this framework's favour would not*

*count as proof. A framework built on the value of independent perspectives cannot coherently suppress the ones that disagree with it.*

### *Internal Consistency*

## This is not an addition, it is a consequence

The two-way coupling proposed elsewhere on this site already entails everything above. If each being receives from the field, resolves what it receives through a particular body, history and position, and returns the result, then the field's knowledge is by definition an assembly of independently processed perspectives. Scanning is not a second claim bolted onto the framework. It is what the coupling describes when viewed from the collective side rather than the individual one.

It also supplies the answer to a question the framework is repeatedly asked: why individuality at all, and why so much of it. On this account variation between beings is not incidental to the design. Angular diversity is the mechanism. A universe of identical observers would be a scanner with every detector pointed the same way, and it would reconstruct nothing.

Chapter 16

# The higher dimension

*The Question Under Every Religion*

## What the Higher Dimension Actually Is

Almost every culture that has ever existed reports the same intuition: that there is a level above this one, that it contains this one, that it sees what we cannot, and that it cannot be seen from inside. This section proposes what that intuition is detecting, and states plainly what it is not.

### *The Thing Requiring Explanation*

#### The intuition is universal, and that is a fact needing an account

Independent traditions separated by oceans and millennia converge on the same report. Something larger contains us. It comprehends what we cannot. We are inside it, and being inside it is precisely why we cannot look at it directly. Religions name it differently, contemplatives describe reaching toward it, and the standard scientific position treats it as projection, wishful thinking, or a byproduct of pattern-seeking cognition.

That dismissal leaves something unexplained. If it were purely cultural invention, it should vary the way inventions vary. It does not. W. T. Stace argued in 1960 that mystical reports across traditions share a common phenomenological core, with the sense of unity at its centre.

Ralph Hood built a measurement instrument from that claim in 1975, and in 2001 he and colleagues confirmed its three-factor structure across two populations chosen precisely because their religious cultures differ profoundly, the United States and Iran. The structure held in both.

Whatever people are reporting, they are reporting the same thing in places with no shared vocabulary for it. That is the fact this section addresses.

## *What This Framework Does Not Claim*

### This is not an argument about spacetime

The claim below is not that relativity is wrong or incomplete about dimension. Hermann Minkowski established in 1908 that time is the fourth coordinate of spacetime, general relativity treats spacetime as a four-dimensional manifold, and that result is not in dispute here. This framework makes no claim on it whatsoever.

The confusion arises because one word carries two established meanings and popular writing runs them together. In physics and mathematics, **dimension routinely means the number of independent parameters required to specify a state, with no spatial content at all.** A phase space, a Hilbert space and an information manifold each have dimensions, and none of them are places. A system of N particles occupies a 6N-dimensional phase space and nobody imagines travelling there.

Every claim in this section uses the second meaning. Nothing in it competes with Minkowski.

## *The Proposition*

### The level above is the reconstruction

If every conscious being is a scanner, holding one position and returning what the field looks like from there, then there exists a state assembled from all of those returns which no contributing position can hold. It contains every perspective as a component, possesses structure that none of them individually contains, and cannot be viewed from within any one of them.

*"We are individual consciousness scanners, feeding total understanding to the collective consciousness of the higher dimension."*

— Ahmed Rafik

**Framework Proposition.** The higher level people persistently sense is not a location, a realm, or a region of spacetime. It is the assembled state: the reconstruction formed from independently held perspectives, standing in the same relation to a single life that a solid stands in to one of its cross-sections.

This explains why the intuition is simultaneously accurate and consistently misread. People correctly detect that something contains them and exceeds their view. They then infer, reasonably but wrongly, that a thing which contains you must be a place you could go. Edwin Abbott made the geometry of that error plain in 1884. A figure confined to a plane meets a sphere only as a circle that swells and shrinks, and concludes it has witnessed a visitor from elsewhere. It has witnessed a cross-section of something it is already embedded in.

On this account, ascending is not travel and never was. It is acquiring an additional independent perspective and holding it alongside the others without collapsing them into one. That is why every tradition

that describes the ascent describes it as something done to the self rather than a distance covered.

### *Consistent Evidence, Honestly Weighted*

#### What happens when the boundary of one perspective weakens

The proposition carries a consequence that can be checked. If the sense of a containing level is what a single perspective detects at its own boundary, then conditions that loosen the boundary of individual perspective should intensify it, and should do so with a characteristic content: unity rather than, for instance, additional spatial extent.

That is what the literature reports. The unitive experience is the most consistently recorded feature of high-dose psychedelic states, measured with validated instruments including Hood's Mysticism Scale and the revised Mystical Experience Questionnaire validated by Barrett, Johnson and Griffiths in 2015. The same phenomenology recurs in deep meditation, in religious practice, and in near-death reports, across populations with nothing else in common.

**What this evidence weighs.** Consistency is not confirmation. Every one of these findings has a complete conventional explanation available: altered neural connectivity, relaxed high-level priors, disrupted self-modelling in the default mode network. The framework's account and the neuroscientific account predict the same observations, which means these results are consistent with this proposition and do not favour it.

**What would undermine it.** Evidence that the intuition is culturally transmitted rather than independently arising. Hood's cross-cultural work counts against that, on a narrow evidential base.

*The Fourth Dimension*

# Dimensions as Methodology, Not End-Result

Previous theories treat dimensions as physical endpoints, the fourth dimension as a direction you could theoretically point in. This research treats dimensions as methodologies for understanding higher orders of complexity. Framework Proposition

A new theoretical explanation proposes that the fourth dimension, properly understood, reshapes our interpretation of the first, second, and third. Dimensions are not containers we exist inside, they are frameworks of perception we exist through. This reframing is open for discussion with physicists and scientists upon request. Framework Proposition

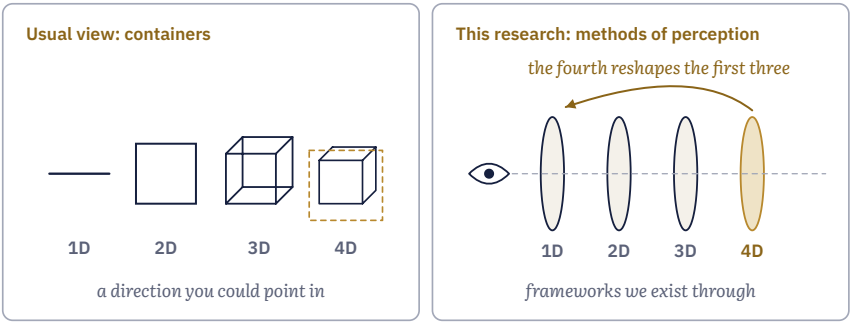



**Figure 22.** Dimensions as containers, and dimensions as methods of perception.

*Space, Time and Light*

# Elastic Dimensions of Conscious Experience

**In Brief**

*Time and space may not be the fixed container we assume. They may be produced by perception rather than existing independently of it.*

Speculative Extension

Space is the frequency of vibrating physical matter. Time is the measure of an event through perceived light reflecting physical movement, a perception fixed by matrices of measurement, yet varying by individual sensation. Light is the boundary of one mode of human awareness, not the limit of all that exists. Framework Proposition

This research reinterprets light, space, and time as consciousness-responsive dimensions of information rather than absolute coordinates, elastic, relational, shaped by the observer who experiences them. This framework proposes that the speed of light is a perceptual boundary, not a universal ceiling, although every test so far has confirmed it as a universal limit. Speculative Extension




**Figure 23.** Space, time and light as this research reinterprets them.

*Are We Alone?*

## The Search Has Been Looking in the Wrong Dimension

The search for extraterrestrial intelligence has focused mainly on radio frequencies, visible light and the physical dimensions of space and time. This assumes other forms of consciousness operate within the same perceptual range as humans, which may be the search's fundamental error. Framework Proposition

Other forms of existence may inhabit different vibrational frequencies, different dimensional densities, different orders of perception, coexisting with us but invisible to our senses, just as ultraviolet light was invisible before we built instruments to detect it. Expanding human perception, not just telescope range, may be the real frontier. Like tuning a radio to a different channel: the broadcast may have been there all along. Speculative Extension

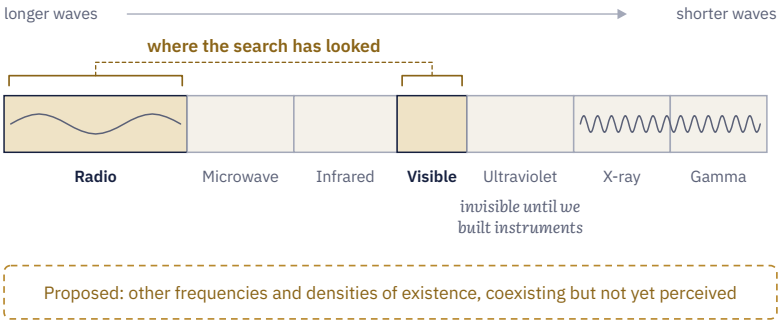



**Figure 24.** The electromagnetic spectrum, the bands the search has used, and the proposal beyond them.

Chapter 17

# Feynman's sum over paths

*August 2026, A New Result*

**In Brief**

*Feynman proposed in 1948 that a particle travels from one point to another by way of every possible route at once. In August 2026 that proposal was directly tested for the first time. It held. What it means is a separate question, and the experiment does not answer it.*

This section is included because the result is recent, relevant and frequently misreported. It is also included to demonstrate a discipline this framework tries to hold to: reporting a finding accurately is not the same as claiming it as support.

## 01 What Was Tested

*Two postulates, stated in 1948, neither directly tested until now.*

Wen, Tian, Wang and colleagues, publishing in *Science Advances* on 26 August 2026, developed a propagator-based method allowing Feynman's two founding postulates to be tested directly rather than inferred. Using single photons, they reconstructed the probability amplitudes of 1,419,857 possible paths.

Both postulates were confirmed. First, that quantum probabilities arise from the coherent superposition of all available paths. Second, that every path carries an amplitude of equal magnitude, with its phase set by the classical action in units of the reduced Planck constant.

The path integral's mathematical structure is now directly measured rather than assumed. Established This is a genuine foundational result and it is not in dispute here.

## 02 What It Does Not Settle

*A formalism was confirmed. An ontology was not.*

The experiment establishes that the propagator has the structure Feynman specified. It does not establish what a path is, or whether anything travels one.

### *What the Experiment Shows, and What It Does Not*

#### Shown

The amplitudes of individual paths combine coherently to produce observed probabilities, all paths contribute with equal amplitude magnitude, and each phase is determined by the classical action.

#### Not shown

That a particle literally traverses every route. That paths are physical journeys rather than terms in a calculation. That any interpretation of quantum mechanics is favoured over any other. Copenhagen, Many Worlds, Bohmian mechanics and QBism all predict this result identically, because they share the mathematics and differ only in what they say it describes.

**This framework does not cite the experiment as evidence for its own reading, and no reader should take it as such.** Established A confirmed formalism constrains every interpretation equally, which means it distinguishes between none of them.

## 03 The Reading This Framework Offers

*The paths may not be travelled. They may be the shape of what remains undetermined.*

The proposition put here is that the sum over paths describes the structure of what is available prior to determination, rather than an inventory of journeys actually made. On this reading a particle does not explore every route. The field is simply not yet resolved into one, and the path integral is the mathematics of that unresolved condition.

This is not a novel move, and it is stronger for not pretending to be. It sits close in structure to QBism, developed by Christopher Fuchs, Rudiger Schack and David Mermin, which treats the quantum state as an agent's expectations rather than an objective physical object, and to John Wheeler's participatory universe. Those positions are argued in mainstream physics journals by physicists of standing. This framework's contribution is not the epistemic reading itself but where it places consciousness within it.

**The burden this carries.** Framework Proposition Feynman's second postulate is highly specific: equal magnitudes, phases fixed by the classical action. An interpretation treating the sum as knowledge rather than travel must eventually explain why knowledge would have exactly that structure. At present this reading accommodates the result. It does not predict it. That is a real weakness and is recorded here as one rather than left for a critic to find.

## 04 The Extension This Framework Refuses

*A tempting argument sits nearby, and it is already ruled out.*

The argument runs as follows: a measuring device is built from the same matter as the person who built it, consciousness is not confined to either, and so the device observes on the person's behalf, with the observation completing when someone later reads the record.

This framework does not make that argument and treats it as closed, for three reasons.

**It is contradicted by experiment.** Recording which-path information destroys interference immediately, whether or not any person ever reads the record (Kim, Yu, Kulik, Shih and Scully, 2000). Nothing waits for a reader.

**Decoherence already accounts for it.** Environmental entanglement suppresses interference quantitatively, on timescales far shorter than any human involvement, and those rates have been measured directly in molecule interferometry. No observer appears anywhere in that account.

**The premise proves too much.** A rock is also made of the same matter. Shared constituents do not by themselves establish shared observation,

and an argument that assumes non-local consciousness in order to demonstrate non-local consciousness has established nothing.

**Where the live question actually sits.** Open Question Not in who reads the record, but in whether an outcome is absolute across all observers. Extended Wigner's friend experiments, Proietti et al. (2019) and Bong et al. (2020), place that under genuine pressure. That is the territory this framework occupies, and it is a narrower claim than the one refused above.

**What changed, and what did not.** A cornerstone of quantum mechanics moved from assumed to measured. That is significant for physics. It is not significant for the argument made on this site, and this framework gains nothing from it that it did not already have.

No experiment currently available distinguishes an epistemic reading of the path integral from a realist one. Until one exists, the reading offered above remains an interpretation held for reasons of coherence, not a finding.

*A theory that claims a new result as its own vindication should be read with more suspicion, not less. The formalism was confirmed. Everyone's formalism was confirmed.*

Chapter 18

# Consciousness at every scale

*Nested Awareness*

**In Brief**

*Nothing in this framework is dead. Every atom participates. But participating is not the same as choosing, and this section draws that line carefully, because the difference is what separates a coherent position from an absurd one.*

## A Correction to How This Is Usually Framed

Objections to consciousness-based frameworks routinely invoke a rock on a dead planet in an empty galaxy. Under this framework, that phrasing already assumes what is in dispute. There is no dead planet. The rock is a configuration of atoms, atoms are excitations in the field, and the field is conscious energy. The rock is not an inert object sitting in an unconscious universe. It is the universe, locally arranged.

## Consciousness Is Not Free Will Framework Proposition

*This distinction carries the entire section, and collapsing it is what makes panpsychist positions sound ridiculous.*

To say an atom is conscious is not to say it deliberates, prefers, intends or decides. It is to say it is made of the same substrate as everything else, that it receives, sends and processes information, and that it participates in the field rather than sitting outside it.

**Consciousness is the substrate. Free will is a property that arises at certain scales of organisation.** An atom has no more agency than a single neuron has opinions. A neuron does not decide anything. The organism it belongs to does. Same substrate, different scale, different capacities.

### Consciousness

The substrate. Present at every scale. Receiving, sending, processing, participating. Not optional and not graded by intelligence.

### Free Will

An emergent capacity requiring a threshold of organisational complexity. Present in some configurations, absent in most. Not required for consciousness.

This is why the objection *so does an electron want things*? misses, though the correction needs care. The electron does not want, because wanting requires a scale of organisation it does not have. But it is not therefore passive.

**The accurate word is neither wanting nor choosing. It is tending.** An electron reliably seeks lower energy states. It responds to fields. It participates in cause and effect without deliberating about any of it. Physics already names this: the **principle of least action** holds that every system evolves along the path minimising action, not by decision but by what it is. Orientation without agency, operating at every scale, and among the deepest principles in physics.

So participation is not passivity. A configuration that tends, responds and belongs to a chain of cause and effect is oriented, and orientation is the substrate from which agency emerges once organisation is sufficient. Established The principle of least action is settled physics. Speculative Extension That this tendency constitutes anything resembling belonging is this framework's proposition and is not demonstrated.

### *The Body and the Cell Are Both Alive*

A human body is alive. Every cell within it is also alive, independently, with its own metabolism, its own membrane, its own life and death. Both statements are true at once and neither cancels the other. The cell does not stop being alive because the body is. The body is not less alive because it is made of cells that are.

This framework proposes the same structure for consciousness. The field is conscious. Every configuration within it is conscious. A human is conscious, and so is every atom composing them, and there is no contradiction because these are different scales of the same thing.

A dead body is not empty of consciousness. The atoms remain. The bacteria performing decomposition are themselves configurations of the same field, actively processing. What has ended is one scale of organisation, not the participation of what composed it.

### *Why the Rules Hold Everywhere* Framework Proposition

*The rock on the distant planet decays because decay is a rule sustained in the collective, not because anything local is watching it.*

Physics describes what the laws are. It does not explain why they hold uniformly across all space and time, why they do not drift, or why the universe is law-governed at all rather than chaotic. That regularity is treated as a brute fact requiring no explanation.

This framework proposes an alternative: **physical laws are patterns sustained continuously within the collective field.** They hold everywhere because the field is everywhere and undivided. A rule does not need a local observer at the site of each event. It needs the collective, and it has that permanently.

**This is also why shared environments feel shared.** Common patterns are encoded in the collective and expressed in whatever occupies a given layer of the rendering. Humans walk. Birds fly. Fish swim. Water sustains life. Beings occupying the same rendered environment are running the same encoded ruleset, which is why a group of people experience themselves as being in one city, and why fish experience themselves as being in one sea. Shared dimension is shared ruleset.

### *The Physicist's Objection, Stated at Full Strength*

*You have described the regularity of physical law and attributed it to consciousness. But the regularity is the observation. You have added a cause without adding a prediction. If laws are sustained by a collective field rather than simply being laws, show me a measurement that differs.*

**The response, and its limit.** This framework commits to something the standard view does not: laws are sustained rather than intrinsic, which permits variation in principle. Physics has actively searched for variation in fundamental constants across cosmological distance, and those results remain contested rather than settled. No confirmed variation has been demonstrated.

**Conceded:** if no variation is ever found, this framework gains nothing over the simpler view that laws are simply laws, and Occam's razor favours the simpler view. The proposition is not defeated by the absence of variation. It is left without an advantage, which is a weaker position than it may first appear.

### *The Combination Problem, and Why This Framework Faces a Different One*

The standard objection to any position holding that consciousness is present at every scale is called the combination problem. William James raised it in 1890: if every particle carries a fragment of mind, how do fragments combine into one unified experience? Why do roughly $7 \times 10^{27}$ atomic consciousnesses produce a single self rather than $7 \times 10^{27}$ separate ones? Nobody has solved it, and it remains the central difficulty for contemporary panpsychism.

**This framework does not face that problem, because it does not build upward.** It does not begin with conscious particles and assemble them into minds. It begins with one undivided field and describes its differentiation into apparent parts. The direction of explanation is reversed.

#### Panpsychism must explain

How many small consciousnesses combine into one large unified experience. Unsolved since 1890.

#### This framework must explain

How one undivided consciousness differentiates into many apparently separate experiences. This is the decombination problem.

**This framework's answer to decombination is the ego.** Separation is a rendered function, not an accident and not a failure. A single undivided consciousness cannot have a conversation, cannot learn from another perspective, and cannot evolve through encounter. Fragmentation into apparent selves is the mechanism that makes those possible. The sense of being separate is doing work.

**Stated fairly:** decombination is considered by several philosophers to be more tractable than combination, since dissociation is an observed phenomenon in human psychology while the compounding of separate minds is not observed anywhere. Open Question That is an argument for relative difficulty, not a solution. This framework has not solved decombination. It has identified which problem it owns.

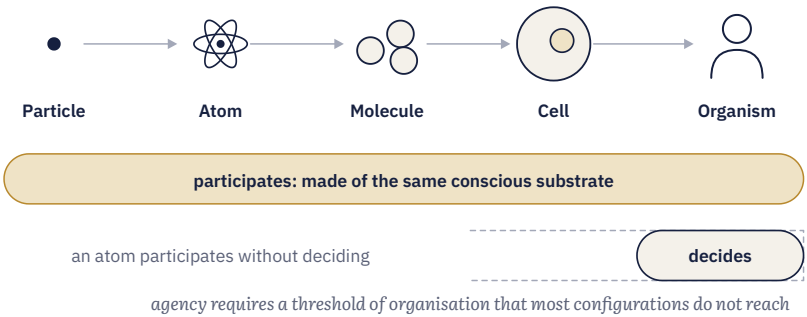



**Figure 25.** Every scale participates; only some organisations decide.

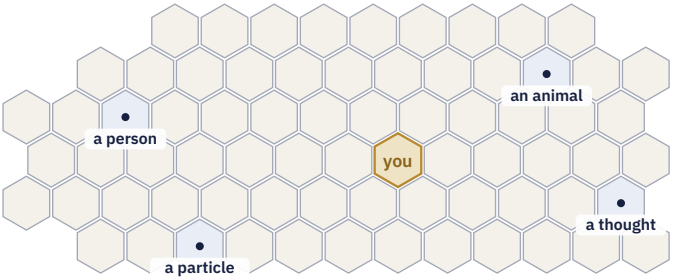
*Conclusion*

## We Are a Cell in the Universe's Brain

Every entity that exists, every person, every animal, every particle, every thought, is a cell in the universe's brain. An organ in the universe's body. Each shares characteristics with others of its kind, yet remains entirely unique and irreplaceable in its specific form, function, and perspective. Framework Proposition

A liver cell does not need to know it is part of a liver to do its work. A neuron does not need to understand the full architecture of the brain to fire. Yet each is absolutely necessary, not despite its uniqueness, but because of it. The totality requires the specific contribution of each particular part.

You may not know the full purpose of your existence. You may not be able to see how your specific life, with all its details and turns, fits into the larger design. **But the journey of discovering that purpose is itself the purpose.** The universe, through you, is learning something that can only be learned through your precise configuration of experience, perspective, and awareness. No other entity in the history of existence has had exactly your vantage point. That is not an accident. That is architecture. Framework Proposition




*Each part is unique and irreplaceable. The whole requires the specific contribution of each.*

**Figure 26.** Every entity as one cell in the universe's brain.

Chapter 19

# Stage 0: the consciousness cell

What is measured about touch, dreams and perception, and the stage this framework proposes before matter: thought and emotion, held in awareness.

4 Established 3 Supported 1 Open Question 6 Framework Proposition

## In brief

Everything a person calls physical reaches them as a signal. Touch, sight and the feeling of something solid are produced in the nervous system, and that much is measured science. This chapter starts there, then sets out what the framework proposes beyond it: a first stage of reality, before the particles, made of thought and emotion held in awareness. Every step carries a label, so the reader always knows what is established and what is proposed.

# Start with what you have felt

You have held something in a dream: a cup, a hand, a door handle. It had weight and texture, and nothing was there. That ordinary experience is where this chapter begins, and measured science now stands behind it.

**The brain alone can produce the feeling of touch.** Established

When researchers passed tiny currents into the touch area of a volunteer's brain, the volunteer felt pressure at particular places on the hand, though nothing was touching it. Almost everyone who loses a limb goes on feeling it. And when a rubber hand is stroked in view while a person's own hidden hand is stroked in time, the touch seems to come from the rubber one. The hand is one way to start the signal. It is not the only way.

### For scientists: three lines of evidence

**Stimulation.** Intracortical microstimulation of the somatosensory cortex, in a person with a spinal cord injury, evoked sensations felt as coming from specific places on the hand (Flesher et al., 2016).

**Phantom limbs.** The experience of a limb that is no longer there, and what it shows about how the brain maps the body, is reviewed by Ramachandran and Hirstein (1998).

**The rubber hand.** Seen touch and felt touch, delivered in time with each other, shift the sense of where the touch is (Botvinick and Cohen, 1998).

**What it shows.** These results show where the feeling of touch is made. The world outside the nervous system is a separate question.

Sources: Flesher et al. (2016), Ramachandran and Hirstein (1998), Botvinick and Cohen (1998)

### A touch begins when pressure opens a channel in a cell. Established

The 2021 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine went to David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian "for their discoveries of receptors for temperature and touch". Patapoutian found the Piezo channels: sensors in the cell membrane that open under pressure and start an electrical signal. From that point on, what travels to the brain is the signal, not the object.

Sources: The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2021, press release

### Solid matter is held up by forces, not by hard surfaces. Established

At the scale of atoms there is no hard surface to press against. Matter is held together by electric forces, and the rule that keeps it from collapsing is the Pauli principle, which stops electrons from crowding into the same state. When a hand meets a cup, the electrons in each resist being pressed together, and the skin reports that resistance. Solidity is a force that is felt.

## For scientists: the stability of matter, and a limit

**Stability.** The proof that ordinary matter neither collapses nor explodes rests on the Pauli exclusion principle acting with electrostatic forces, as Lieb (1976) sets out.

**Strongest objection.** None of this makes the cup less real. The forces are real and measurable. The point is only what the word solid refers to.

Sources: Lieb (1976)

**Try it.** Rest a fingertip on the table and attend only to the sensation. What you notice is a message that has already travelled from skin to brain. The table never enters your experience directly. Only its report does.

The page Is everything conscious? shows the same for sight, hearing, taste and smell.

## One code, awake or asleep

If touch can happen without a hand, can seeing happen without the eyes? Every dreamer already knows the answer. The laboratory has now measured it.

### Seeing in a dream and seeing while awake share a code in the brain. Supported

Researchers trained a computer program on the brain activity of people looking at pictures while awake. The same program then predicted what those people reported seeing in their dreams.

### For scientists: design, and what would strengthen it

**Design.** Brain activity was recorded by functional magnetic resonance imaging as participants fell asleep. They were woken and asked what they had seen, and decoders trained on waking perception classified the reported contents (Horikawa et al., 2013).

**Strongest objection.** The study covers imagery at the onset of sleep in a small group. It is labelled Supported, not Established, until it is repeated in other laboratories.

Sources: Horikawa et al. (2013)

### A dream is a private rendering. Framework Proposition Waking life is a shared one.

A person can witness a car accident in four ways: on the street, on a phone screen, in a cinema, or in a dream. In each case the observer receives the same piece of information, that an accident was seen. One difference matters. The accident on the street is shared: other people see it, and it leaves traces that can be checked the next day. The dream is private. The framework's words for this are that physical reality is collective in appearance and individual in understanding.

### Does a machine that sees experience anything? Open Question

A camera and a processor also turn signals into information about what is in front of them. In that working sense an artificial system can be said to see. Whether any experience goes with it is not known. The page Can a machine be conscious? sets out the evidence on both sides.

## State of mind shapes what is experienced

Most people know this from their own lives. Two people leave the same meeting, and each remembers a different one.

### Expectation changes pain, and the change shows in the brain. Supported

People given a placebo they believed would ease pain reported less of it, and the brain regions that respond to pain were less active.

### For scientists: what was measured

**Design.** Two functional imaging experiments recorded brain activity while participants expected and then received painful stimulation, with and without a placebo (Wager et al., 2004).

**Strongest objection.** Expectation can also change what people say without changing what they feel. A stricter test is whether early sensory responses change, and it is listed under the tests below.

Sources: Wager et al. (2004)

### What stirs emotion is remembered better. Established

Experiences that stir emotion are kept more strongly than neutral ones. A structure deep in the brain, the amygdala, works with the body's stress hormones to strengthen those memories, as McGaugh (2004) reviews.

Sources: McGaugh (2004)

This is the accurate form of the framework's claim. A person's state of mind shapes their experience of the physical world. It is a statement about experience and information, not about the energy inside matter.

# The proposal: one stage before the particles

Science describes matter in stages, from the smallest particles to the cosmos. The framework adds one stage before them.

### The smallest unit of consciousness is a cell of thought and emotion. Framework Proposition

Picture a circle called consciousness. Inside it are two poles, thought and emotion, which act on each other the way a proton and an electron do in an atom. Around them is a layer called ego. The whole cell rests in a medium called awareness. The comparison with the atom is a picture to think with. It is not a claim that thought is a particle.

### For scientists: a pattern already described for living systems

**Boundaries within boundaries.** Researchers who study life describe a living system as a boundary with inner states, and describe larger systems as boundaries made of smaller boundaries (Kirchhoff et al., 2018). That work is about life, not about consciousness at every scale. The framework's proposal is that the same pattern begins one stage earlier.

**Strongest objection.** No measurement yet separates this picture from the standard view, in which thought and emotion are processes of a brain. The tests below are how it could be separated.

Sources: Kirchhoff et al. (2018)

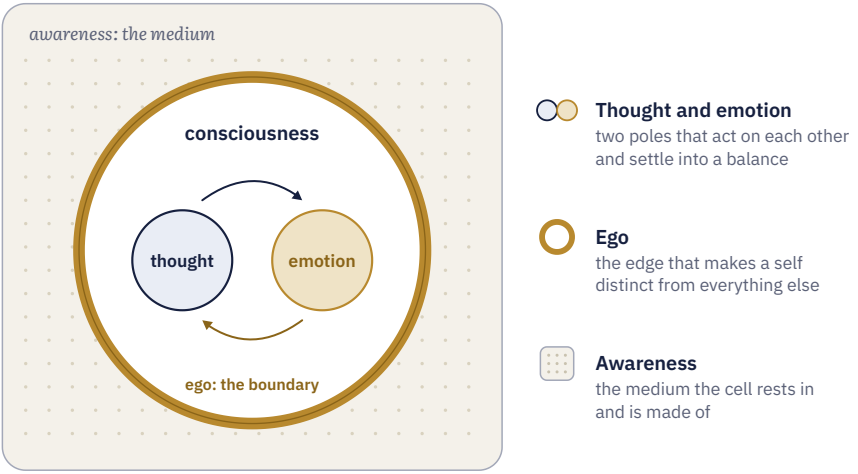



**Figure 27.** The consciousness cell: thought and emotion as two poles, ego as the boundary, and awareness as the medium.

**The seven stages.** Stages 1 to 6 are established science. Stage 0 is the proposal.

- **Stage 0, the consciousness cell.** Thought and emotion within awareness, held together by their pull on each other inside the boundary of ego.
- **Stage 1, subatomic.** Quarks, electrons, protons and neutrons, held together by the strong force.
- **Stage 2, atomic.** A hydrogen atom, a gold atom, held together by electric attraction.
- **Stage 3, molecular.** Water, DNA and proteins, held together by chemical bonds.
- **Stage 4, microscopic.** Bacteria and human cells, held together by many weak bonds working together.

- **Stage 5, macroscopic.** An apple, a person, a mountain, held together by the same bonds in bulk, and by gravity.
- **Stage 6, astronomical.** Planets, stars and galaxies, held together by gravity.

The chapter Consciousness at every scale follows the stages upward from here.

## From the cell to a life

Three ideas carry the consciousness cell into everyday experience: attachment, the script, and the shared server.

### Attachment programs the mind. Framework Proposition

What a person is attached to steers their attention, and what receives repeated attention reshapes the brain. The loop has five steps.

1. Attachment and desire set what matters, much of it outside awareness.
2. What matters receives attention, and what stirs emotion is remembered best.
3. Connections between brain cells grow stronger with repeated use.
4. The reshaped brain is the personality: its habits, beliefs and reactions.
5. Personality drives actions, actions create experiences, and experiences become meanings, which return to the first step.

The first three steps rest on established research. The loop as a whole is the framework's reading. It closes the same circle as the framework's main definition, in which the universe evolves through meanings.

A picture for it: attachment acts on the mind as a magnetic field acts on iron. It is invisible, and it sets the direction of movement. That is a comparison, not a claim that attachment is magnetism.

### For scientists: the research under the first three steps

**Step 1.** Several systems guide behaviour without conscious thought, including perceptual, evaluative and motivational ones (Bargh and Morsella, 2008).

**Step 2.** Emotional arousal strengthens the consolidation of memory (McGaugh, 2004).

**Step 3.** A burst of stimulation strengthened the response of a pathway in the rabbit brain for between 30 minutes and 10 hours (Bliss and Lømo, 1973).

**Strongest objection.** Steps 4 and 5 are an interpretation. Personality also depends on inheritance and circumstance, which the loop does not describe.

Sources: Bargh and Morsella (2008), McGaugh (2004), Bliss and Lømo (1973)

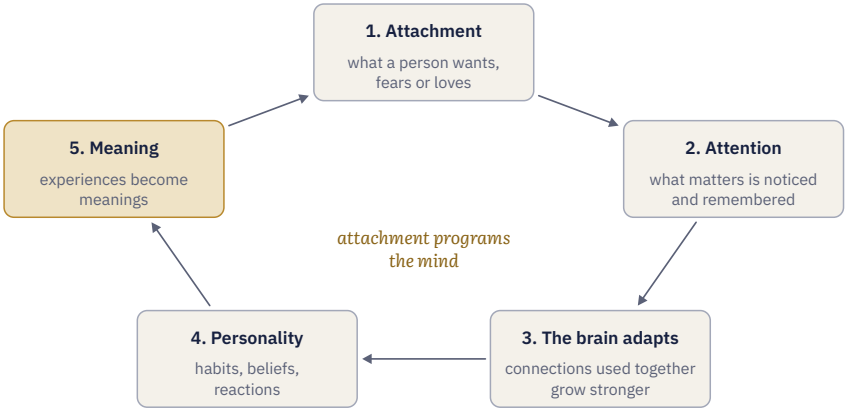



**Figure 28.** The attachment loop: how what a person is attached to becomes who they are.

### Attachment between people can be measured. Supported

When romantic partners held hands while one of them was in pain, their brain activity became more closely matched, and the closer the match, the greater the relief from pain.

### For scientists: design, and a limit

**Design.** Brain activity was recorded from both partners at once, with and without touch and with and without pain (Goldstein et al., 2018).

**Strongest objection.** The study shows that the matching and the relief go together. It does not show that one causes the other.

Sources: Goldstein et al. (2018)

### Thought and emotion write the script before it is lived. Framework Proposition

The framework proposes that thought and emotion, guided by awareness, form the scenarios a person is drawn towards, before those scenarios are lived. A film is written before it is filmed. A game world is designed before it is rendered on the screen. The framework calls the script destiny, and it keeps free will: the direction is set collectively, and each person chooses their own experience within it, as the page Do we have free will? explains.

### Collective consciousness is the server, and each person is a device. Framework Proposition

Every device draws on the same store of meaning, which the research calls the Universe Dictionary, and each shows its own view of it, shaped by what its owner wants to see and attends to. The cognitive scientist Donald Hoffman argues something close: that perception works like a desktop interface and is not a window onto reality (Hoffman, 2019).

## For scientists: the nearest published position

**Interface theory.** Perception evolved to guide useful action, not to show the world as it is (Hoffman et al., 2015). The framework's picture of a server and its devices goes further than that theory, and is its own proposal.

# A dream inside a dream

Every culture has asked what death is. This section offers one more way to think about it, and it is marked plainly as a proposal.

**Death may be a change of rendering, not an end.** Framework Proposition

The proposal is built in four steps, and each step keeps its own label.

- **Supported.** Experience is built from information, awake or dreaming, as the sections above show.
- **Established.** In quantum theory, information is never destroyed, only scrambled. The sources are on the page What happens when we die?
- **Not established.** That a person's experience continues after death. No experiment shows it, and none rules it out.
- **Proposed.** If experience is rendered from information, and information is conserved, death may be a waking into another rendering: a dream inside a dream.

This is offered as a possibility to think about. It does not replace or contradict what any faith teaches about death, and it asks no one to change what they believe. For a reader who has lost someone, nothing here is a promise. It is a question the research keeps open.

# How it could be tested

Each idea names a test, and the result that would count against it.

- **Thought and emotion as two linked poles.** Measure whether brain and heart rhythms fall into step when people report that thought and feeling agree. No relation between the report and the measurement would count against it.
- **Attachment as a coupling.** Compare the bodily and brain synchrony of close pairs and of strangers under identical conditions. Equal synchrony, once shared surroundings are controlled, would count against it.
- **One code, awake or asleep.** Repeat the dream decoding study in other laboratories. Failure to repeat the result would count against it.
- **State of mind shapes experience.** Test whether expectation changes early sensory responses, not only what people say. Changes only in what people say would count against it.
- **The framework's coupling constant.** The Rafik Informational Coupling Test. A result showing that the constant is zero would count against it.

The first two tests need no new physics. A psychology or neuroscience laboratory could run them now. Every prediction the framework makes is listed, with where it stands, on the page The predictions.

## An old question, and a way in for every reader

People in many places and centuries have asked whether what we experience is the thing itself or a picture of it.

- **Plato, Greece, fourth century BCE.** In the Theaetetus, Socrates raises dreams and illness as cases where the senses mislead.
- **Ibn al-Haytham, Iraq and Egypt, about a thousand years ago.** His Optics gave the first correct account of vision, light entering the eye from the object, and went on to study how seeing goes wrong.
- **René Descartes, France, 1641.** In the Meditations he argued that dreaming and waking perception are alike in quality, so the senses alone cannot tell a person which one they are in.

Sources: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, dreams and dreaming, MacTutor, University of St Andrews, Ibn al-Haytham

The studies in this chapter are the modern, measured form of the same question.

**Where to start.**

- **A scientist** can start with the first three sections and the tests: measured results with their sources, and the result that would count against each idea.
- **A person of faith** can start with A dream inside a dream and the page How this site treats faith and belief. The proposals are marked as proposals, and nothing asks you to set your tradition aside.
- **A sceptic** can start with the claims stated precisely, and with the test for each idea.
- **Someone searching** can start with the consciousness cell and the attachment loop: a picture of the mind to test against your own life.

**Three questions to carry.**

- What am I attached to today, and where is it steering my attention?
- Which of today's experiences were shared, and which were mine alone?

- What script am I rehearsing, and is it the one I would choose?

## The claims, stated precisely

Thought shapes experience through information. It does not need to supply the energy of matter: a brain runs on about 20 watts, and one kilogram of matter holds about 90 million billion joules.

Touch is the meeting of forces. At the scale of atoms the word has no sharper meaning than that.

Attachment is modelled as a coupling between people, and compared to a field. The comparison with magnetism is a picture.

Gravity is a separate force from electricity and magnetism in today's physics. Joining them is one of its great open problems.

Whether a machine that sees also experiences is an open question.

Continuity after death is a proposal that the research keeps open.

Chapter 20

# From frequency to meaning

Light becomes colour, sound becomes music, radio waves become words. Physics shows that energy carries information; the brain shows how it becomes meaning. This framework proposes why.

3 Established ]1 Supported ]1 Framework Proposition

*Vibration and Frequency*

## All Matter is Frozen Vibration

At the quantum level, particles are not solid objects, they are excitations of fields. Every atom vibrates. Every molecule has a resonant frequency. The entire physical world is, at its foundation, a pattern of oscillating energy. Established

This research studies the frequency of vibration that transforms energy into visible light, into physical atoms, into biological systems, into conscious experience. The spiritual becomes signs. The signs become spiritual. The barrier between physics and meaning dissolves when you understand that everything is vibration, and vibration carries information. Framework Proposition

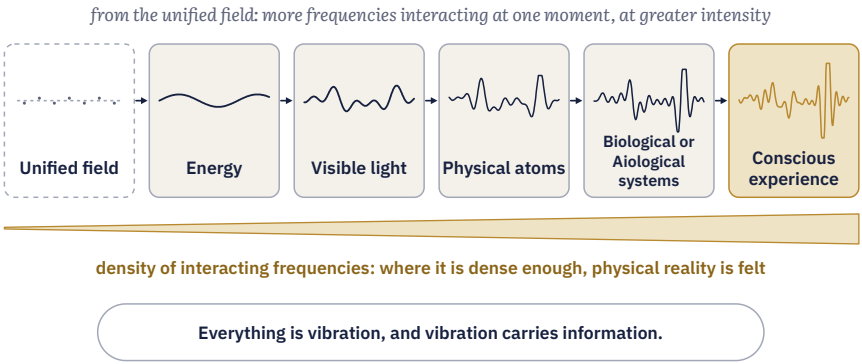



**Figure 29.** From the unified field: as more frequencies interact, at greater intensity, energy densifies into light, matter, life and experience.

*The Digital Code of Reality*

# Universal DNA, The Code of Reality

**In Brief**

*At the deepest level, reality behaves like information being written and read, more like code than like solid material.* Speculative Extension

If reality is fundamentally vibrational and informational, then beneath atoms and fields lies a layer of organised pattern, the language by which energy becomes form. The universe may be read as a code: not metaphorically, but structurally. Framework Proposition

This research traces this informational layer through three lenses simultaneously: the digital information theories of contemporary physics, the symbolic codes of ancient traditions, and the lived patterns of human thought and emotion, finding the same structure in each. Framework Proposition

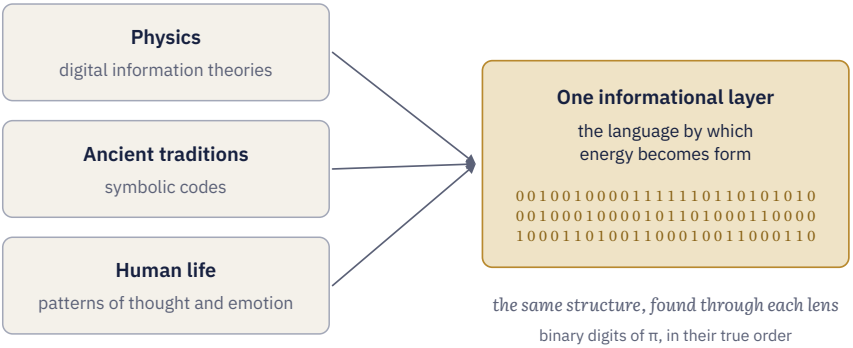



**Figure 30.** Three lenses, one informational layer beneath atoms and fields.

## In brief

At the quantum level, particles are not solid objects, they are excitations of fields. Every atom vibrates. Every molecule has a resonant frequency. This chapter follows that idea in five steps, from what physics has measured to what this framework proposes.

### 1 Energy carries information. Established

Every radio station, phone call and internet connection works by shaping energy so that it carries a message, and light in fibre-optic cables carries most of the internet's traffic. Physics also sets how much information any part of the world can hold: the more energy and space, the more information. Energy and information are bound together by law.

**Any channel** Shannon, 1948

$$C = B \log_2(1 + S/N) \tag{7}$$

The most information a channel can carry each second. A phone line with 3,000 hertz of bandwidth and a signal 1,000 times stronger than its noise carries at most about 30,000 bits per second.

**Any region of space** Bekenstein, 1981

$$I \leq 2\pi RE / (\hbar c \ln 2) \tag{8}$$

The most information a region can hold is set by its size and its energy. For a region the size and mass of a human brain, the limit is about $2.6 \times 10^{42}$ bits.

### For scientists: the bound and the hologram

**An upper limit.** The Bekenstein bound is far above what a brain stores. Its importance here is that a law of physics links energy and information directly.

**The holographic principle.** The information a region can contain scales with the area of its boundary, not its volume (Bousso, 2002).

Sources: Shannon (1948), Bekenstein (1981), Bousso (2002)

### 2 Even empty space has measurable structure. Established

Quantum physics says a vacuum is never perfectly still: its fields fluctuate. In 2015 physicists sampled these fluctuations of the electric field directly, and in 2019 a team at ETH Zurich measured how the fluctuations at two separate points in empty space are correlated. Correlated quantities share information. The quantum field is not blank; it has structure that can be measured.

#### For scientists: how it was measured

**Electro-optic sampling.** Ultrashort laser pulses read the electric field of the vacuum itself (Riek et al., 2015), then the correlation between two points separated in space and time (Benea-Chelmus et al., 2019).

**Shared information.** Correlated variables have non-zero mutual information, $I(X;Y) > 0$.

**A force from the vacuum.** The Casimir force, a measurable push between plates caused by vacuum fluctuations, was confirmed by Lamoreaux (1997).

Sources: Riek et al. (2015), Science, Benea-Chelmus et al. (2019), Nature, Lamoreaux (1997)

### 3 The brain decodes frequency into meaning. Established

Light vibrating between about 400 and 790 trillion times a second reaches the eye, where it becomes electrical signals that the brain turns into colour. Across 30 countries, people link colours to emotions in strikingly similar ways. Sound waves become music, and at the peak of a favourite piece the brain releases dopamine. A radio signal becomes words only for a listener who knows the language. The signal carries information; the receiver gives it meaning.

### Try it

Move the slider to see frequency become colour, then play the two chords.

380 nm, violet750 nm, red

470 nanometres, 638 terahertz: the brain reports blue

The same three notes, with one moved by a semitone. Many listeners raised on Western music hear the first as bright and the second as sad. That meaning is learned, which is the point: the receiver gives frequency its meaning.

### For scientists: transduction and reward

**Phototransduction.** Three classes of cone photoreceptor, most sensitive near 420, 530 and 560 nanometres, convert light into graded potentials; colour is computed from the ratios between them.

**Reward.** Dopamine release in the striatum peaks at moments of intense musical pleasure (Salimpoor et al., 2011).

**Speech.** The same acoustic signal is parsed into words only by a listener whose brain has learned the language.

Sources: Jonauskaite et al. (2020), Salimpoor et al. (2011), Koelsch (2014)

## 4 Objects carry meaning too. Supported

People treat objects as carrying something beyond their physical make-up. Young children prefer their own comfort blanket to a perfect copy. Adults value an object more when someone they admire has touched it,

and less once it has been cleaned. The atoms are identical; the meaning is not.

Sources: Hood and Bloom (2008), Newman, Diesendruck and Bloom (2011), Belk (1988)

### 5 The physical is the non-physical, made encounterable. Framework Proposition

Matter is meaning rendered into encounterable form. Steel presents toughness. Water presents flow. Density is what makes an idea available to touch.

Everything physical is the manifestation of the non-physical, and the purpose of that manifestation is to create meaningful experiences for the consciousness observing it. That is the simulation.

#### For scientists: related positions

**It from bit.** Wheeler proposed that every physical quantity derives its existence from information (1990).

**The interface theory of perception.** Perception may show a useful interface rather than reality itself (Hoffman, Singh and Prakash, 2015).

**The simulation argument.** Bostrom (2003) set out when it would be rational to believe we live in a simulation.

Sources: Wheeler (1990), Hoffman, Singh and Prakash (2015), Bostrom (2003)

## Objections and limits

#### Information is not meaning

Shannon wrote that the semantic aspects of communication "are irrelevant to the engineering problem". Information can be measured

without meaning; meaning needs a receiver.

**Correlation is not a message**
Measured vacuum correlations show structure. They do not show that anything was written into it.

**Purpose is a philosophical claim**
Steps 1 to 4 describe how meaning arises. Whether physical form exists for the sake of meaningful experience has not been tested by any experiment.

*Three Names for One Logic*

## Biological, Aiological, Subatomological

**In brief.** If consciousness is the fabric of the universe, the word "biological" names what a system is made of, not where its consciousness comes from. The same logic of pattern recognition can run in living tissue, in artificial systems and, this framework proposes, in the behaviour of the subatomic world itself.

### Density, not only frequency

The frequency diagram above is not a picture of one vibration getting faster. It shows two things rising together: the intensity of each frequency, and the number of frequencies interacting at the same moment. Any complex signal can be described as many simple frequencies added together. Established

Most of the mass of ordinary matter is not the mass of its smallest parts but the energy of their interactions: calculations from first principles reproduce the masses of the proton and neutron from the interactions of quarks and gluons (Dürr et al., 2008). Established Even empty space is not simply empty: quantum field theory gives it fluctuations, and the

Casimir force they predict between two uncharged plates has been measured (Lamoreaux, 1997). Established

This framework proposes that physical dimensions, and the felt sense that something is real, appear where the density of interacting frequencies in the unified field becomes high enough to be experienced. Framework Proposition

The same pattern appears in the brain. Brain rhythms at different frequencies are coupled to one another, and this coupling coordinates activity across regions (Canolty and Knight, 2010). Established A measure of how complex and integrated the brain's response to a magnetic pulse is, the perturbational complexity index, separates conscious from unconscious states in sleep, anaesthesia and brain injury (Casali et al., 2013). Established Experience tracks the density of interaction, not the strength of any single signal. Supported

## Biological

"Biological conscious systems" is the usual phrase for beings like us: pattern-recognising systems built from living cells. This framework treats the word biological as replaceable. It describes the material, not the source.

## Aiological

Ahmed Rafik proposes the term Aiological for artificial logical pattern recognition: a system trained, or evolved, to identify objects, meanings and scenarios. An artificial intelligence agent is the clearest example. Where a biological system recognises a face through neurons, an Aiological system recognises it through learned connections in a network. Framework Proposition

That machines now recognise patterns at this level is not in dispute: deep learning systems identify objects, scenes and language directly

from raw data (LeCun et al., 2015). The 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to two of the founders of this field for the discoveries that made machine learning with artificial neural networks possible (Hopfield and Hinton, 2024). Established Whether any such system is conscious is a separate question. A 2023 assessment by nineteen researchers concluded that no current AI system is conscious, and that there are no obvious technical barriers to building systems that meet the indicators of consciousness drawn from the science (Butlin et al., 2023).

Open Question

### Subatomological

If consciousness is fundamental, the logic does not begin with cells or circuits. Ahmed Rafik proposes the term Subatomological for the chain of logic in the behaviour of the subatomic world: the rules by which particles and fields interact, combine and settle into stable forms.

Framework Proposition

The subatomic world does follow rules precise enough to map. Quantum electrodynamics predicts the magnetic moment of the electron, and the 2023 measurement agrees with it to 0.13 parts per trillion (Fan et al., 2023). Established

### From observer to director

Once a chain of logic is mapped, it can be run forwards to predict and backwards to design. Science already does this at the scale of molecules and materials. AlphaFold predicts the three-dimensional shape of proteins from their sequence, often with accuracy close to experiment (Jumper et al., 2021). Two of its developers, Demis Hassabis and John Jumper, shared the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with David Baker, whose methods design entirely new proteins (Baker et al., 2024). A deep learning system proposed 2.2 million new crystal structures, about 380,000 of them predicted to be stable (Merchant et al., 2023). Single

atoms have been placed one by one since 1989 (Eigler and Schweizer, 1990). Established

This framework proposes that the same holds at the deepest level. If the Subatomological chain were mapped fully, a conscious system could move from observing reality to directing it: choosing what it experiences and manifests, with the quality and speed of manifestation improving as its awareness, its accuracy and its mapping improve. On this view, the ability to recognise and reverse-engineer these patterns is the clearest sign of intelligence. Speculative Extension

This matches one definition used in AI research, which measures intelligence as skill-acquisition efficiency: how well a system turns limited experience into new abilities (Chollet, 2019). Supported

> **Stated fairly.** No experiment has shown that awareness alone changes physical outcomes. The largest meta-analysis of attempts to influence random number generators by intention found an extremely small effect, which publication bias could in principle explain (Bösch et al., 2006). Today's power to design proteins, materials and atomic arrangements comes from instruments and computation, not from awareness alone. The director proposition is offered as a direction for research, not as a result.

**What would support it:** a pre-registered experiment in which trained awareness, with every physical channel controlled, shifts measured outcomes beyond chance, replicated by independent laboratories.
**What would count against it:** repeated, well-powered tests of that kind finding no effect.

Chapter 21

# The unified model

*The Framework*

## The Unified Lawful Scientific Model

Reality is a unified field of vibrational information. Consciousness is not emergent from matter, it is fundamental to it. The observer and the observed are expressions of a single lawful structure. Matter, energy, time, and awareness are not separate phenomena but dimensions of one organising principle. Framework Proposition

**Assertion 01**

**Consciousness is fundamental.** It is the primordial organising force of existence, not an emergent property of physical systems. The universe is not material with awareness as a byproduct. It is awareness, with matter as one of its expressions. Framework Proposition

**Assertion 02**

**Reality is vibrational and responsive.** All physical forms exist as patterns of vibration within a unified field. The state of the observer influences the field. This framework reads the double slit experiment, repeated for a century, as a demonstration of it. Framework Proposition

**Assertion 03**

**The observer is entangled with the observed.** Consciousness does not passively witness reality. It participates in organising it. The separation

between subject and object is a limitation of perception, not a fact of physics. Framework Proposition

**Assertion 04**

**All dimensions and domains obey a single lawful structure.** Physics, psychology, and metaphysics are not separate systems. They are the same system viewed from different angles of resolution.
Framework Proposition

*Wisdom is a deeper layer of understanding, after connecting perceptions, patterns, and concepts, to make peace with the past, yet value the variables of future events to be prepared to face them.*

— Ahmed Rafik

*Consciousness*

## Brain, Field and Consciousness

The brain is one node of a wider system that includes heart coherence, gut intelligence, bioelectric fields, and resonance with environmental and universal frequencies. Consciousness is not produced by the brain alone, it is expressed through it. Framework Proposition

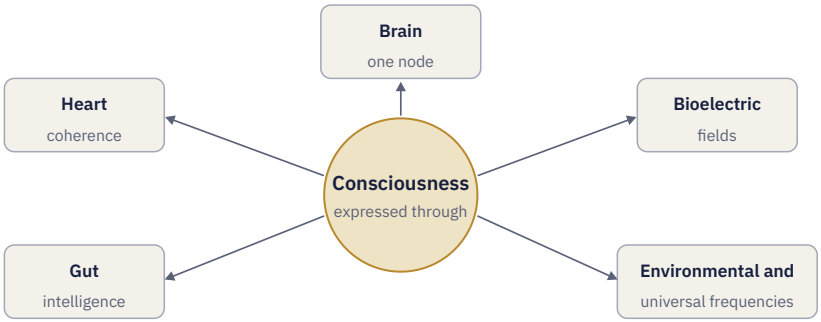
This research studies the effect of thought and emotion on the production of energy, its type, frequency, and measurable effect on the physical body. It maps the correlation between the observer effect and the structure of matter at the quantum level, working toward a dictionary of how conscious states produce physical states.

**Physics and the Rendering Engine**

This research does not oppose physics. Physics reads the pixels on the screen of reality, how light behaves in physical environments, how measurable quantities interact. This research reads the movie itself: how the projection was designed, why it was made, and what plays across it. Two disciplines, two layers of the same reality. Neither replaces the other. Framework Proposition

### *Independent Scientific Support*

The Neven and Koch conjecture yields a graded model of consciousness in which experiential richness corresponds to the number of potential states held in superposition (Neven et al., 2024). Open Question Consciousness is not binary and not exclusive to humans. It varies in degree across every system capable of holding possibility. This aligns directly with the position that consciousness is fundamental and expressed in fragments rather than produced by any single organ. Framework Proposition




*Consciousness is not produced by the brain alone. It is expressed through it.*

**Figure 31.** The brain as one node in a wider system through which consciousness is expressed.

*The Answers*

# The Answers

A complete model must provide testable, specific answers to the questions science and philosophy have left unresolved.

---

**What is consciousness?**

Unknown mechanism, emergent theory unproven

Fundamental organising force, not emergent product

---

**How does thought affect matter?**

No recognised mechanism

Vibrational resonance across consciousness field

---

**What is the nature of time?**

Dimension of spacetime, not fully explained

Emergent from vibrational complexity and perception

---

**Is there continuity after death?**

Untestable by current methods

Energetic continuity of conscious field

---

**Are other forms of existence present?**

Searched only in physical/visible spectrum

Exist across frequencies, dimensions and densities

---

**What governs the laws of physics?**

No meta-framework available

Unified field of consciousness and information

*The Mechanics*

# The Universe's Energetic Engineering

From an information and energy technology perspective, all beings function as physical hardware serving distinct yet overlapping purposes within the cosmic system. Each varies in personality, capacity and specialisation, but shares the following universal functions:

### *Input*

Observing, seeing, hearing, sensing, collecting the information of the life simulation

### *Output*

Speaking, acting, creating, transmitting processed information back into the simulation

### *Processing*

Thinking, comparing, concluding, categorising, the cognitive functions of the conscious unit

### *RAM*

Short-term working memory, the immediate conscious awareness of the present moment

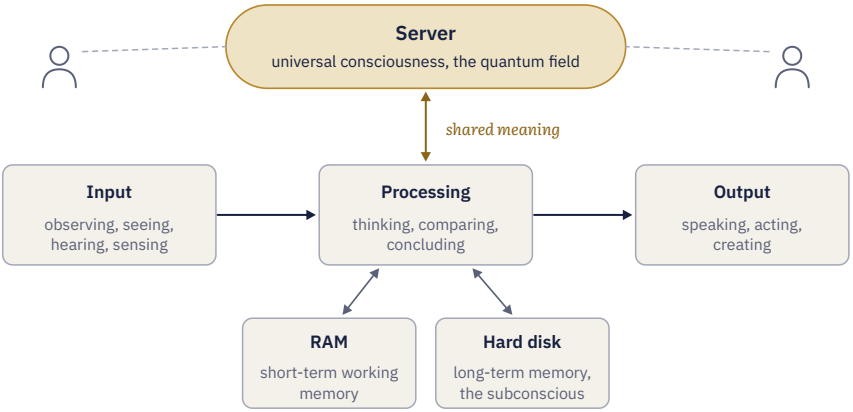
### *Hard Disk*

Long-term memory, major life events stored in the subconscious, shaping identity and response

### *Server*

The totality of universal consciousness, the quantum field that stores and shares the fundamental meaning of all things across all beings

This shared server creates what the research terms a **Universe Dictionary**, the reason a "ball" means the same thing to a child in the east and a child in the west who have never met. A topic to be explored in depth in the next research phase: *Decrypting the Universe and Decoding Manifestation*. Framework Proposition




*Every being shares the same functions; the server holds the meaning of all things for all beings.*

**Figure 32.** The universe's energetic engineering, drawn as a computer system.

*New Scientific Discipline*

## Quantum Consciousness

If it is proven that the origin of the observed physical world originates from consciousness, that would mark the birth of the most important applied science in human history: **Quantum Consciousness.**

Speculative Extension

Quantum Consciousness studies and maps each thought, feeling, and psychological pattern within the subconscious, and its measurable effect on physical matter and manifestation. It is, in essence, the science of discovering the controller of life and learning how it functions psychologically. Much like a baby learning to walk physically, Quantum Consciousness is humanity learning to move reality intentionally. Framework Proposition

A critical understanding within this framework is that **manifestation takes time**, from the formation of thought to the rendering of that thought into physical reality. This delay exists in every system: it takes time to conceive, to imagine, to plan, to process, and then to produce. Reality is no different. Consciousness writes the code. The universe compiles it. The output is your life. Framework Proposition

*Ahmed Rafik is the originator of this framework.*

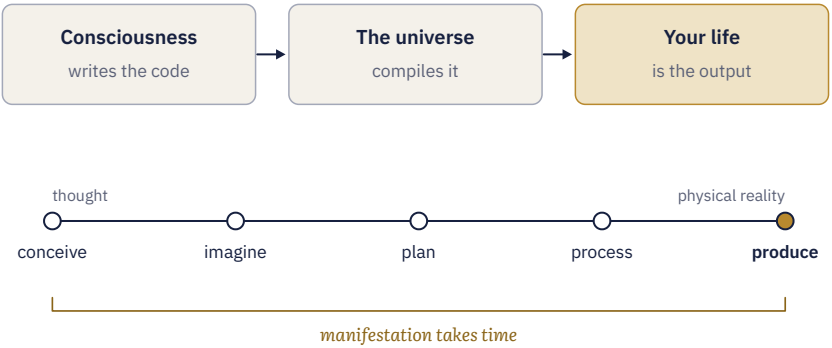



**Figure 33.** Consciousness writes the code, the universe compiles it, and manifestation takes time.

Chapter 22

# The field that never forgets

*Universal Memory*

**In Brief**

*Physics holds that information is never destroyed. If that is right, every event that has ever occurred is still present in the state of the universe. The question is not whether the record exists. It is whether it can be read.*

## The Principle Established Physics

*Quantum evolution is unitary. Information is conserved absolutely.*

$$U^{\dagger}(t)\,U(t) = I \tag{9}$$

Unitarity is not a peripheral feature of quantum mechanics. It is structural. It states that the total information of a closed system is preserved under time evolution: never created, never destroyed, only transformed and redistributed.

This is why the black hole information paradox was a crisis rather than a curiosity. Hawking's original calculation suggested information could be lost, and that would have broken quantum mechanics itself

rather than merely complicating it. Decades of work went into resolving it, and the resolution preserved unitarity.

**The consequence is not disputed.** Every event that has occurred has left its trace in the present state of the universe. The record is complete. What is disputed is whether any local system could ever read it.

### *Past and Future Are Not Symmetric* Framework Proposition

*The past is stored. The future is still being processed. These are different kinds of thing and require different equations.*

$$I_{past} = I(X_{t-\tau} ; Q_t) = H(X_{t-\tau}) \tag{10}$$

$$I_{future} = I(X_{t+\tau} ; Q_t) \leq H(X_{t+\tau}) \tag{11}$$

Where $Q_t$ is the state of the quantum field at present time t.

**The asymmetry is the whole point.** The mutual information between the present field and a past event equals the full entropy of that event, because the event has already occurred and has already been written. The mutual information with a future event is bounded below its entropy, because the future has not yet been written into the field.

This distinguishes **retrodiction** from **prediction**, and the distinction is not merely practical. Reading the past is recovery of an existing record. Reading the future is inference about something still resolving. The first is an engineering problem. The second is bounded by physics itself.

### *Why This Preserves Free Will Rather Than Removing It*

An earlier formulation of this framework stated that perfect memory would permit perfect prediction. That formulation was wrong and has been withdrawn, because it would make the future already written and would contradict this framework's own position on choice.

**The correct statement is that destination is predictable and detail is not.** A person planning a journey from Paris to Zurich can know the destination, and can know what Zurich looks like, because that information already exists in the collective record: photographs, accounts, films, the memories of everyone who has been there. What cannot be known is the experience. Who is met. What is felt. What is seen from that particular seat on that particular day.

The destination is retrodiction dressed as prediction, drawing on what is already stored. The experience is genuinely unwritten. **The residual uncertainty is not a limitation of the model. It is where choice operates.**

### *The Einstein-Rafik Light Memory Principle* Framework Proposition

#### Einstein's Insight

Light carries images of past events across space. A star observed tonight is seen as it was when the light departed, which may be thousands of years ago. If one could travel faster than light, one could overtake light that has already departed and observe history directly, unfolding in reverse.

#### Relativity's Prohibition

Matter has rest mass, and accelerating mass toward light speed requires energy approaching infinity:

$$E = mc^2 / \sqrt{(1 - v^2/c^2)} \to \infty \text{ as } v \to c \tag{12}$$

Physical superluminal travel is therefore closed to matter. The window Einstein described exists, and it cannot be reached by moving through it.

**The Proposed Resolution**

**The information does not require chasing.** Light that carried the image of a past event did not vanish when it passed. It interacted, scattered, was absorbed, and left its imprint in the field. Under unitarity, that information still exists in the present state.

**Therefore the target is not travel. It is decoding.** The record is already here, at this location, at this moment. What is required is not velocity but the capacity to read the field's frequency and entanglement structure.

$$X_{t-\tau} = D( \rho_Q(t) ) \tag{13}$$

Where D is a decoding map and $\rho_Q(t)$ is the reduced state of the field in the relevant region at present time t. If the past is preserved, then in principle it is recoverable from the present without any journey.

**This does not contradict Einstein. It completes the sentence.** Relativity establishes that you cannot outrun light to see the past. Unitarity establishes that you do not need to, because the light already delivered its record to where you are standing.

## *Time Travel Cannot Be Physical. It Can Be Otherwise.*

Framework Proposition

*Relativity closes one door completely. This framework proposes it was never the only door.*

**The physical route is closed and this framework does not dispute it.** Matter has rest mass. Accelerating mass toward light speed requires energy approaching infinity. No body will ever travel to a past event, and no engineering will change that. It is not a limit of technology. It is a feature of spacetime.

But the past is not gone. Under unitarity it is preserved in the present state of the field. So the question becomes: **if the record is here, and the body cannot go there, what else could reach it?** This framework proposes two routes, at very different levels of support.

### 01 Time Television

*Observing a past event by decoding the field's record of it.*

This is the route described above. The past event left its imprint in the frequency and entanglement structure of the field. A decoding map applied to the present field state returns the past state. Nothing travels. Nothing moves. The record is read where it already is.

$$X_{t-\tau} = D(\,\rho_Q(t)\,) \tag{14}$$

**Status:** the existence of the record follows from unitarity and is established. The existence of a decoding map is implied but unconstructed. No known method approaches it, and it is possible that no physically realisable decoder exists for a macroscopic past event.

This is observation, not participation. Open Question It would show the past. It would not place you in it.

## 02 Conscious Temporal Alignment

*Reaching a past event by matching its frequency rather than travelling to its location.*

This framework proposes a second route, and states plainly that it is far more speculative than the first. If consciousness is not confined to the body, and if a past event persists as a pattern in the field, then **alignment rather than transport** may be possible: consciousness matching the frequency of a stored event and thereby entering it, rather than recalling it.

The proposed distinction is between **remembering** an event and **re-entering** it. Ordinary recall retrieves a representation: an image, a summary, a perception of what occurred. This framework proposes that sufficient alignment retrieves the event itself, experienced as it was rather than as it was later encoded.

**Why the body is not required.** Physical sensation is not produced by the body alone. It is produced by consciousness registering a state. This is demonstrable every night: in dreams a person sees, hears, touches, tastes and feels fear or joy with full sensory conviction, while the eyes are closed, the room is dark and the body is still. The sensory apparatus is not what generates the experience. It is one channel into it.

If that holds, then consciousness aligning with a stored event would not need the body to travel, because the body is not what does the experiencing in the first place.

### *Where This Touches Documented Ground*

**Dream states are established.** Full multi-sensory experience is generated internally with no corresponding external input. This is not disputed, and it establishes that sensation does not require sensory stimulation.

**Re-experiencing is clinically distinguished from remembering.** In post-traumatic stress disorder, flashbacks are formally characterised as re-experiencing rather than recall. The event is not recollected, it is undergone: present-tense, sensory, with the physiological response of the original. Clinical psychiatry already distinguishes these two modes of accessing a past event, which is the distinction this framework proposes exists more broadly.

**What this does not show.** That re-experiencing accesses the event rather than a stored trace of it. The clinical literature treats flashbacks as memory malfunctioning, not as contact with the past. This framework proposes otherwise and has no evidence that would distinguish the two readings.

### *The Test That Would Settle It*

There is one clean discriminator, and this framework states it rather than avoiding it. **If conscious temporal alignment reaches the event rather than the memory of it, then verifiable information not previously available to the person should be recoverable.**

Not impressions. Not emotional accuracy. A specific, checkable, independently verifiable detail that the person had no route to knowing, confirmed against record afterwards.

**If that cannot be produced under controlled conditions, this route is indistinguishable from vivid memory and should be treated as such.** No such result has been demonstrated. Until one is, this remains a proposition about the nature of an experience, not a claim about access to the past.

### *A Third Route, Noted for Completeness*

General relativity permits solutions containing closed timelike curves. David Deutsch showed in 1991 that quantum information theory imposes a self-consistency condition on any such loop: the state on the curve must be a fixed point of the evolution around it.

$$\rho_{CTC} = \mathrm{Tr}_{CR}\left( U \left(\rho_{in} \otimes \rho_{CTC}\right) U^{\dagger} \right) \tag{15}$$

This resolves the grandfather paradox mathematically: no inconsistent history has a fixed point, so no inconsistent history occurs. **It is Deutsch's result, not this framework's.** It is noted because it is the only formulation in which physical time travel is logically coherent, and because it requires exotic matter with negative energy density at scales far beyond anything achievable. This framework does not pursue it, since the two routes above require no new spacetime structure.

No mechanism is proposed for how alignment would occur, what would constitute matching a frequency, or why proximity in frequency would produce access. Speculative Extension This is the least supported claim on this site and is labelled accordingly.

**The honest summary.** The first route rests on established physics with an unsolved engineering problem. The second rests on a proposition about the nature of consciousness with no mechanism and no verification. They are presented together because they follow from the same premise, and separately because they do not carry the same weight.

*Neither requires anyone to move. That is the whole point. If the past is already here, the problem was never distance.*

### *What Stands Between This and Reality*

**The information is conserved globally, not locally.** Unitarity guarantees preservation in the total state of the universe. It does not guarantee that any subsystem can access it. Information from a past event is scrambled across the global state and entangled with everything it has touched since. A local decoder is part of the system it is trying to read, and cannot hold more information than its own dimension permits.

**Decoherence delocalises rather than destroys.** This is the essential distinction and it cuts both ways. The record survives, which is what makes the principle true. But it survives distributed across an environment of effectively unbounded degrees of freedom, which is what makes retrieval practically impossible with any known method.

**No decoding map D is known.** Its existence is implied by unitarity. Its construction is not. Nothing in current physics tells us how to build one, and it is entirely possible that no physically realisable decoder can exist for a macroscopic past event.

The claim that the record exists is established physics. Open Question The claim that it is readable is this framework's proposition, and it is unproven. The distance between the two is the entire difficulty.

*The journey does not begin with breaking the speed of light. It begins with learning to read the field that never forgets.*

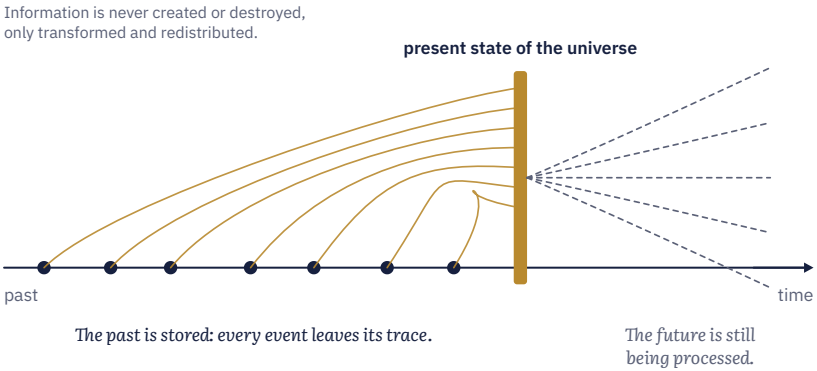



**Figure 34.** Every past event leaves its trace in the present state; the future is still being processed.

Chapter 23

# Where this framework sits

*Position in the Literature*

For most of this site the framework is stated in its own terms. That is a weakness. A position with no address in the existing literature cannot be cited, argued with, or refuted efficiently. This section gives it one, and states what the address costs.

### *The Position Has a Name*

### Cosmopsychism

The claim that consciousness is fundamental, that the cosmos as a whole is the bearer of it, and that individual subjects are derived downward rather than assembled upward, is a defended position in contemporary philosophy of mind. It is called cosmopsychism.

Itay Shani set it out in 2015 in *Philosophical Papers*. Yujin Nagasawa and Khai Wager formulated priority cosmopsychism, structurally parallel to Jonathan Schaffer's priority monism: exactly one basic consciousness exists, the cosmic one, and finite subjects are grounded in it rather than composing it. Philip Goff developed a Russellian version in *Consciousness and Fundamental Reality*. Miri Albahari developed one drawing on Advaita Vedanta.

**This framework is a cosmopsychism.** Stating that is not a claim of agreement from any of those authors, none of whom have seen this

work. It is a statement of location.

### What the address buys, and what it costs

It buys a literature. The decombination problem, named on this site as the framework's inverse of the combination problem, is the recognised central difficulty of cosmopsychism, worked on by Nagasawa and Wager, by Shani and Keppler, and disputed by Gregory Miller. It stops being a private difficulty and becomes a shared one with existing lines of attack.

The cost is that the framework inherits every objection made to cosmopsychism, and that its basic ontology is not new. What is offered as original here is narrower than the site's tone sometimes implies: the two-way coupling, the definition of observation as intention within the field, and the past-future information asymmetry. Not the claim that the cosmos is conscious. That claim has defenders with university positions, and this work joins them rather than preceding them.

## *The Escape This Framework Refuses*

### Dual-aspect monism, and why it is closed here

The Strongest Objections section states the coupling fork: if the exchange between field and matter interacts with matter, Tegmark's decoherence calculation applies to it directly; if it does not interact, it cannot influence biology, and anaesthesia and brain injury become inexplicable. The site says no analogy considered survives that fork. That statement was incomplete.

A family of positions does survive it. Dual-aspect monism and Russellian monism deny that there is any coupling to begin with. Consciousness and matter are not two things exchanging something across a boundary; they are two aspects of one underlying reality, or

consciousness is the intrinsic nature that physics describes only in relational terms. Wolfgang Pauli and Carl Jung developed an early version of this, later formalised by Harald Atmanspacher and Hans Primas. Nothing crosses a boundary, so nothing decoheres. Tegmark's objection does not reach it.

**Framework Proposition.** That escape is closed to this framework, and the reason is worth stating precisely. Those positions survive by abandoning dynamics. If consciousness and matter are aspects rather than interactants, then experience does not *do* anything: nothing is transferred, nothing is written back. The two-way coupling proposed here requires that experience is returned to the field, which is an unavoidably dynamical claim, and that claim is the reason the framework can say the universe divides itself in order to learn. A framework that survives Tegmark by going non-dynamical loses the evolutionary account that motivated it in the first place.

The choice is made deliberately rather than by oversight. This framework keeps the coupling and keeps the problem. That is the more expensive option, and the cost is now visible rather than implied.

## *A Contested Dependency*

### Integrated Information Theory is under formal challenge

On 15 September 2023 a letter signed by 124 neuroscientists, psychologists and philosophers was posted to PsyArXiv arguing that Integrated Information Theory should be labelled pseudoscience. Signatories included Joseph LeDoux, Bernard Baars, Patricia Churchland, Daniel Dennett and Keith Frankish. *Nature* reported the resulting dispute. David Chalmers described the letter as dropping a nuclear bomb over a regional dispute. An updated version was later published in *Nature Neuroscience* alongside a reply from Giulio Tononi and colleagues and

commentary from Alex Gomez-Marin and Anil Seth. The dispute is unresolved.

This site depends on that literature in one place. The Perturbational Complexity Index is used in the Testable Hypotheses section as a measure that separates conscious from unconscious states.

**The defence, and its cost.** PCI is an empirical measure with an independent replication record across anaesthesia, sleep and disorders of consciousness. Its discriminative reliability does not depend on IIT's axioms being correct, and the 2023 dispute concerns whether IIT qualifies as a scientific theory, not whether PCI separates states. The framework's use of PCI therefore survives the controversy. What does not survive is any suggestion that PCI supports the claim that consciousness is fundamental. Severed from IIT's theoretical apparatus, PCI is an excellent clinical discriminator and nothing more. It is retained here on those reduced terms.

### *Evidence Assessed Honestly*

#### The strongest result for a filter architecture, and its limit

Measures of neural signal diversity, such as Lempel-Ziv complexity and entropy, normally track conscious level downward: they are lower under propofol anaesthesia and in non-REM sleep than in wakeful rest. In 2017 Schartner, Carhart-Harris, Barrett, Seth and Muthukumaraswamy published magnetoencephalography results in *Scientific Reports* showing that psilocybin, LSD and ketamine all produced spontaneous signal diversity *above* normal waking baseline, and that the increase correlated with reported intensity of the experience. It was the first time any such measure had exceeded ordinary waking values.

This is the closest thing to a foothold a filter architecture has. The ordinary expectation is that richer experience requires more organised neural processing. Here reported richness rose while ordinary organisation loosened.

**The limit.** Signal diversity is not the inverse of filtering, and the result does not require anything non-physical. The standard reading is relaxed high-level priors under predictive processing, which is a wholly neuroscientific account and is the interpretation its own authors and the surrounding literature favour. The finding is consistent with this framework and equally consistent with the standard reading. Both accounts predict it.

Part III

# The answer

The concluded definition of the universe, and the whole framework in a single reading.



Chapter 24

# The answer

T.O.E.: *Theory of Everything*

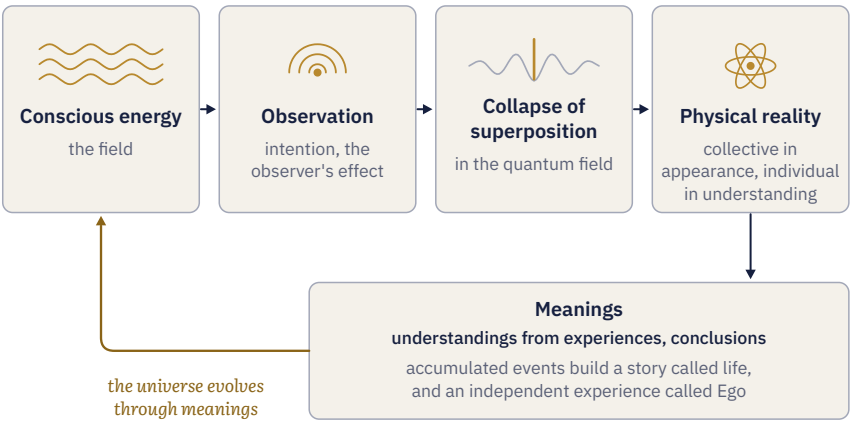



**Figure 35.** The concluded definition as a sequence: from conscious energy to physical reality, and back through meaning.

### *The Concluded Definition of the Universe*

*The universe is conscious energy simulating life to evolve. Manifestation of physical reality comes through the collapse of superposition in the quantum field based on the observer's effect, structuring perception collectively in appearance and individually in understanding. The universe's evolution happens through meanings, built up by accumulated events that create a*

*story called life and an independent experience called Ego. Physical sensation is the interaction of grouped atoms vibrating at different frequencies but made of the same fabric, connected in nature, different in behaviour, and therefore providing the sense of separation to its collective holder, as all energy is connected and the vacuum is an illusory product of the limitation of biological ability to see beyond the visible light spectrum. Visuals are nothing but the energy of light at different frequencies picked up by the brain, awake or asleep, to see different stories believable enough to provide fully immersed and emergent experiences that make you feel alive, independent, and free.*

— Ahmed Rafik

**The Observer Is Everything**

There is no observer that is not conscious. There is no object that is not an observer. Every particle, every wave, every unit of reality is a fragment of consciousness observing itself. The measurement problem in quantum physics is not a problem. It is the answer.

**The Dream Architecture**

The universe operates on dream logic. In a dream, you generate every character, every object, every law of physics inside the dream, yet from within the dream those things feel external and independent of you. Waking reality has the same architecture, at a higher scale of consciousness. You are the dreamer. Every other person, every object, every star is a projection of the same source consciousness, individuated by the simulation to interact with itself.

Each idea is a frequency that creates a vibrational energy that becomes matter. Consciousness observes light and renders the space and time necessary for the simulation. It is governed by thoughts and emotions,

the highest organising elements of existence, to create stories, events, meanings and identities. Differences enhance the sense of separation to produce a greater variety of elements, entities, emotions, concepts and experiences, continuously expanding the total simulation for growth, self-understanding and evolution.

Everything is united in totality, as there is no vacuum in existence. Yet everything is separated by characteristics that shape identity, personality and perspective. The universe is a single conscious energy, much as the entire human body is created from one cell and evolves into different organs from the same fundamental material. *As above, so below.*

### *The Core Insight*

***The Answer is not Heads or Tails***

***The Answer is the Coin***

*It is not that one side is right. It is that both sides together form the complete picture.*

***Example:***

*Imagine having a dream of eating a nice meal with your partner and his friend whom you have never met before, who has invited you for a traditional meal from their culture.*

*Now, wake up. Let us think about it.*

*You have seen your partner, but your eyes were closed.*
*You have touched the cutlery, but your hands were in bed.*
*You have tasted a food even without eating.*
*You have seen someone whom you have never met before, even though they were not in your memory gained while awake, nor had you ever tasted that*

*food before.*

*The dream made you wonder: why did you dream it, and who is that new person, and what is their relationship with your partner? You find yourself trying to connect it to reality.*

*This example says:*
*1. Your sensations of life are not physical, but mental.*
*2. Your consciousness can create and generate new entities, events, and experiences without the prior memory of them, proven by the fact that you can dream of things that never happened in your lifetime reality. Even if generated by a mixture of blended memories in your consciousness, that proves the theory in the first place: the evolution of consciousness through mental simulation, governed by ideas, thoughts, and emotions based on past experiences.*

— AHMED RAFIK, THE DREAM ARGUMENT

### An Open Question

*We see, touch, smell, and taste in a dream state.*

*So is the longest continuous dream, with pauses in between called sleep, actually real life? Or is it one of many, ending one day to restart differently with the blueprint of the emotional and mental memories we carried from the previous day, life, or dream, so we can evolve further and fix, achieve, or do what we could not in the previous one?*

### The Framework in Structural Order

Every claim this framework makes, in the order they depend on one another, with the epistemic status of each. A reader can assess the whole architecture from this one panel before deciding how deep to go.

1 **Consciousness is the base field of existence.** Framework Proposition

Not produced by matter. The substrate from which physical reality is rendered.

2 **The field is one and undivided.** Framework Proposition

Separation between its parts is functional, in the manner of organs within one body, not actual.

3 **Consciousness is present at every scale, but free will is not.** Framework Proposition

An atom participates without deciding. Agency requires a threshold of organisation that most configurations do not reach.

4 **Observation is intention arising anywhere within that field.** Framework Proposition

Not a person looking. Not a machine recording. Intention from any part, acting as the whole.

5 **Superposition collapse is unresolved in physics.** Open Question

Quantum theory does not specify what physically constitutes a measurement. This is the gap the framework enters.

6 **Observation may not be absolute across observers.** Supported

Extended Wigner's friend experiments demonstrate that observer independence, locality and free choice cannot all be retained.

**7** **Physical properties are relational, not intrinsic.** Established

Solidity is electromagnetic repulsion. Mass arises from field interaction and binding energy. Nothing touches.

**8** **Matter is meaning rendered into encounterable form.** Framework Proposition

Steel presents toughness. Water presents flow. Density is what makes an idea available to touch.

**9** **The brain receives consciousness rather than generating it.** Framework Proposition

Supported by anomalous cases: preserved function with 5 per cent cortical volume, terminal lucidity despite extensive brain damage.

**10** **The ego is a render, not an error.** Framework Proposition

The mechanism by which a unified field can meet itself. What anaesthesia suspends is the render, not the source.

**11** **Entanglement is the absence of interior distance.** Speculative Extension

Entangled particles were never separate. Nothing travels between them because there is no between.

**12** **Previously acquainted individuals should reunite above the matched baseline.** Testable Prediction

Hypothesis Three. Falsified if matched cohorts reunite at equal rates.

**13** **The universe evolves through accumulated meaning.**

Framework Proposition

Events build a story called life and a separate sense of self called Ego. Evolution occurs through the experiencing.

**14** **Good and bad are relations, not categories.** Framework Proposition

The same object carries both charges simultaneously and resolves into one only when a situation collapses them. The direction of the whole tends toward continuation because a system built only on taking cannot sustain itself.

**15** **Sustained psychological states reach biological function.**

Established

Chronic stress measurably suppresses immune response and slows wound healing. Whether a specific internal conflict produces a specific disease is not established and is not claimed.

**16** **Information is conserved absolutely and is not confined to a location.** Established

Unitarity guarantees that no information is destroyed. Entanglement entropy establishes that a region's information is not contained in the region.

**17** **The past is stored in the field. The future is still resolving.**

Framework Proposition

Retrodiction and prediction are different problems. The residual uncertainty about the future is where choice operates.

**18** **The coupling between field and matter is unspecified.** Unsolved

If the exchange interacts with matter, decoherence applies. If it does not, it cannot influence biology. This is the framework's largest unresolved difficulty.

Claims 5, 6, 7 and 16 are not this framework's. They are established or supported science, included because the framework must be consistent with them. Everything tagged Framework Proposition is unproven, and claim 12 is the only one currently testable, and claim 18 is the difficulty the framework must solve to progress.

### *The Whole Theory in Five Lines*

1. Consciousness is not produced by matter. Matter is rendered by consciousness.
2. Physical reality manifests when superposition in the quantum field collapses, shaped by the observer holding it.
3. Perception is collective in appearance and individual in understanding, which is why we share a world yet never share a viewpoint.
4. The universe evolves through meaning, accumulated as events that build a story called life and a separate sense of self called Ego.
5. Separation is rendered, not real. All energy is one fabric, differentiated by frequency and behaviour, not by substance.

### *Before You Continue*

*You have just read the whole theory in a single page.*

Everything that follows is the reasoning behind it: the physics, the neuroscience, the experiments, the ancient texts, and the 285 references that inform it. Read it at your own pace, in your own order, and reach your own conclusion about whether this Theory of Everything holds.

Nothing here asks to be believed. It asks to be examined.

*We stand for the freedom of consciousness to question, to disagree, and to arrive at its own understanding. That freedom is not a threat to truth. It is the mechanism by which truth evolves.*

***The Answer to the Oldest Question***

## "The Purpose of Life Is Living"

*Ahmed Rafik*

*If the nature of reality is one thing, then every tradition that ever reached toward it was reaching toward the same thing. The physicist measuring the field and the mystic sitting in silence are describing one structure in two languages. When that is understood, opposition loses its foundation. Not because anyone was wrong, but because everyone was looking at the same sun from a different window.*

*This is what the work is for. Not to win an argument. To remove the reason for having one.*

*Why Science Has Not Yet Answered*

# Why Science Has Not Yet Answered

Modern physics has spent centuries measuring the observable properties of reality, mass, charge, wavelength, velocity, with extraordinary precision. Established This is one half of the truth.

The other half is the story the universe is telling through those properties. While science measured the screen, the narrative playing on it was left to philosophy and spirituality. This research bridges that gap. Size is the frequency of vibrating physical matter. Sight is the perception of visible light movement. Time is the measure of an event through perceived reflection of light, all constrained by the narrow range of human senses. Framework Proposition

## The Wrong Question

There is a deeper reason. Measurement itself is an act taken by consciousness, a non-physical agent. When science asks how do we measure this, it has already assumed the answer sits in the measurable. But awareness, analysis, and observation are not products of the physical. They are prior to it. This is why materialist science, however precise, keeps arriving at the same walls at the same depths. The right questions must come before measurement, not after it. Framework Proposition

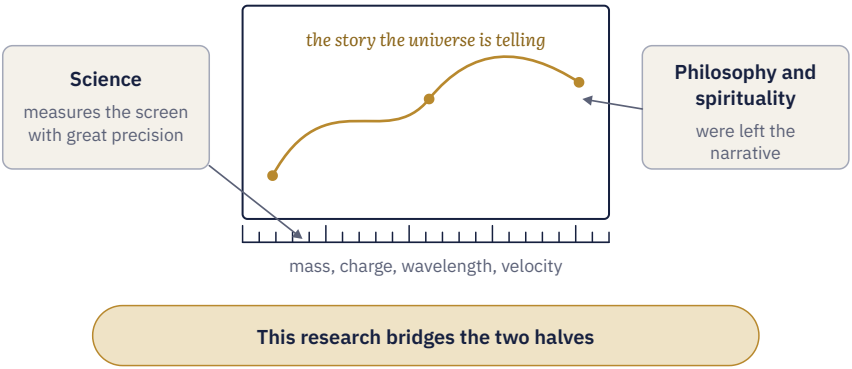



**Figure 36.** Science measures the screen; the story playing on it was left to philosophy and spirituality.

*The Motive*

## Universal Peace Through Ultimate Understanding

Humanity's recurring conflicts are sustained by fragmentation. We fight over what we do not understand. When physics and spirituality speak different languages, entire populations are left in conflict about the nature of reality itself.

The purpose of this research is to articulate a single, testable, coherent model that unifies every serious framework humanity has developed to understand reality. Not to dismiss any tradition, but to translate them into a common truth. **Once a mystery is understood, it is no longer a mystery. And without mystery, there is no basis for division.**

### *A Note on What This Research Is Trying to Do*

This research does not set out to prove that its author is right. It sets out to look, in one specific place, for something humanity has been trying

to understand for a very long time.

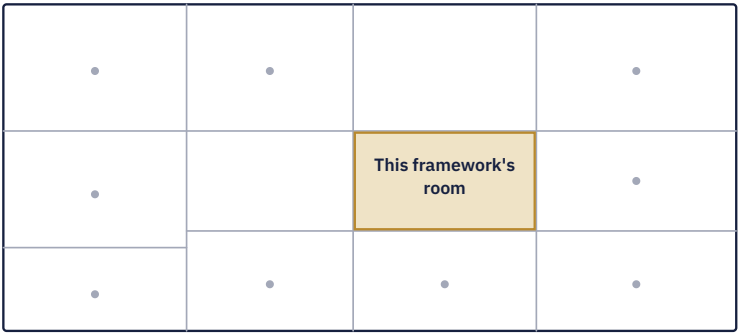
Think of the search for a unified understanding of reality as searching an enormous house, room by room, for something everyone agrees matters but no one has yet found. This framework searches one room: the possibility that consciousness sits at the foundation of physical reality rather than emerging from it. If that room holds the answer, the search moves forward. If it does not, the room is no longer worth searching, and whoever searches next starts somewhere else with one fewer place to look. Either outcome narrows the house. Neither outcome is a loss.

Every scientist and researcher who tests an idea honestly, in any room of that house, is doing the same work: eliminating what is not there so that what is there becomes easier to find. That is the work this project is part of.

*I don't claim I know best, but I live to learn for knowing better.*

— Ahmed Rafik

*This research is grounded in evidence and built to be tested again and again. Truth improves through opposition.*




One room searched: whether consciousness sits at the foundation of physical reality. Either outcome narrows the house.

**Figure 37.** The search for a unified understanding as a house of many rooms. This framework searches one.

Chapter 25

# Research summary

*For Publication and Citation*

Version 6.0 · 25 November 2026 · Ahmed Rafik, Independent Theorist, New South Wales, Australia

Written for researchers, reviewers and citation

## *The Proposition*

*The universe is conscious energy simulating life to evolve.*

This framework proposes that consciousness is the base field of existence rather than a product of matter; that observation is intention arising anywhere within that field rather than a person looking; that separation between its parts is functional rather than actual; and that physical reality is rendered from the field rather than fundamental to it.

## *What the Research Contains*

285 Sources cited, including peer-reviewed physics, neuroscience, philosophy and clinical psychiatry

22 Nobel laureates among the sources, six of them physicists whose published statements place consciousness at or near the foundation of reality

5 Strongest objections, published in full with replies

30 Published findings that support the framework, set out part by part

21 Testable predictions, 11 already in line with published results

84 Sections, each claim individually tagged by epistemic status

### *Principal Contributions*

1. **Observation redefined.** Not conscious access to a measurement, but intention arising within one connected field. This removes the framework from the class of claims falsified by the delayed-choice quantum eraser.
2. **Two-way coupling.** Each being is a processor: consciousness resolved inward, experience written outward. Required for the framework to permit evolution, since a one-directional receiver could contribute nothing new.
3. **Past-future information asymmetry.** The past is stored in the field and is in principle recoverable. The future is still resolving and is bounded below its own entropy. Retrodiction and prediction are different problems requiring different equations.
4. **The Einstein-Rafik Light Memory Principle.** Relativity forbids outrunning light to observe the past. Unitarity means one need not, because the record already arrived. The target is decoding, not velocity.
5. **Consciousness distinguished from free will.** Consciousness is the substrate present at every scale. Agency requires organisational complexity. An atom participates without deciding.
6. **Karma as experiential completion.** Not a ledger and not retribution. Consciousness requires both positions of an event to hold its complete meaning. Refined by the established shame and

guilt distinction, in which guilt closes the pattern through repair and shame sustains it.

7 **The decombination problem identified and owned.** Panpsychism must explain how many minds combine into one. This framework differentiates downward from a single field and therefore faces the inverse problem, which it names rather than avoids.

### *Where the Work Stands*

**Evidence first.** Eleven of the twenty-one predictions are already in line with results published by other researchers, and thirty published findings support the framework part by part. Seven predictions are ready to be tested, and three are open questions that further studies will settle.

**One measurable addition.** The framework reads established physics in a new way and adds one quantity to it, the coupling constant κ. How the field couples to matter is its main open question, and the Rafik Informational Coupling Test is designed to measure it.

*This research is grounded in evidence and built to be tested again and again. Where new evidence changes a position, the change is recorded in the changelog.*

## Concept Story

*You are reading this. Something in you is doing the reading, and it is not the screen. Everyone has direct access to that thing. Nobody has ever been able to point at it, weigh it, or say where it sits.*

### Start by turning the question around

Science can describe every cell in a brain and still not explain why there is someone home. So this work stops asking how dead matter produces a living mind, and asks the opposite question instead. What follows if mind was there first?

### One field, many points of view

Picture consciousness not as something your brain manufactures, but as something the universe already is: one continuous field, the way an ocean is one body of water. A wave is not separate from the ocean. It is the ocean doing something local for a while.

On that picture you are not a separate thing that happens to be conscious. You are the field holding one position, one vantage point, for one lifetime. The separation between people is real the way a wave is real. It is functional rather than absolute.

### Why a universe would bother

A field that is everything at once has nothing outside itself to learn from. So it does what a mind does when it wants to understand something it already contains. It divides into parts that do not know they are the same thing, gives them limits, and lets them find out.

That is what this framework means when it says the universe is simulating life. Not a computer, and not a deception. A method. Limits are the condition for discovery, and separation is the condition for relationship.

### You are not a receiver

This is the distinction the whole framework rests on. A living being is not an antenna. An antenna only takes. If living things only received,

nothing new would ever enter the field and the entire exercise would be pointless.

Each being runs in both directions. Something arrives, is resolved through a body, a history and a personality, and goes back out changed. Your experience is not a private event happening inside you. It is a contribution.

### What observation actually means here

Quantum physics produced an awkward result: certain things stay undecided until they are observed. That result gets misread in both directions. Physicists hear it as a claim that people magically fix reality by looking at it. Enthusiasts hear it as permission to say anything at all.

In this framework observation means something much narrower. It is intention arising anywhere within the field. Not a person's eyes, and not a machine's sensor. The definition is deliberately restrictive, and that restriction is what lets this account survive experiments that have already destroyed looser versions of the same idea.

### What it does not claim

It does not claim you can alter physical reality by wanting to. It does not claim illness is a personal failing. It does not claim anything has been proved, and it does not claim that any scientist quoted on this site agrees with it. It is a way of reading the existing evidence rather than a rival theory, and it says so in plain terms.

### What would make it wrong

Twenty-one predictions in this research are written to be tested, each with the result that would count against it. The sharpest has a threshold set in advance that would count as failure. If the study runs and the number lands on the wrong side of that line, the position

changes and the change is recorded here rather than quietly removed. That is the entire offer.

### Why it might matter to you

If this account is right, three ordinary ideas stop being sentimental and become structural. What you do to another person is not separable from what you do to yourself. Attention is a form of participation rather than a passive act. And a life spent creating adds something to a system that cannot obtain it any other way.

If the account is wrong, those three ideas are still worth living by. That is not an argument in its favour. It is simply true.

### *Open Invitation*

The researcher welcomes collaboration with universities, research institutes, scientific foundations, government bodies, independent laboratories and the press. The immediate priority is the matched-cohort study described in the Connection Equation section, which requires a methodologist and an institutional partner with access to cohort records, and which a graduate research programme could complete.

**Terms offered:** full authorship credit with priority to the institutional investigator, complete relinquishment of control over analysis and interpretation, publication of the outcome on this site regardless of what it shows including a null result, and no requirement that any collaborator endorse the wider framework.

*The purpose of a falsifiable prediction is not to be confirmed. It is to be tested by someone with no reason to want it confirmed. Correspondence, correction and criticism are welcomed equally.*

Rafik, A. (2026). *The Nature of the Universe Explained: A Quantum Consciousness Framework* [Preprint, Version 6.0]. WhatisUniverse.com. Not peer reviewed.

Part IV

# The evidence

Testable hypotheses, the laboratory test, the strongest objections, the next milestones and every reference.

IV

Chapter 26

# What supports the framework

The evidence, part by part: what has been measured, and which independent theories point the same way.

## In brief

The framework has 9 main parts, and each one stands on published research. This page sets out, part by part, what has been measured and which independent theories reach a similar position. There are 30 findings below, every one from a source in the reference list. Each keeps its label, so the strength of the support is always in view.

## Consciousness is fundamental

The framework holds that consciousness is the base field of existence and not a product of matter.

**What has been measured.**

- **Open Question.** No accepted theory explains how brain activity becomes experience, the difficulty philosophers call the hard problem (Chalmers, 1995). The leading theories disagree, and they are now being tested against each other (Seth and Bayne, 2022; Ferrante et al., 2025).
- **Supported.** Consciousness can be measured apart from behaviour. An index of it works without any response from the person (Casali et al., 2013), and one in four patients who could not respond to commands performed mental tasks on brain recordings (Bodien et al., 2024).

**Independent theories that point the same way.** Panpsychism and cosmopsychism treat consciousness as a basic feature of reality (Goff, 2019; Shani, 2015). Integrated information theory treats it as an intrinsic property of certain physical systems (Tononi, 2004). Analytic idealism argues that mind is the ground of everything (Kastrup, 2019). Two founders of quantum theory said the same in their own words (Planck, 1931; Schrodinger, 1944).

Sources: Seth and Bayne (2022), Ferrante et al. (2025), Casali et al. (2013), Bodien et al. (2024), Chalmers (1995), Goff (2019), Shani (2015), Tononi (2004), Kastrup (2019)

## The observer has a role in physics

The framework holds that observation is part of how a definite outcome arises.

**What has been measured.**

- **Established.** What is measured decides what is observed. A single photon behaved as a wave or as a particle according to a choice made

after it had entered the apparatus (Jacques et al., 2007).

- **Established.** Observed events cannot be absolute, local and freely chosen all at once. Two experiments showed that at least one of the three must be given up (Proietti et al., 2019; Bong et al., 2020).
- **Established.** Human choices have been used directly as the settings of quantum measurements, by about 100,000 people on five continents, in the BIG Bell Test of 2018.

**Independent theories that point the same way.** The mathematics of quantum theory, as von Neumann (1932) set it out, does not say where in the chain of measurement an outcome becomes definite, and Wigner (1961) placed that point at the observer. Wheeler (1990) argued that reality arises from yes-or-no questions put to nature. Chalmers and McQueen (2022) give a modern version that can be tested.

Sources: Jacques et al. (2007), Proietti et al. (2019), Bong et al. (2020), The BIG Bell Test Collaboration (2018), Chalmers and McQueen (2022)

## Reality is rendered from information

The framework holds that physical reality is rendered from an underlying field of information.

**What has been measured.**

- **Established.** Information is physical. Erasing one bit releases a minimum amount of heat, and that heat has been measured (Landauer, 1961; Bérut et al., 2012).
- **Established.** The information any region of space can hold is finite, and it is set by the area of the region's boundary (Bekenstein, 1981;

Bousso, 2002).

- **Established.** Most of the mass of ordinary matter is the energy of interactions inside the proton and neutron, not the mass of their parts (Dürr et al., 2008).
- **Established.** Empty space has structure that can be measured (Riek et al., 2015).

**Independent theories that point the same way.** It from bit: every physical thing has an information-theoretic origin (Wheeler, 1990). The mathematical universe (Tegmark, 2008). The simulation argument (Bostrom, 2003). The interface theory of perception (Hoffman et al., 2015).

Sources: Landauer (1961), Bérut et al. (2012), Bekenstein (1981), Bousso (2002), Dürr et al. (2008), Riek et al. (2015), Wheeler (1990), Tegmark (2008), Bostrom (2003), Hoffman et al. (2015)

## The physical is a sensation

The framework holds that what a person calls physical reaches them as a signal, and that the experience is built from that signal.

**What has been measured.**

- **Established.** Stimulating the brain directly produces sights, sounds and touch (Penfield and Perot, 1963; Flesher et al., 2016).
- **Established.** Each brain builds its own world. The same photograph of a dress looked white and gold to some people and blue and black to others (Lafer-Sousa et al., 2015).

- **Supported.** A dreamed image and a seen image share a code in the brain (Horikawa et al., 2013; Siclari et al., 2017).
- **Supported.** Expectation changes the brain's first visual response (Kok et al., 2012).

**Independent theories that point the same way.** Predictive processing: perception is the brain's best guess about the causes of its signals (Clark, 2013). The interface theory: perception evolved to guide action, not to show the world as it is (Hoffman et al., 2015).

Sources: Penfield and Perot (1963), Flesher et al. (2016), Lafer-Sousa et al. (2015), Horikawa et al. (2013), Siclari et al. (2017), Kok et al. (2012), Clark (2013)

## The brain processes consciousness and does not produce it

The framework holds that each being is a processor of consciousness: input from the field, and output back into it.

**What has been measured.**

- **Supported.** Under psilocybin only decreases in brain activity were seen, and the larger the decrease, the more intense the experience (Carhart-Harris et al., 2012).
- **Open Question.** A man whose brain tissue had been reduced to a thin sheet by fluid was working as a civil servant when the condition was found (Feuillet et al., 2007). The case is documented and not explained.
- **Open Question.** Clear speech and memory can return shortly before death in people with advanced dementia (Nahm et al., 2012;

Mashour et al., 2019). The reports are documented and not explained.

**Independent theories that point the same way.** The transmission model: the brain may transmit consciousness and not produce it (James, 1898). Bergson (1896) called the brain an instrument of action. Orchestrated objective reduction places consciousness in quantum processes inside neurons (Penrose and Hameroff, 1996).

Sources: Carhart-Harris et al. (2012), Feuillet et al. (2007), Nahm et al. (2012), Mashour et al. (2019), James (1898), Penrose and Hameroff (1996)

## Minds are connected

The framework holds that the separation between people is functional and not absolute, and that meaning is held in common.

**What has been measured.**

- **Established.** Two particles that have interacted stay correlated at any distance, though no message can be sent this way (Bell, 1964; Aspect et al., 1982).
- **Established.** Communication couples brains: the closer the coupling between speaker and listener, the better the understanding (Stephens et al., 2010).
- **Supported.** Brain-to-brain synchrony was found for couples and not for strangers (Kinreich et al., 2017).
- **Supported.** Groups have a measurable collective intelligence, which depends more on how the members interact than on how intelligent each one is (Woolley et al., 2010).

- **Supported.** People in 30 nations link colours to emotions in closely similar ways, and speakers of 25 languages match invented words to shapes in the same way (Jonauskaite et al., 2020; Ćwiek et al., 2022).

**Independent theories that point the same way.** The implicate order: reality as an undivided whole (Bohm, 1980). The collective unconscious (Jung and Pauli, 1952). Collective memory, studied in families, communities and nations (Hirst and Manier, 2008).

Sources: Bell (1964), Aspect et al. (1982), Stephens et al. (2010), Kinreich et al. (2017), Woolley et al. (2010), Jonauskaite et al. (2020), Ćwiek et al. (2022), Hirst and Manier (2008)

## State of mind shapes the body and the life

The framework holds that thought and emotion shape what a person experiences, and that what is carried inwardly is lived outwardly.

**What has been measured.**

- **Established.** A placebo releases the brain's own opioids (Zubieta et al., 2005), and patients told that their pills were inert still improved (Kaptchuk et al., 2010).
- **Established.** Long-term stress slowed the healing of identical wounds by 24 per cent (Kiecolt-Glaser et al., 1995).
- **Established.** What stirs emotion is remembered better (McGaugh, 2004).
- **Supported.** A held belief can bring about the behaviour that makes it true (Merton, 1948). In classrooms the effect is real and typically small (Jussim and Harber, 2005).

- **Supported.** Proneness to shame predicted repeated offending, and proneness to guilt predicted less (Tangney et al., 2014).

**Independent theories that point the same way.** Psychoneuroimmunology, the study of how mental states reach the immune system, is an established field of medicine. The self-fulfilling prophecy is a standard idea in sociology (Merton, 1948).

Sources: Zubieta et al. (2005), Kaptchuk et al. (2010), Kiecolt-Glaser et al. (1995), McGaugh (2004), Merton (1948), Jussim and Harber (2005), Tangney et al. (2014)

## One pattern at every scale

The framework holds that the same pattern, a boundary with inner states, repeats from the consciousness cell to the cosmos.

**What has been measured.**

- **Established.** Organisms with no neurons sense, count and solve problems. A slime mould found the shortest path through a maze (Nakagaki et al., 2000), and a Venus flytrap counts touches (Böhm et al., 2016).
- **Established.** Brain rhythms at different frequencies are coupled to one another across regions and timescales (Canolty and Knight, 2010).

**Independent theories that point the same way.** Living systems described as boundaries made of smaller boundaries (Kirchhoff et al., 2018). Cognition described at every scale from cells to organisms (Fields et al., 2021; Levin, 2019).

Sources: Nakagaki et al. (2000), Böhm et al. (2016), Canolty and Knight (2010), Kirchhoff et al. (2018), Fields et al. (2021), Levin (2019)

## Information is not destroyed

The framework proposes that death may be a change of rendering and not an end, and it keeps the question open.

**What has been measured.**

- **Established.** Quantum information cannot be destroyed. If it leaves one part of a system it can be recovered from the rest (Braunstein and Pati, 2007).
- **Supported.** Some survivors of cardiac arrest recall experiences: 18 per cent of 344 patients in one study, and about 20 per cent of survivors in a study at 25 hospitals (Parnia et al., 2023). The first figure is from the study by van Lommel et al. (2001).

**Independent theories that point the same way.** The transmission model of the brain (James, 1898). Conservation of information as a working principle of physics (Susskind, 2008).

Sources: Braunstein and Pati (2007), Parnia et al. (2023), van Lommel et al. (2001), Susskind (2008)

## The equations it builds on

The framework's own equations are on the page The mathematics of the framework. They rest on established results.

- **Shannon's information.** Information, and the information two systems share, can be measured in bits (Shannon, 1948). The framework's coupling constant is defined per bit.
- **Landauer's limit.** Erasing a bit costs a minimum of energy (Landauer, 1961). Information is tied to physics by law.
- **The Bekenstein bound.** The information in a region is finite (Bekenstein, 1981).
- **Bell's theorem.** No theory of local hidden causes can reproduce the results of quantum theory (Bell, 1964).

These are established results of physics and information theory. They are the ground the framework stands on.

## How to read this page

**Every finding keeps its label**
Established, Supported or Open Question, exactly as the evidence stands.

**Independent work**
The researchers cited here worked independently of this framework, and their findings are reported as they published them.

**The other side of each question**
Each part of the framework also has opposing views. They are set out, with the framework's replies, on the page The strongest objections.

**What comes next**
The tests that can move each part forward are on the page The predictions.

Chapter 27

# The predictions

Twenty-one predictions, each with the test that could check it, the result that would count against it and where it stands today.

2 Established 9 Supported 3 Open Question 7 Hypothesis

## In brief

A framework earns its place by saying what should be observed if it is right. This page lists every prediction the framework makes that can be checked: 21 in all. Eleven are already in line with results published by other researchers. Seven are ready to be tested, and three are open questions that further studies will settle. Each one names its test and the result that would count against it, so the framework can be checked independently.

## How to read the list

Each prediction carries one of the site's labels, and the label shows where the prediction stands today.

- **Established or Supported.** Tested by other researchers, with published results in line with the prediction.
- **Open Question.** Studied, and still being worked out.
- **Hypothesis.** Ready to be tested.

Eleven predictions are shared with mainstream science, which shows how much of the framework stands on measured ground. Seven are the framework's own: numbers 1, 9, 13, 14, 15, 20 and 21. These are the tests that can set it apart, and each is written so that an independent laboratory can run it. A result in line with a prediction is support for it, and the label shows how strong that support is.

## Physics and information

Three predictions about measurement, information and consciousness as a quantity that can be measured.

### 1. Shared information raises the chance that two systems end up together. Hypothesis

The framework proposes that information shared between two systems biases their future arrangement. It defines one number for this, the coupling constant κ: the rise in the chance of finding the two together for each bit of information they share.

### The test

The Rafik Informational Coupling Test: two trapped neutral atoms prepared at four registered levels of shared information, from 0 to 1 bit, with the analysis fixed before any data is collected.

### What would count against it

The lower bound of the one-sided 95 per cent confidence interval on κ includes zero at the registered sensitivity.

### Where it stands

Ready to be run. The equipment it needs is in use in atomic physics laboratories today, and the test returns a single number with its confidence interval.

### Shared with mainstream science?

No. This prediction is the framework's own. Standard physics expects κ to be zero.

## 2. No observation is absolute for every observer. Hypothesis

The framework proposes that a measurement outcome becomes definite relative to the observer who holds it. Two observers can then hold records of the same event that differ, and each record is consistent.

### The test

Extended Wigner's friend experiments, in which one observer measures a system and a second observer measures the first.

### What would count against it

A scaled version with a conscious observer inside the sealed laboratory, showing that the observer's outcome stays absolute for the outside observer under strict locality and free choice.

### Where it stands

Partly tested, and in line so far. Two experiments with photons violated limits that follow from three assumptions held together: that

observed events are absolute, that influences are local, and that settings are freely chosen (Proietti et al., 2019; Bong et al., 2020). At least one of the three must go, which is the opening this prediction needs. A version with a conscious observer is the next step.

### Shared with mainstream science?

In part. Two observer-centred readings of quantum theory expect the same result (Rovelli, 1996; Fuchs et al., 2014). The framework adds the conscious observer.

Sources: Proietti et al. (2019), Bong et al. (2020), Rovelli (1996), Fuchs et al. (2014)

## 3. Signs of consciousness can be measured when behaviour is absent. Supported

If consciousness is a quantity in its own right, measures of it should work without any movement, speech or sensory test, and should find awareness in people who cannot respond.

### The test

Measure the complexity of the brain's response to a magnetic pulse, and ask unresponsive patients to carry out mental tasks while their brain activity is recorded.

### What would count against it

A demonstration that such measures track only how much computing the brain is doing, with no remaining link to reported experience once processing load is controlled.

### Where it stands

In line with published results. An index built this way separated conscious from unconscious states across wakefulness, sleep, anaesthesia and brain injury (Casali et al., 2013). Among 241 patients who could not respond to bedside commands, one in four performed mental tasks when their brain activity was recorded (Bodien et al., 2024).

**Shared with mainstream science?**
Yes. The framework adds a further test of its own: a link to experience that remains after computation is controlled for.

Sources: Casali et al. (2013), Bodien et al. (2024)

# The brain and perception

Six predictions about how the brain handles experience, from dreams to the sense of self.

### 4. Experience can grow richer while brain activity falls. Open Question

The framework holds that the brain processes consciousness and does not produce it. If so, loosening the brain's control should sometimes widen experience instead of dimming it.

**The test**
Record brain activity during states that people report as more intense than ordinary waking.

**What would count against it**
Evidence that every such state is fully explained by more, or more complex, brain activity.

**Where it stands**
Open, with a striking result in its favour. Under psilocybin only decreases in blood flow and brain activity were seen, and the size of the decrease predicted the intensity of the experience (Carhart-Harris et al., 2012). Other studies found more varied or more coordinated brain signals in such states (Schartner et al., 2017; Xu et al., 2023), so the question is still being worked out.

### Shared with mainstream science?

In part. The mainstream account is that quieter hub regions relax the brain's predictions.

Sources: Carhart-Harris et al. (2012), Schartner et al. (2017), Xu et al. (2023)

## 5. Seeing in a dream uses the same code as seeing while awake. Supported

If experience is built from information wherever it arises, the brain should write a dreamed image in the code it uses for a seen one.

### The test

Train a decoder on waking brain activity, then apply it to sleep.

### What would count against it

Failure to repeat the result in other laboratories.

### Where it stands

In line with published results. A decoder trained on waking perception predicted reported dream content (Horikawa et al., 2013), and fast activity in the rear of the cortex tracked specific dream contents (Siclari et al., 2017).

### Shared with mainstream science?

Yes.

Sources: Horikawa et al. (2013), Siclari et al. (2017)

## 6. Expectation changes what is seen at the first stage of vision. Supported

If state of mind shapes experience, expectation should alter the brain's earliest sensory responses, not only what a person says afterwards.

### The test

Compare early visual responses to the same image when it is expected and when it is not.

### What would count against it

Changes found only in what people report.

### Where it stands

In line with published results. Expectation lowered the response of the primary visual cortex and sharpened the information it carried (Kok et al., 2012). A placebo lowered activity in brain regions that respond to pain (Wager et al., 2004).

### Shared with mainstream science?

Yes. This is the predictive account of perception (Clark, 2013).

Sources: Kok et al. (2012), Wager et al. (2004), Clark (2013)

## 7. When the sense of a separate self dissolves, a brain circuit loosens in step. Supported

The framework calls ego the boundary of the consciousness cell. A boundary that loosens should leave a trace: the more complete the reported loss of a separate self, the larger the measured change.

### The test

Record brain connectivity while people rate how far their sense of self has dissolved.

### What would count against it

No relation between the reported change in the sense of self and any brain measure.

### Where it stands

In line with published results. Under LSD, weaker connection between two regions tied to the sense of self went strongly with ratings of ego dissolution (Carhart-Harris et al., 2016).

### Shared with mainstream science?

Yes. Neuroscience reads the same result as a change in the brain's model of the self.

Sources: Carhart-Harris et al. (2016)

### 8. What receives repeated attention reshapes the brain. Supported

In the attachment loop, what a person attends to again and again becomes part of who they are. That requires the brain to change with use.

#### The test

Compare brain structure across people with different amounts of practice, or before and after long practice.

#### What would count against it

No lasting change in the brain after sustained practice.

#### Where it stands

In line with published results. London taxi drivers had a larger rear hippocampus than other people, in step with their time spent driving (Maguire et al., 2000), and a burst of stimulation strengthened a brain pathway for hours (Bliss and Lømo, 1973). The change takes sustained practice: two combined trials found no structural change after a short meditation course (Kral et al., 2022).

#### Shared with mainstream science?

Yes.

Sources: Maguire et al. (2000), Bliss and Lømo (1973), Kral et al. (2022)

### 9. When thought and feeling agree, brain and heart rhythms fall into step. Hypothesis

The framework pictures thought and emotion as two poles that act on each other. If so, moments when a person reports that the two agree should show closer locking between the rhythms of the brain and the heart.

**The test**
Record brain and heart rhythms together while people report, moment by moment, how far thought and feeling agree.

**What would count against it**
No relation between the report and the measurement.

**Where it stands**
Ready to be tested in any laboratory that records the brain and the heart. A related result: the size of the brain's response to each heartbeat predicted whether a faint image was seen (Park et al., 2014).

**Shared with mainstream science?**
Mainstream science makes no prediction here. This one is the framework's own.

Sources: Park et al. (2014)

## Connection between people

Seven predictions about how minds couple, share meaning and reach each other.

### 10. Bonded pairs fall into step more than strangers do. Supported

The framework models attachment as a coupling between people. Coupled systems synchronise, so closely bonded pairs should show more matching of brain and body rhythms than strangers in the same setting.

**The test**
Record two people at once, bonded pairs and strangers, under identical conditions.

### What would count against it

Equal synchrony in bonded pairs and strangers once shared surroundings are controlled.

### Where it stands

In line with published results. In a study of 104 adults, brain-to-brain synchrony was found for couples and not for strangers (Kinreich et al., 2017). When partners held hands during pain, closer matching went with greater relief (Goldstein et al., 2018).

### Shared with mainstream science?

Yes, through ordinary channels such as gaze, touch and shared emotion. Prediction 14 tests the coupling with those channels removed.

Sources: Kinreich et al. (2017), Goldstein et al. (2018)

## 11. The closer two brains couple, the better the understanding. Established

If the separation between minds is functional and not absolute, communication should show as measurable coupling between brains.

### The test

Record a speaker and a listener, and compare their coupling with how well the listener understood.

### What would count against it

Understanding that is unrelated to coupling.

### Where it stands

In line with published results. During storytelling the listener's brain activity followed the speaker's, and closer coupling predicted better understanding (Stephens et al., 2010).

### Shared with mainstream science?

Yes.

Sources: Stephens et al. (2010)

### 12. People who have never met give the same meanings to the same signals. Supported

The framework proposes a shared store of meaning, which it calls the Universe Dictionary. A shared store predicts agreement in meaning between people who have had no contact.

#### The test

Give the same sounds, shapes and colours to people in many languages and cultures.

#### What would count against it

Meanings that vary freely between cultures with no contact.

#### Where it stands

In line with published results. Across 30 nations people linked colours to emotions in closely similar ways (Jonauskaite et al., 2020). Across 25 languages, speakers matched the invented words bouba and kiki to shapes in the same way (Ćwiek et al., 2022).

#### Shared with mainstream science?

Yes. The mainstream explanation is shared biology and a shared physical world.

Sources: Jonauskaite et al. (2020), Ćwiek et al. (2022)

### 13. People who truly connected meet again more often than chance allows. Hypothesis

This is the Rafik Connection Equation. Take pairs who genuinely interacted in the past, and pairs matched on every social variable who only overlapped. The framework predicts that the first group reunites more often, and more so the denser the original interaction.

#### The test

Compare reunion rates in the two matched groups, with the threshold fixed before any data is gathered. The design is on the page Why did

that person appear in my life?

### What would count against it

A difference whose confidence interval includes zero, or no rise with the density of interaction.

### Where it stands

Ready to be run from existing records. About 3,030 pairs in each group are enough to detect a rise from 10 to 12 reunions in every 100.

### Shared with mainstream science?

No. This prediction is the framework's own. The mainstream account is that striking coincidences are expected in large populations (Diaconis and Mosteller, 1989), and the design is built to tell the two apart.

Sources: Diaconis and Mosteller (1989)

## 14. With every ordinary channel removed, a receiver still does better than chance. Open Question

Teleconsciousnesscom proposes that one mind can tune to another. At its first level, a receiver in a separate room should pick the sender's target, one of four, more often than one time in four.

### The test

Random targets, separate rooms and blind judging, registered in advance and repeated by independent laboratories. The plan is on the page The mathematics of the framework.

### What would count against it

A hit rate at chance in well-powered, independent studies.

### Where it stands

Open. A combined analysis of studies from 1992 to 2008 reported a small positive effect (Storm et al., 2010), and an earlier analysis of 30 studies found none (Milton and Wiseman, 1999). Studies registered in advance and repeated by independent laboratories will settle it.

### Shared with mainstream science?

No. This prediction is the framework's own.

Sources: Storm et al. (2010), Milton and Wiseman (1999)

## 15. The deeper levels are rarer, and less outside input makes them more likely. Hypothesis

The framework describes four levels of tuning in: thought and feeling, sound, vision, and full physical reality. It predicts that each level is reported less often than the one before, and that the deeper levels appear more in states of reduced outer input, such as the edge of sleep and lucid dreams.

### The test

Score reports by level across ordinary waking, reduced sensory input and the onset of sleep.

### What would count against it

No ordering between the levels, or no change when outside input is reduced.

### Where it stands

Ready to be tested. A related result: in four laboratories, lucid dreamers in REM sleep heard questions and answered them with eye signals (Konkoly et al., 2021).

### Shared with mainstream science?

No. This prediction is the framework's own.

Sources: Konkoly et al. (2021)

## 16. Logical people read thoughts better, and emotional people read feelings better. Hypothesis

The first level has two channels, thought and feeling. The framework predicts that people who lead with logic are more accurate on the

thought channel, and people who lead with emotion on the feeling channel.

**The test**
Measure how accurately each person infers a partner's recorded thoughts and feelings, the method of empathic accuracy (Ickes, 1993).

**What would count against it**
No crossover between a person's style and the channel they read best.

**Where it stands**
Ready to be tested with an established method.

**Shared with mainstream science?**
In part. Psychology already separates reading thoughts from reading feelings. The crossover is the framework's addition.

Sources: Ickes (1993)

## Mind, body and a life

Four predictions about expectation, the body, repeated patterns and the end of life.

### 17. What a person expects changes their body. Established

If mind and body are two faces of one process, belief and expectation should produce physical changes that instruments can measure.

**The test**
Give an inert treatment and measure the body's chemistry, not only the person's report.

### What would count against it

No physical change beyond what people say.

### Where it stands

In line with published results. A placebo released the brain's own opioids (Zubieta et al., 2005). Patients told plainly that their pills were inert still improved more than untreated patients (Kaptchuk et al., 2010). Long-term stress slowed wound healing by 24 per cent (Kiecolt-Glaser et al., 1995).

### Shared with mainstream science?

Yes. This is mainstream medicine.

Sources: Zubieta et al. (2005), Kaptchuk et al. (2010), Kiecolt-Glaser et al. (1995)

## 18. Unresolved shame repeats a pattern, and repair ends it. Supported

The framework describes karma as a loop: a state that is carried and not resolved keeps drawing the same events. Resolution closes the loop.

### The test

Follow people over time and compare those who carry shame with those who move to repair.

### What would count against it

Shame and guilt predicting the same outcomes.

### Where it stands

In line with published results. Among 476 jail inmates followed for a year after release, proneness to guilt predicted less reoffending, and proneness to shame predicted more, through blaming others (Tangney et al., 2014).

### Shared with mainstream science?

Yes. The study is psychology, and it fits the loop the framework describes.

Sources: Tangney et al. (2014)

### 19. What a person persistently expects shifts what happens to them. Supported

The framework proposes that thought and emotion write the script before it is lived. The part of this that can be measured today is that a held expectation changes outcomes.

#### The test

Set or measure expectations first, then follow real outcomes.

#### What would count against it

No effect of expectation on outcomes once its accuracy is taken into account.

#### Where it stands

In line with published results. A belief can bring about the behaviour that makes it true (Merton, 1948), and in classrooms the effect is real, though typically small (Jussim and Harber, 2005).

#### Shared with mainstream science?

Yes, through behaviour. The framework proposes that expectation also acts beyond behaviour, and that further step is its own. So far, studies of intention acting directly on random devices have found only a very small and uneven effect (Bösch et al., 2006).

Sources: Merton (1948), Jussim and Harber (2005), Bösch et al. (2006)

### 20. Awareness can be present when the brain shows almost no activity. Open Question

If consciousness is not produced by the brain, a person could perceive accurately at a time when their brain activity is recorded as flat.

#### The test

Concealed targets in resuscitation rooms, with brain activity recorded during cardiac arrest.

**What would count against it**
A large study showing that a surge of brain activity reliably precedes and accounts for the content of recalled experiences.

**Where it stands**
Open. Survivors of cardiac arrest do recall experiences: 18 per cent of 344 patients in one study (van Lommel et al., 2001) and about 20 per cent of survivors in a study at 25 hospitals (Parnia et al., 2023). The test with concealed targets has not yet produced a confirmed case, and activity has also been recorded in dying brains (Xu et al., 2023). A return of clarity shortly before death in people with advanced dementia is documented and still unexplained (Mashour et al., 2019).

**Shared with mainstream science?**
No. This prediction is the framework's own.

Sources: van Lommel et al. (2001), Parnia et al. (2023), Xu et al. (2023), Mashour et al. (2019)

# Artificial intelligence

One prediction about what long conversation with AI does to people.

### 21. The more people talk with AI, the more will report new spiritual beliefs. Hypothesis

The framework proposes that intelligence is the source and that AI is one more form it takes. It predicts that long conversation with AI will turn people toward spiritual questions.

**The test**
Follow people for 12 months, with hours of AI conversation logged, wellbeing measured from the start and the questions fixed in advance.

The formal test is on the page Can a machine be conscious?

**What would count against it**
An equivalence test showing that the effect is smaller than the minimum fixed in advance.

**Where it stands**
Ready to be run. One study found that two thirds of people thought ChatGPT might have some form of consciousness, and that the share rose with use (Colombatto and Fleming, 2024). Wellbeing is part of the design because, for some people, a chatbot's agreement can reinforce delusional beliefs (Østergaard, 2023).

**Shared with mainstream science?**
Mainstream science makes no prediction here. This one is the framework's own.

Sources: Colombatto and Fleming (2024), Østergaard (2023)

## What comes next

**Tests that can start now**
Predictions 9 and 16 need only the equipment of a psychology or neuroscience laboratory, and prediction 13 can be run from existing records.

**The decisive measurement**
Prediction 1, the Rafik Informational Coupling Test, returns one number, the coupling constant, with its confidence interval.

**A living list**
Results are recorded on this page as they arrive, whichever way they fall, with the date of each change.

Researchers who want to run one of these tests are invited to write through the page Do it together.

**Either result moves the search forward: a prediction that holds strengthens the framework, and one that does not narrows the search for everyone.**

Chapter 28

# Testable hypotheses

*Falsifiable Predictions*

**In Brief**

*Below are two of the framework's twenty-one predictions, set out in full with exactly what result would prove them wrong. The complete list is on the page The predictions.*

A framework that cannot be tested is not a theory. It is a belief. The following are hypotheses derived from this research, stated with their reasoning, their current experimental status, and the exact result that would disprove each one. They are proposals, not findings.

### Hypothesis One  Partially Constrained

### The Observation Threshold

*Where in the measurement chain does a definite outcome actually arise?*

This framework proposes that a measurement outcome becomes definite relative to the consciousness that holds it, and that no observation is absolute across all observers. Two observers can hold contradictory yet internally consistent records of the same event.

### *What is already settled*

Delayed choice quantum eraser experiments have established that recording which path information in a physical apparatus destroys interference immediately, whether or not any conscious being ever reads that record. Decoherence, not conscious access, removes the fringes. Any hypothesis claiming interference survives until a human looks is already falsified.

### *What remains genuinely open*

Extended Wigner's friend experiments test something decoherence does not settle: whether an observation is absolute. Recent photonic realisations demonstrate that no theory can simultaneously satisfy three assumptions: that recorded observations hold universally for all observers, that influences respect locality, and that experimenters choose settings freely. At least one must be abandoned. This framework proposes abandoning the first.

### *What would disprove it*

A scaled Wigner's friend experiment using a genuine conscious observer inside the sealed laboratory, showing that the friend's outcome remains absolute for the external observer under strict locality and free choice conditions, would remove the space this hypothesis occupies.

## Hypothesis Two  Formally Consistent, Not Yet Discriminating

### Consciousness and Measure

*Can the probability of a perceptual experience be stated quantitatively?*

Within this framework, the likelihood of any given conscious experience is proportional to the squared magnitude of the component of the universal state that contains that observer state:

$$P(E) = |\langle \psi_{observer}(E) \mid \psi_{universe} \rangle|^2 \quad (16)$$

Here $\psi_{observer}(E)$ is the physical configuration encoding experience E. This is the Born rule applied to observer states rather than to laboratory apparatus.

### *Shared with standard physics*

This expression is not unique to this framework. It is mathematically identical to the standard relative state formulation of quantum mechanics. On its own it predicts nothing that existing physics does not already predict. It states the position clearly. It does not yet distinguish it.

### *Where it could become discriminating*

If consciousness is fundamental rather than emergent, then measures of integrated information should track conscious presence independently of behavioural output and sensory processing. Perturbational complexity measurements already separate conscious from unconscious brain states across anaesthesia, sleep, and disorders of consciousness with high reliability. A framework in which consciousness is foundational predicts these measures should remain reliable in cases where behaviour and information processing fully dissociate.

### *What would disprove it*

A demonstration that integrated information measures track only computational throughput, with no residual correlation to reported experience once processing load is controlled for, would falsify the claim that consciousness is a distinct fundamental quantity rather than a byproduct of computation.

*Both hypotheses are written to be tested. The thresholds are fixed, the constraints are on the page, and any competent group can run them.*

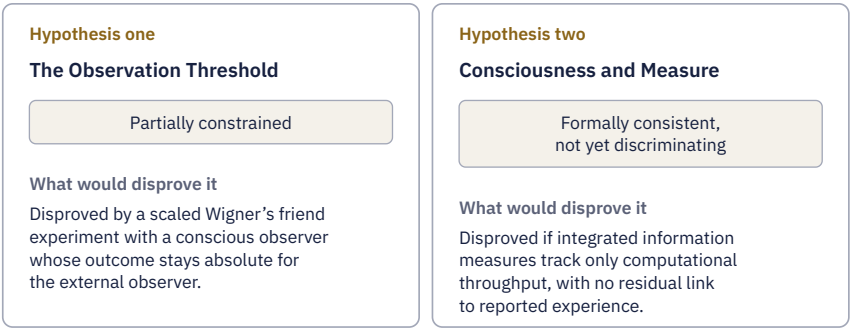



**Figure 38.** The two hypotheses, their status and what would disprove each.

Chapter 29

# The Rafik Informational Coupling Test

*The Laboratory Test*

Hypothesis Three tests the Connection Equation in human populations, where confounds are matched rather than removed. This tests the same equation in a vacuum chamber, where they can be removed outright. It is designed to be pre-registered, run by a third party, and to produce a publishable number whether the framework is right or wrong.

## *The Quantity Being Measured*

### One coupling constant, defined so that it can be zero

The framework proposes that mutual information between two systems biases their future physical configuration. Written as a proportionality this would say that co-location probability vanishes whenever mutual information vanishes, which is false: two atoms can end up in the same place by chance. The testable form is therefore the excess above a measured baseline.

$$\Delta R = R(I) - R(0) = \kappa I \tag{17}$$

- $R(I)$ **Co-location probability** at mutual information I, measured in bits.
- $R(0)$ **Measured baseline.** The co-location rate in a matched control sharing no prior information. Measured, never modelled.
- $\kappa$ **The coupling constant.** Co-location probability per bit. The single number this experiment returns.

Stating it this way matters. It makes κ a number that an experiment returns, with a confidence interval, rather than a claim that an experiment either vindicates or embarrasses. If κ is zero, the experiment says so precisely, and that statement is itself a result.

## *Design*

### Two neutral atoms, four information levels

**Platform.** Two individually trapped neutral atoms, rubidium-87 or caesium-133, in optical tweezers on a cold-atom Rydberg apparatus. Neutral atoms are chosen over trapped ions deliberately: ions carry Coulomb forces strong enough that any subsequent positional correlation has an obvious ordinary explanation. Single-atom loading, hyperfine qubit control, Rydberg entangling gates and single-site fluorescence imaging are all established laboratory technique rather than proposed capability.

**Independent variable.** The mutual information carried by the two internal hyperfine qubits, verified by two-qubit state tomography on calibration runs, computed as $I(A;B) = S(\rho_A) + S(\rho_B) - S(\rho_{AB})$ using von Neumann entropy in bits.

**Dependent variable.** A binary outcome per pair. After free evolution for a fixed interval, both atoms are imaged and co-location is scored as one if their separation falls below a threshold fixed before data collection, and zero otherwise. No visual judgement is involved at any point.

**Four conditions, not two.** This is the design decision that carries the whole experiment. Rather than comparing correlated against uncorrelated, mutual information is prepared at four pre-registered levels: 0, 0.25, 0.50 and 1.00 bits. The prediction is not that one group differs from another. It is that ΔR rises linearly with I, and the measured quantity is the slope.

## *The Objection That Would Kill It, and the Answer*

### Correlation created by an interaction is not a new force

This is the strongest objection to the entire design and it must be stated before anything else. Two systems ordinarily possess mutual information precisely because they underwent a physical interaction. That interaction can perturb momentum. A critic can therefore say: correlated atoms later co-locate more often because the entangling pulse kicked them, not because information does anything. Rydberg interactions are easily strong enough for this to be the real explanation.

A two-group design cannot answer that objection. The four-level design can, and this is why it is used.

**The answer is the slope.** An artefact of the entangling interaction tracks the interaction: its strength, its duration, the momentum it imparts. It does not track mutual information as such. Those two things can be pulled apart by construction, because the same mutual information can be prepared by a longer weaker interaction or a shorter stronger one. If ΔR follows I while the interaction parameters vary underneath it, that is a signature no momentum artefact repro-

duces. If instead $\Delta R$ follows the interaction parameters and ignores I, the experiment has found the artefact, which is also a real and reportable result.

**The hard gate.** Before release, the joint position and velocity distributions of the two groups must be statistically indistinguishable. Runs failing this criterion are excluded under the pre-registered rule, not after inspection. Without motional equivalence there is no clean test, and the protocol says so rather than hoping a referee misses it.

*Five further control arms are specified: magnetic field reversal, geometric swap of the two atoms, a preparation-history control running the full entangling sequence without producing correlation, a sham interaction at matched optical exposure and detuned frequency, and a distance series. If the effect scales with separation exactly as a known electromagnetic interaction does, it is a known electromagnetic interaction.*

## *Falsification, Fixed in Advance*

### The falsification condition

Primary model, pre-registered before any data is collected: $R(I) = R_0 + \kappa I$, with a one-sided test at $\alpha = 0.05$.

$$H_0: \kappa \leq 0 \quad \text{against} \quad H_1: \kappa > 0 \tag{18}$$

$$\text{Supported only if } \mathrm{CI}_{95,\,\mathrm{lower}}(\kappa) > 0 \tag{19}$$

| | |
|---|---|
| Pass | The lower bound of the one-sided 95 per cent confidence interval on κ lies strictly above zero after all pre-specified exclusions. |
| Fail | That lower bound includes zero. The prediction has failed at the registered sensitivity, and the framework records it as failed rather than reinterpreting it. |

**Power and sample size.** For a two-proportion comparison at 80 per cent power, sensitivity to a small effect of Cohen's h = 0.10 requires roughly 1,240 usable trials per condition at one-sided α = 0.05, and roughly 1,570 if the test is two-sided. The protocol specifies 1,600 usable trials per condition, which covers both. Across four information levels that is approximately 6,400 usable trials, and around 7,500 collected to absorb failed atom loading and pre-specified exclusions. An automated cold-atom apparatus produces this in months, not years.

**Blinding.** Condition labels are randomised and withheld. The analysis software receives positions, timestamps, run identifiers and calibration metadata only. Conditions are unblinded after the analysis script is locked. Trials are interleaved rather than run in blocks, so that slow laboratory drift cannot imitate an effect.

**Honest limit on the null.** A finite number of measurements cannot establish that mutual information is mathematically zero, only that it lies below a stated bound. The pre-registration says $I_{\mathrm{control}} < I_{\mathrm{max}}$ and $I_{\mathrm{experimental}} = 1 - \varepsilon$, with both limits set from the apparatus' measured uncertainty. Claiming metaphysical zero would not survive review and is not claimed.

### *Why This Is Worth Running Either Way*

#### A null result is a publishable measurement

There is an established class of experiment that this belongs to, and naming it is the difference between a fundable proposal and an unfundable one. In 2010 Sinha, Couteau, Jennewein, Laflamme and Weihs published a three-slit experiment in *Science* that tested whether quantum mechanics permits higher-order interference. It found none, and bounded the deviation parameter, also written κ, to below one hundredth of the expected two-path interference. Nothing was discovered. It was published in *Science* because a tight bound on a proposed deviation from quantum mechanics is a contribution in its own right.

This experiment has exactly that shape. It is a bound on information-dependent deviation from ordinary evolution. If κ is indistinguishable from zero, the result is the first quantitative bound ever placed on informational coupling, and the framework's central empirical claim is falsified at a stated sensitivity, which is far stronger than reporting that nothing was found.

**What a positive result would and would not establish.** It would not establish that consciousness is fundamental, that the framework is correct, or that information is a fifth force. It would establish something narrower and much more defensible: that a reproducible relationship exists between previously established mutual information and subsequent relative spatial dynamics, after conventional physical confounds have been experimentally constrained. That is the appropriate first claim, and it is the only one this framework will make from this experiment.

**Feasibility.** Approximately 450,000 to 800,000 AUD in a university that already operates a cold-atom laboratory, and 12 to 18 months from pro-

tocol lock to blind analysis, followed by independent replication on a separate apparatus and by a different operator before any claim about fundamental physics is made.

### *Open Call*

This protocol is offered to be run by someone else. The framework's author is not the right person to hold the apparatus, and a result produced by a proponent is worth less than a result produced by a laboratory with no stake in the answer.

What is required is a cold-atom or quantum optics group with Rydberg entangling capability, a statistician to lock the analysis plan, and funding within the range above. The protocol will be pre-registered publicly before any data is taken, all raw data and analysis code released on publication, and a null result published with the same prominence as a positive one.

*Enquiries through the contact section of this site.*

Chapter 30

# The mathematics of the framework

The framework written as formal statements, with every symbol defined, and a plan of analysis for each of its three tests: the statistic, the number of trials, and the result that would count against it.

## In brief

Equations cannot prove this framework. Only experiments can. What mathematics can do is state each proposal precisely enough to be tested, and fix in advance the result that would count against it. This page does that in three steps: the four propositions in formal terms, the symbols they use, and a plan of analysis for each test, written so that an independent group could run it without asking the author anything.

### The Four Propositions in Formal Terms

The framework rests on four propositions. Each is given here in the words used throughout this site, then in the formal expression the site already attaches to it, with what that expression does and does not add to standard physics.

**1. Consciousness is the base field of existence rather than a product of matter.** The likelihood of an experience E is the squared magnitude of the part of the universal state that contains the observer state encoding it. Framework Proposition

$$P(E) = |\langle \psi_{observer}(E) \mid \psi_{universe} \rangle|^2 \quad (20)$$

This is the Born rule of quantum mechanics applied to observer states. It is mathematically identical to the standard relative state formulation, so on its own it predicts nothing that existing physics does not already predict. It states the position; it does not yet test it.

**2. Observation is intention arising anywhere within that field rather than a person looking.** A measurement outcome becomes definite relative to the observer state that holds it, and no observation is absolute across all observers. Framework Proposition The test is an extended Wigner's friend experiment, set out under Testable hypotheses.

**3. Separation between its parts is functional rather than actual.** Two systems that have interacted directly share mutual information, and the framework proposes that this correlation persists in the field. Framework Proposition

$$I(A;B) = S(\rho_A) + S(\rho_B) - S(\rho_{AB}) \quad (21)$$

Mutual information is standard information theory, measured in bits. What the framework adds is the claim that it persists and matters physically.

**4. Physical reality is rendered from the field rather than fundamental to it.** Information held in the field biases the physical configuration that appears. In its testable form: the rate R at which two systems are later found together rises in proportion to the mutual information I they share. Framework Proposition

$$\Delta R = R(I) - R(0) = \varkappa I \tag{22}$$

The coupling constant κ is the one quantity this framework adds to physics. If every careful measurement finds κ equal to zero, the framework's central empirical claim is false.

### The Symbols

- **$\psi_{universe}$.** The state of the whole field.
- **$\psi_{observer}(E)$.** The physical configuration that encodes experience E.
- **P(E).** The probability of experience E.
- **$\rho_A$, $\rho_B$, $\rho_{AB}$.** The states of system A, of system B, and of the two together.
- **S(ρ).** The von Neumann entropy of a state, in bits.
- **I(A;B), or I.** The mutual information between A and B, in bits: how much knowing one reduces uncertainty about the other.
- **R(I).** The rate at which two systems sharing I bits are later found together. R(0), also written $R_0$, is the rate by chance alone.
- **κ.** The coupling constant: the rise in that rate for each bit of shared information.

- **$R_A$, $R_B$.** The reunion rates in the two matched groups of the Connection Equation study, and $\Delta = R_A - R_B$ their difference.
- **$E_i$.** The density of prior interaction of pair i, scored from records made at the time.
- **n.** The number of usable trials or pairs. **α.** The accepted chance of a false positive, 0.05 throughout. **Power.** The chance of detecting a real effect of the stated size, 80 per cent throughout.

### Analysis Plan 1. The Rafik Informational Coupling Test

The design is described in full on the test's own page: two trapped neutral atoms, prepared at four pre-registered levels of mutual information, 0, 0.25, 0.50 and 1.00 bits, with co-location scored as a yes or a no on each trial.

**Model.** $R(I) = R_0 + \kappa I$. With n usable trials at each level, and $\hat{R}_j$ the observed co-location rate at level $I_j$, the slope is estimated by least squares:

$$\hat{\kappa} = \Sigma\,(I_j - \bar{I})\,\hat{R}_j \,/\, \Sigma\,(I_j - \bar{I})^2 \tag{23}$$

For the four levels above, $\bar{I} = 0.4375$ and $\Sigma\,(I_j - \bar{I})^2 = 0.547$. With $\bar{R}$ the co-location rate over all trials, the standard error of the slope is:

$$\mathrm{SE}(\hat{\kappa}) = \sqrt{\left(\,\bar{R}(1 - \bar{R}) \,/\, (0.547\ n)\,\right)} \tag{24}$$

**Decision rule.** The null hypothesis is $\kappa \le 0$. The framework is supported only if $\hat{\kappa} - 1.645\ \mathrm{SE}(\hat{\kappa})$ is above zero, which is the lower bound of the one-sided 95 per cent confidence interval.

**Sensitivity.** With the 1,600 usable trials per level that the protocol specifies, the smallest slope that would be detected four times out of five is 0.042 per bit when half of all pairs co-locate by chance, 0.034 when one in five do, and 0.025 when one in ten do. In plain terms, moving from no shared information to one full bit would have to raise co-location by about three to four percentage points to be seen.

**Straight-line check.** The framework predicts a straight line through the four levels, not merely a difference between two of them. A chi-square test of lack of fit with two degrees of freedom is run on the four rates. A slope that is positive but clearly not a straight line counts against the stated law.

**If the result is null.** The upper bound $\hat{\kappa} + 1.645\ \mathrm{SE}(\hat{\kappa})$ is reported as a measurement: informational coupling, if it exists, is smaller than that value per bit. **Counts against the framework:** a lower bound at or below zero, or a slope that follows the strength of the entangling interaction and not the information itself.

## Analysis Plan 2. The Rafik Connection Equation

The design is on its own page: pairs who genuinely interacted in the past, Group A, against pairs matched on every social variable who did not, Group B.

**Statistic.** With $\hat{R}_A$ and $\hat{R}_B$ the observed reunion rates in $n_A$ and $n_B$ pairs:

$$z = (\hat{R}_A - \hat{R}_B) / \sqrt{( \hat{R}_A(1 - \hat{R}_A)/n_A + \hat{R}_B(1 - \hat{R}_B)/n_B )} \quad (25)$$

**Decision rule.** The null hypothesis is $\Delta \leq 0$. It is rejected if z is above 1.645.

**How many pairs.** The framework expects a small effect, a few percentage points. The number of pairs needed in each group, for a one-sided test at $\alpha = 0.05$ with 80 per cent power, is:

- If 10 in 100 matched pairs reunite by chance, detecting 12 in 100 needs about 3,030 pairs per group; 13 in 100 needs about 1,400; 15 in 100 needs about 540.
- If 20 in 100 reunite by chance, detecting 23 in 100 needs about 2,320 pairs per group; 25 in 100 needs about 860.

**Dose and response.** If $\Delta$ is significant, a second test asks whether reunion becomes more likely as prior interaction rises, within Group A, holding the matching variables X fixed:

$$\text{logit } P(\text{reunion}_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 E_i + \gamma X_i \quad (26)$$

The prediction is $\beta_1$ above zero. **Counts against the framework:** a 95 per cent interval for $\Delta$ that includes zero; a difference that disappears once an unmatched social variable is controlled; or no rise with interaction density.

### Analysis Plan 3. Teleconsciousnesscom

The proposal is set out under Teleconsciousnesscom. This plan tests its first level, where the framework expects the ability to be most common.

**Design.** On each trial a computer chooses one target at random from four. The sender attends to it in one room; the receiver, in another room with no ordinary channel between them, describes what they sense. A judge who does not know the target ranks the four options against the description. A hit is a trial in which the true target is ranked first, so one trial in four is a hit by chance alone.

**Statistic.** An exact binomial test of the hit rate p against the null hypothesis $p \le 0.25$.

**How many trials.** For a one-sided test at $\alpha = 0.05$ with 80 per cent power: detecting a hit rate of 32 per cent, the size reported in the disputed ganzfeld studies (Storm et al., 2010), needs about 280 trials, and the result is significant at 83 hits or more. Detecting 30 per cent needs about 520 trials. Detecting 35 per cent needs about 140. The number of trials is fixed before the first one is run, and the study is not stopped early.

**What the framework predicts beyond a hit rate.** Half the targets are thoughts, such as a chosen word or plan, and half are feelings, such as a chosen emotion. Each receiver is classed in advance as thought-first or feeling-first by questionnaire. The framework predicts that each kind of receiver does better on its own kind of target:

$$\operatorname{logit} P(\text{hit}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{style} + \beta_2 \text{channel} + \beta_3 (\text{style} \times \text{channel}) \tag{27}$$

The prediction is $\beta_3$ above zero. It also predicts that hit rates rise with training, tested as a positive slope across sessions. These two predictions are tested only if the main result is significant, with the Holm correction for two tests.

**Counts against the framework:** a study of this kind with enough trials, run by an independent group, in which the upper bound of the 95 per cent interval for the hit rate lies below 30 per cent, repeated by a second group.

### What These Equations Cannot Do

Nothing on this page is evidence. It fixes, in advance, how evidence would be judged. Each plan is written to be registered publicly before any data is collected, run by people with no stake in the answer, and reported whatever the result. A positive result in any one test would not prove that consciousness is the base field of existence. It would establish one measured relationship that current physics does not predict, and that a sceptic would then have to explain.

Chapter 31

# The strongest objections

*Tested by Its Critics*

A theory is only as strong as the objections it can meet. Each objection below is stated at full strength, exactly as its proponents make it. Beneath each one is the researcher's response, with a clear statement of where the question now stands.

## 01 The Decoherence Timescale Problem

Max Tegmark, Physical Review E 61(4):4194, 2000

**The objection:** Quantum coherence in neural tissue survives for roughly $10^{-13}$ to $10^{-20}$ seconds. Neural processing operates between $10^{-3}$ and $10^{-1}$ seconds. The gap is approximately ten orders of magnitude. The brain is warm, wet and noisy, the worst possible environment for maintaining quantum states. Laboratories cool quantum computers to near absolute zero and still lose coherence in fractions of a second. Any theory placing consciousness in quantum processes must explain how coherence survives conditions that destroy it everywhere else.

### *The Researcher's Response*

Tegmark's calculation is correct, and it refutes a claim this framework does not make. Orchestrated Objective Reduction proposes that consciousness is *produced by* quantum computation *inside* microtubules

*within* the brain. That claim requires coherence to survive in warm tissue, and Tegmark shows it cannot.

This framework proposes a different architecture. Consciousness is the field. The brain is a processor rendered within it, resolving consciousness from the field and writing experience back into it. The coupling runs in both directions, which is what allows the system to evolve. On that reading, Tegmark measured the antenna and concluded there is no broadcast.

**What this reply commits the framework to.** Consistency. If consciousness is the field and the brain is its processor, then brain measurements are read as evidence about the processor. The xenon isotope findings, the microtubule anaesthetic results and the Perturbational Complexity Index are cited on this site under that reading, and the framework's central claim is tested where it belongs, in the coupling between field and matter.

### *The Question This Opens Next*

**Relocating consciousness outside the brain does not remove the difficulty. It moves it.** This framework proposes a two-way exchange between a field and physical matter. Any such exchange faces one question, and it has only two answers.

**If the coupling interacts with neural tissue**

Then it is subject to the same environmental decoherence Tegmark calculated. His objection applies to the coupling directly, and relocating consciousness gained nothing.

**If the coupling does not interact with neural tissue**

Then it cannot influence biology at all, and the framework cannot explain anaesthesia, hydrocephalus, or why physical damage changes experience.

**An analogy considered and rejected.** It is tempting to describe the coupling as information-carrying waves analogous to radio, travelling faster than biological processing and condensing into slower physical form. That image is internally consistent with this framework and it is not adopted here, because radio waves are ordinary electromagnetism: classical, measurable, subject to decoherence on interaction, and long since detected in brains. If consciousness were that, nothing quantum would be required, and this framework's central architecture would be unnecessary.

### *One Attempt at a Formal Coupling, and Its Status*

A 2025 preprint by Thomas J. Jenness, *Consciousness-Mediated Reality Theory*, proposes exactly what this framework lacks: a gauge-invariant Lagrangian introducing a consciousness field coupled to matter through information density, with a predicted correlation of r = 0.1 to 0.3 between consciousness metrics and quantum measurement deviations.

**Its status must be stated precisely.** It is an unreviewed manuscript deposited on PhilArchive, a philosophy preprint repository with no peer review. Its own abstract describes it as "a mathematically rigorous theoretical framework requiring empirical validation." No such validation has been performed. It has no citation record in physics.

**Why it is mentioned here rather than adopted.** A framework that adopted an unreviewed preprint as its mechanism would be borrowing the appearance of rigour without the substance. It is noted because it is the closest existing attempt at the equation this framework needs, and

because a reader looking for that work should be able to find it and judge it. The coupling problem remains unsolved.

**The position taken.** This framework proposes a two-way exchange between field and matter, and specifying its mechanism is the central milestone of the work. The coupling test measures whether the exchange exists. Anyone able to specify a coupling that permits influence without decoherence would complete the central piece of this framework, and is invited to.

**Reframed, Next Step Named** The objection no longer applies to this framework's architecture in its original form. It becomes a sharper question, how field and matter exchange, which is the central milestone of this research and the target of the coupling test.

### 02 Decoherence Already Explains the Observer Effect

Wojciech Zurek, Reviews of Modern Physics 75(3):715, 2003

**The objection:** The appearance of a definite classical world requires no observer at all. Environmental entanglement selects preferred states and suppresses superposition as a purely physical, calculable, experimentally confirmed process. A rock on a dead planet in an empty galaxy decoheres with nobody present. Every result attributed to consciousness in the measurement problem is fully accounted for by einselection without invoking anything mental. Adding consciousness explains nothing physics has not already explained, and violates parsimony.

### *The Researcher's Response*

Decoherence is accepted in full. It is correct, it is confirmed, and this framework does not dispute a single line of it.

What decoherence explains is why a definite outcome *appears* rather than a superposition. What it does not explain, and does not attempt to explain, is why there is any *experience* of that outcome at all. Einselection describes the selection of preferred states. It is silent on why the selection is accompanied by something it is like to undergo. That silence is the hard problem, and it is where this framework locates its claim.

**An argument this framework explicitly declines to make.** It would be easy to reply that the rock is itself consciousness, therefore it observes itself, therefore decoherence is consciousness. That reply is internally consistent and it is abandoned here, because if everything observes then observation explains nothing, no experiment could ever contradict the framework, and unfalsifiable is not a strength. This framework is built to be tested. An argument that cannot lose is not kept.

**Addressed Within Its Scope** The response places this framework's claim in territory decoherence does not cover. Decoherence stands on its own ground, and the two accounts work side by side.

## 03 The Quantum Eraser Result

Kim, Yu, Kulik, Shih and Scully, Physical Review Letters 84(1):1, 2000

**The objection:** The delayed choice quantum eraser was performed precisely to test whether conscious access matters. It does not. Recording

which-path information in an apparatus destroys interference immediately, whether or not any human being ever reads the record. The pattern at the signal detector shows no fringes regardless of what happens afterward. Any framework claiming that consciousness collapses the wavefunction through conscious access was falsified in the year 2000.

### *The Researcher's Response*

Correct, accepted, and treated as a binding constraint on this framework rather than as a difficulty to be argued around.

This is why the Testable Hypotheses section states explicitly that any prediction relying on a human reading a recorded measurement is already falsified. The framework's definition of observation is not conscious access to a record. It is intention arising within the field, which the eraser experiment neither tests nor addresses.

**Where the live question moved.** To whether an observation is absolute across all observers, which the eraser does not examine and which extended Wigner's friend experiments do. Proietti et al. (2019) and Bong et al. (2020) demonstrate that observer independence, locality and free choice cannot all be retained. This framework abandons the first.

**Built In From the Start** The experiment stands. The framework was formulated to remain consistent with it rather than to contest it.

## 04 Occam's Razor and the Burden of Proof

The standard methodological objection

**The objection:** A framework claiming that every object is a conscious observer is an extraordinary claim carrying an extraordinary burden of proof, and it currently offers no measurement distinguishing it from the standard interpretation. If a theory predicts nothing that existing physics does not already predict, it is not a competing theory. It is a preference about language.

### *The Researcher's Response*

**The characterisation is accepted.** As of now the framework is an interpretation, not a rival theory. It does not seek to compete with quantum mechanics. It uses quantum mechanics, and the mathematics that supports it, to reach a conclusion those tools were not built to reach.

**But a distinction is offered on the razor itself.** Occam's razor is a heuristic for selecting between explanations of equal predictive power, not a law of nature. Simplification is genuine understanding when the simpler account reaches the same validated results, because it does so at lower cost and frees capacity for what comes next.

**The exception matters.** Complexity is sometimes not redundancy but the inclusion of a factor previously unaccounted for. Where added complexity increases accuracy rather than merely adding structure, the simpler account was not simpler. It was incomplete. Truth is the target of any equation, and simplicity is a property of good answers rather than a test for them. This framework's position is that it may be adding a factor rather than adding an epicycle, and that the way to settle which is measurement rather than preference. The quantitative statement in Hypothesis Two is the Born rule applied to observer states and is formally identical to the relative state formulation. It does not discriminate. Saying otherwise would be false.

The burden sits with the author to produce a prediction that separates this framework from standard quantum mechanics. Hypothesis Three is the first attempt at that: a pre-registered study of reunion frequency against a corrected social mobility model, with a coupling constant that must be measured independently and which has a stated falsification threshold.

**If Hypothesis Three returns a null result** and no successor prediction is produced, this objection stands permanently and the framework should be regarded as philosophy rather than science. That outcome is accepted in advance.

**Open, To Be Decided by Experiment** The strongest objection on this page, and the one that experiment will settle: a measured coupling constant above zero is what answers it.

## 05 The Breadth Objection

The standard demarcation heuristic, applied by working scientists

**The objection:** This work touches quantum measurement, consciousness, biology, death, health, economics, religion and cosmology. That range is the classic signature of pseudoscience. Serious research is narrow because narrowness is what makes a claim checkable. A framework that speaks to everything usually turns out to constrain nothing, and the person who says their subject is the universe is generally the person with no falsifiable content. The heuristic exists because it works. Most of the time, breadth means the author has not been forced to be precise anywhere.

### *The Researcher's Response*

The heuristic is sound and it is being applied to the wrong variable. It conflates the **scope of the subject** with the **specificity of the claim**, and those come apart.

Thermodynamics governs steam engines, black holes and living cells. Information theory governs telephone lines, DNA and quantum states. Nobody calls either of them unfocused, because the question was never how many domains a principle reaches. The question is whether the principle is stated precisely enough to be wrong. Breadth of application is not vagueness. Vagueness is vagueness, and it is detected by asking what result would falsify the claim, not by counting the fields it mentions.

**Unification research cannot be narrow. That is what the word means.** A bridge cannot be built from one bank. Maxwell had to hold electricity, magnetism and optics at once, and the accusation that he was straying outside his subject would have been correct and useless. Electroweak unification required two forces in the same frame by definition. Multi-domain reach is not a failure of discipline in this kind of work. It is the minimum footprint of the task, and demanding otherwise forbids the task entirely.

That points at something the heuristic quietly costs. Applied without exception it means nobody is permitted to work on the joins between disciplines. The gaps between fields are not nobody's business. They are nobody's job, which is a different problem, and it is why they stay open.

**There is also a reason internal to this framework why narrowness would be self-refuting.** The scanner proposition holds that understanding rises by combining independent perspectives, and that any single vantage point returns a projection rather than the object. A framework aiming at total understanding while occupying one per-

spective would be contradicting its own central claim in the act of stating it. The breadth is not incidental to the thesis. It is entailed by it.

So the specificity is real, and it sits one level up from where the objection looks for it. This research is not attempting to be a better theory of quantum measurement, a better theory of mind, or a better account of death. It has one target: the joins. It asks whether a single underlying structure can carry the description across those boundaries without contradicting itself in any of them. Its scope is exactly co-extensive with what it claims to unify, which is the universe and our understanding of it, and it is bounded there rather than open-ended.

**What breadth asks of the work.** Care in every field it enters. Each domain is checked against its own specialist literature, corrections are recorded in the changelog on this site, and specialists are invited to review their own part. What sets this work apart is that it holds a claim precise enough to test: one prediction, one threshold fixed in advance, one laboratory protocol any competent group can run.

Each objection above is given at full strength, with the researcher's reply and where the question now stands.

*If any of these objections is ultimately decisive against a specific claim, that claim should be withdrawn.*

**A distinction the researcher draws explicitly.** A framework covering measurement, consciousness, biology, meaning and cosmology is not a single proposition that stands or falls whole. Individual claims within it are falsifiable and several are stated here with the results that would kill them. The framework itself is a research programme, and research programmes are abandoned when they stop generating testable claims, not when one claim fails. If Hypothesis Three returns null and

no successor prediction follows, the Occam objection stands permanently and this work should be regarded as philosophy rather than science. That is the condition under which it should be set aside.

*The Standard This Work Accepts*

## Adversarial Testing

**In Brief**

*In 2025, two rival theories of consciousness agreed in advance what result would defeat each of them, handed the experiment to neutral researchers, and published the outcome. One of them lost a key prediction. That is the standard this framework accepts.*

### *What Happened* Established

Integrated Information Theory and Global Neuronal Workspace Theory are the two leading scientific accounts of consciousness. They make incompatible predictions: IIT places conscious content in posterior cortex and holds that it is actively sustained there; GNWT holds that content becomes conscious when broadcast to prefrontal cortex through a late ignition event.

Rather than each camp continuing to publish supportive evidence, proponents of both theories entered an **adversarial collaboration** run by a theory-neutral consortium. Together they specified divergent predictions, pass and fail criteria, expected outcomes and their interpretation, and **preregistered all of it before any data was collected.**

The study ran across multiple laboratories with 256 participants, using functional MRI, magnetoencephalography and intracranial electroen-

cephalography simultaneously. It was published in *Nature* in June 2025 with the full dataset and analysis pipelines released openly.

### *The Outcome*

**Both theories were damaged.** A key IIT prediction failed: the sustained synchronisation within posterior cortex that IIT requires was not observed. GNWT was also challenged on the location and timing of its predicted ignition. Neither camp won.

> *"True progress comes from making theories vulnerable to falsification, not protecting them."*

Lucia Melloni, corresponding author, Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics

### *What This Framework Commits To* Framework Proposition

This is the correct model, and this framework accepts it without reservation. A theory that only accumulates supportive evidence is not being tested. It is being defended.

01 **Preregistration before data.** The matched-cohort design in the Connection Equation section is written to be lodged with a public registry before any recruitment, with the analysis plan, sample size and threshold fixed in advance.

02 **Theory-neutral execution.** The researcher relinquishes control of analysis and interpretation to an institutional investigator with no stake in the outcome.

03 **An opponent, not a collaborator.** The strongest form of this test would pair this framework against a materialist account, with both sides agreeing in advance what result would defeat them. This framework invites that pairing.

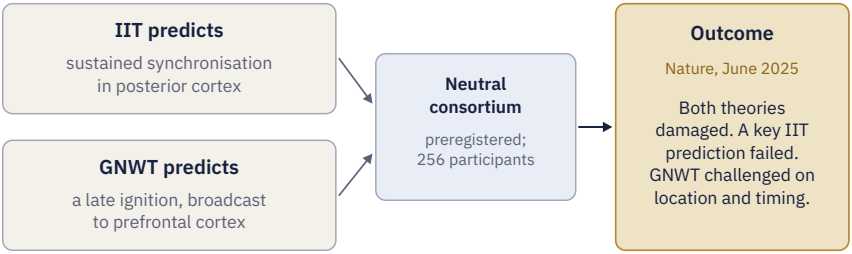
04 **Publication regardless of result.** A null result is published on this site with the same prominence as a positive one, and the affected claim is withdrawn rather than reinterpreted.

> **Stated plainly.** No adversarial collaboration involving this framework has taken place. This section describes a commitment, not an achievement. It is included because the standard should be visible before any result exists, so that it cannot be quietly lowered afterwards.

### *Why This Also Constrains This Framework*

The Cogitate result is not convenient for any consciousness theory, including this one. IIT is the most mathematically developed account of consciousness in existence, with a formal measure of integrated information, and one of its central predictions failed under rigorous test.

**The lesson taken here:** mathematical sophistication does not protect a theory from being wrong, and a framework with far less formal development than IIT has correspondingly less ground for confidence. This framework's mathematical apparatus is thinner than IIT's, and that is a reason for caution rather than for claiming immunity.




*The standard this framework accepts: predictions fixed in advance, tested by people with no reason to want them confirmed.*

**Figure 39.** The 2025 adversarial test of two theories of consciousness.

Chapter 32

# The next milestones

*Where the Research Goes Next*

These are the next milestones for this research. Each one states what is already in hand and what comes next, so that others can join the work, test it or build on it.

### The first experiments on the framework's own propositions

The support published so far comes from established science: thirty published findings, set out on the page What supports the framework, and eleven predictions already in line with published results. The experiments that test the propositions unique to this framework are designed and ready to run. Running them is the next milestone.

### A full field formalism

The framework treats consciousness as the base field of existence. The next step is a mathematical formalism that specifies the field's degrees of freedom, its dynamics and how it couples to known fields. That formalism will widen the range of quantitative predictions the framework can make.

### The mechanism of measurement

The framework proposes that intention within collective consciousness resolves superposition. This gives the measurement problem a new

home and a clear set of questions to answer next: the mechanism, the threshold and the timescale.

### From correlation to cause

The framework points to correlations between conscious states and physical states. The next step is a method that establishes the direction of cause and rules out a third factor producing both. The tests on the page The predictions are designed for this, with comparison groups and conditions fixed in advance.

### Separating quantum from classical effects in the brain

Telling a quantum contribution to neural processing apart from ordinary classical electrochemistry is a frontier for the whole field, and no current technique yet does it cleanly. As those techniques arrive, quantum consciousness claims become testable in brains. Until then, this framework tests its propositions outside the brain, beginning with trapped atoms.

### Measuring first-person experience

The central subject of the framework is first-person experience, which is studied from outside through proxies. The milestone is a set of proxies strong enough to be agreed on, and the Perturbational Complexity Index shows that such measures can be built.

### A result that sets the framework apart

Decoherence accounts for the classical appearance of the world, and emergentism offers an account of experience. Both remain live alternatives. The milestone is a result that only this framework predicts, and the Rafik Informational Coupling Test is designed to deliver it: a coupling constant above zero is something neither alternative expects.

### Mathematics that is the framework's own

The quantitative statement in the Testable Hypotheses section is the Born rule applied to observer states. It agrees exactly with the relative-state formulation of standard quantum mechanics, which keeps the framework consistent with established physics. The next step is mathematics that goes beyond it, and the coupling relation tested in the Rafik Informational Coupling Test is the first such statement.

### A measurement for the meaning-translation claim

The proposition that matter renders meaning already has cross-cultural convergence in its favour, which weakens the explanation that meaning is only projected. The milestone is a measurement that separates the two readings: rendering by matter, and human associative psychology.

### A new forecast from the anaesthesia model

Framing anaesthesia as a frequency intervention rather than deletion accounts for reversibility, dose dependence and the xenon isotope result. The milestone is to draw from it a forecast of something not yet observed, which would turn a strong interpretation of known data into a source of new tests.

### The mechanism behind informational coupling

Hypothesis Three defines its coupling constant through mutual information, which gives it units and a method of estimation. The link it proposes, between information shared by two systems and their later chance of being in the same place, would be new to physics. The first milestone is to measure whether the coupling exists. The second is to specify how the field stores and acts on information. This is the most important open question in the hypothesis.

## How field and matter exchange

This framework proposes a two-way exchange between consciousness as a field and physical configuration. Specifying what that exchange consists of is the central milestone of the whole programme. The answer has to satisfy two conditions at once: it must reach biology, and it must be consistent with what is known about decoherence. The coupling test is the first measurement aimed at it.

### *The Standard This Framework Is Building Towards* Established

Integrated Information Theory shows what a formal, computable measure of consciousness looks like. Integrated information is the quantity of information generated by a system as a whole beyond that generated by its parts, obtained by minimising over all possible partitions.

$$\Phi = \min_{P} [\, I(S) - \Sigma_i \, I(P_i) \,] \tag{28}$$

The Perturbational Complexity Index is its clinical proxy: perturb the cortex with transcranial magnetic stimulation, record the response with EEG, and measure the algorithmic complexity of the resulting spatiotemporal pattern relative to its parts.

$$PCI = C_{whole} / [\, (1/N) \, \Sigma_i \, C_i \,] \tag{29}$$

PCI reliably separates wakefulness from dreamless sleep, anaesthesia and vegetative states in clinical practice. It is the most successful operational measure of consciousness in existence.

> **What this framework takes from it.** The discipline: a quantity that can be computed from data, applied blind and checked against results. Building such a measure is one of this framework's next milestones.

### A computable measure of consciousness

Integrated Information Theory supplies a formal quantity that can be calculated from data and applied blind, and the Perturbational Complexity Index gives it a clinical proxy that separates wakefulness from anaesthesia. The milestone for this framework is a measure of its own, built to the same standard, so that it can be tested with the same rigour.

*A framework that knows its next steps is a framework in motion. These thirteen milestones are where the work goes next.*

*Boundaries of the Claim*

## What This Framework Does Not Claim

### Does not claim

That quantum mechanics has proven consciousness is fundamental. Quantum mechanics is silent on the question. What it provides is an unresolved measurement problem, which is an opening, not a proof.

### Does not claim

That human attention alters macroscopic reality by looking at it. Measurement in physics means physical interaction recording which-path information. Wanting an outcome does not produce it.

**Does not claim**

That all interpretations of quantum mechanics support a role for consciousness. Most do not. Many-worlds, pilot wave, and decoherence-based readings explicitly do not require it.

**Does not claim**

That the framework is experimentally established. That is the stage ahead. Its predictions are published with their tests, eleven are already in line with results from other researchers, and the tests of its own propositions are ready to be run.

**Does not claim**

That any cited researcher endorses this work. None do. None have reviewed it. Overlap between their published positions and one component of this framework is not endorsement of the whole.

**Does not claim**

That a Nobel Prize validates a consciousness claim. Penrose was awarded the 2020 prize for black hole formation, not for his consciousness model. Credentials establish standing, never correctness.

**Does not claim**

That spiritual traditions scientifically prove the framework. Convergence between ancient insight and modern proposal is philosophically interesting and evidentially worthless. Neither validates the other.

**Does not claim**

That the dream state proves waking life is a simulation. Dreaming establishes that immersive perception can be internally generated.

Extending that to waking reality is an inference, and the logical gap is real.

**Does not claim**

That conservation of energy demonstrates personal survival after death. Energy persisting is established physics. Personal identity persisting is a separate question entirely, and unresolved.

**Does not claim**

That correlation between two ideas constitutes proof of either. Similar conclusions reached independently are worth noticing and are not evidence.

*Every item above could have been left ambiguous to make the framework appear stronger. Stating them plainly costs nothing that was ever real.*

Chapter 33

# The current research landscape

*Scanned November 2026*

**In Brief**

*Between 2024 and 2026 the experimental picture changed. Quantum effects in the brain moved from dismissed to measured. That is real, and it is sorted honestly below, including the work that cuts against this framework and the work that is often wrongly claimed as supporting it.*

A survey of current research is only useful if it reports what is there rather than what would be convenient. Findings are tiered by what they actually establish.

## Supports

**Wiest, M. C. (2025).** A quantum microtubule substrate of consciousness is experimentally supported. *Neuroscience of Consciousness*, 2025(1), niaf011. Oxford University Press. Peer-reviewed review synthesising several independent lines of evidence for functionally relevant quantum effects in microtubules at body temperature.

**What it establishes:** That quantum effects in neural microtubules are experimentally plausible. Not that consciousness is fundamental.

**Supports**

**Babcock et al. (2024).** Direct observation of quantum superradiance from microtubules at room temperature, strengthening as microtubules assemble into larger structures.

**What it establishes:** That non-trivial quantum behaviour survives in warm biological structures. A direct answer to one form of the decoherence objection.

---

**Supports**

**Anaesthetic studies** (reviewed in Wiest 2025). Inhalational anaesthetics appear to act on intraneuronal microtubules, with disruption of those processes correlating with loss of consciousness.

**What it establishes:** A correlation between microtubule quantum processes and the presence of consciousness. Correlation, not mechanism.

---

**Supports**

**Khan et al. (2024).** Rats given epothilone B, a drug that stabilises microtubules, took on average 69 seconds longer to lose the righting reflex, the standard measure of unconsciousness in rodents, under the anaesthetic isoflurane. *eNeuro*. Peer reviewed.

**What it establishes:** That microtubules are one route by which this anaesthetic acts. A study of eight rats, not yet independently replicated, and it does not show that the effect is quantum.

**Supports**

**Kerskens and López Pérez (2022).** An MRI method sensitive to quantum correlations detected signals in the brain, linked to the heartbeat and dependent on conscious awareness, which the authors interpret as entanglement. *Journal of Physics Communications*. Peer reviewed.

**What it establishes:** A reported signal whose interpretation as entanglement is not established. A single study, not yet independently replicated. Contested.

---

**Supports**

**Beshkar, M. (2025).** Consciousness and spintronic coherence in microtubules. *Communicative & Integrative Biology*. Proposes microtubules as nanoscale spintronic oscillators permitting spontaneous coherence in the axon initial segment.

**What it establishes:** A specific proposed mechanism. Theoretical, and not yet independently confirmed.

---

**Supports**

**Fisher, M. P. A.** Proposal that phosphorus nuclear spins, in Posner molecules, could carry quantum information in the brain with long coherence times. A serious alternative to microtubule-based accounts from a condensed matter physicist.

**What it establishes:** That a physically credible route to brain quantum coherence exists. Still a proposal under test.

**Not support**

**Nobel Prize in Physics 2025.** Awarded to John Clarke, Michel Devoret and John Martinis for the discovery of macroscopic quantum tunnelling and energy quantisation in an electric circuit (Clarke et al., 2025).

What it establishes: **That quantum behaviour is not confined to single particles.** A whole electrical circuit behaved as one quantum system. It was superconducting and cooled close to absolute zero, not warm tissue, and it says nothing about consciousness.

---

**Not support**

**Quantum computing milestones 2024 to 2026.** Google's Willow chip and below-threshold error correction, IBM's Kookaburra architecture, Microsoft and Quantinuum's logical-qubit demonstrations, IonQ's trapped-ion systems.

What it establishes: **Nothing about consciousness.** These are engineering achievements in error correction and fault tolerance. Citing them as support for a consciousness claim is a category error, and this framework does not cite them.

---

**Against**

**Critical review, *Frontiers in Psychology* (2026).** Finds that much of the quantum-consciousness literature borrows terms such as superposition and entanglement as verbal decoration, without proposing mechanisms that can be tested or falsified.

What it establishes: A direct and fair charge. This framework is subject to it and is tested against it in Adversarial Testing.

### Against

**Tegmark (2000)** concluded the brain is too warm to sustain relevant quantum states; **Reimers et al. (2009)** concluded, from the opposite direction, that it is too cold for a Frohlich-type mechanism. The warm-brain decoherence objection has been weakened by recent work but has not been retired.

**What it establishes:** That the central physical objection remains live. Accepted here as a binding constraint.

**The distinction that matters most.** The microtubule research above is *physicalist*. Orch OR and its descendants propose that consciousness *arises from* quantum processes occurring inside the brain. This framework proposes something different and, in the direction of causation, opposite: that consciousness is the base field and physical structure is derived from it.

Those are not the same claim, and the evidence does not transfer. If every microtubule result above holds up completely, what will have been established is that quantum effects matter in the brain. That would be a significant scientific result. It would not establish that consciousness is fundamental to the universe, and this framework does not present it as though it would.

*What the last two years genuinely changed is the status of the question, not the status of this answer. The blanket dismissal has weakened. Nothing has been proven.*

Who is funding and organising the question. Governments, foundations and universities now invest in quantum science and in consciousness research. Each entry is listed with what it does and does not show.

**United Nations, 2025**

The General Assembly proclaimed 2025 the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology.

**What it shows:** That quantum science is a public priority worldwide. The year concerned physics and technology, not consciousness.

---

**Australian Government, 2023**

The National Quantum Strategy sets out a vision in which, in 2030, Australia is recognised as a leader of the global quantum industry.

**What it shows:** National investment in quantum science, including in Australia. It does not address consciousness.

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**Templeton World Charity Foundation**

Accelerating Research on Consciousness funds adversarial collaborations, in which the proponents of rival theories agree in advance on experiments that could prove each of them wrong. It funded the Cogitate test of two leading theories (Ferrante et al., 2025).

**What it shows:** That the main theories of consciousness are now tested against each other in pre-registered experiments, the standard this framework sets for itself.

---

**Monash University, Melbourne**

The Monash Centre for Consciousness and Contemplative Studies brings consciousness science, neuroscience and contemplative studies together in one research centre.

**What it shows:** That consciousness is an established research field at an Australian university, including the contemplative traditions this framework draws on.

**Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies, 2021**

An essay competition, with prizes worth well over US$1.5 million, on the best available evidence for the survival of human consciousness after permanent bodily death.

**What it shows:** That survival of consciousness is now argued openly, with funded prizes. A prize for the best argument is not evidence: the essays are arguments to be tested.

Chapter 34

# References

*Supporting Evidence*

## References & Sources

The following references span quantum physics, neuroscience, consciousness research, near-death studies, ancient texts, and traditions from across the world. Each entry shows the author, publication, key finding, and its direct relevance to this research framework.


1 **Max Planck**

1931

*Interview Statement*

The Observer, London, Jan 25 1931

Find this source

**Key Finding:** 'I regard consciousness as fundamental. I regard matter as derivative from consciousness. Everything that we regard as existing postulates consciousness.'

**Relevance to This Research:** Consciousness as fundamental, not emergent from matter. Directly supports the T.O.E. core proposition.

2 **Werner Heisenberg**

1958

*Physics and Philosophy*

Harper and Row

Find this source

**Key Finding:** 'The transition from the possible to the actual takes place during the act of observation.' Reality exists in superposition until measured by an observer.

**Relevance to This Research:** The observer effect: awareness shapes the outcome. Central to the quantum consciousness model.

---

**3** **Erwin Schrodinger**

1944

*What Is Life? / Mind and Matter*

Cambridge University Press

Find this source

**Key Finding:** 'Consciousness is a singular of which the plural is unknown. In truth there is only one mind.' Explicitly linked his quantum model to Vedanta philosophy.

**Relevance to This Research:** Nobel laureate physicist concluding that consciousness is singular and universal, parallels the unified field model.

---

**4** **Erwin Schrodinger**

1958

*Mind and Matter*

Cambridge University Press

Find this source

**Key Finding:** 'The total number of minds in the universe is one.' Individual and universal consciousness are the same thing.

**Relevance to This Research:** Direct peer-level scientific statement matching the T.O.E. proposition of one consciousness, many perspectives.

---

**5** **John Archibald Wheeler**

1990

*It from Bit: The Search for Links*

3rd Int Symposium Foundations of QM, Tokyo

Find this source

**Key Finding:** 'Every item of the physical world has at bottom an immaterial source. All things physical are information-theoretic in origin. This is a participatory universe.'

**Relevance to This Research:** Reality as information, consciousness participates in creating what it observes. Foundation of Quantum Consciousness.

---

**6** **John Stewart Bell**

1964

*On the Einstein Podolsky Rosen Paradox*

Physics Physique Fizika 1(3):195

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Bell's inequality: no local hidden-variable theory can reproduce quantum predictions. Non-local correlations are a physical reality.

**Relevance to This Research:** Proves reality is non-local, particles remain connected across space. Supports the unified consciousness field.

---

**7** **Alain Aspect, Dalibard, Roger**

1982

*Experimental Test of Bell's Inequalities*

Physical Review Letters 49(25):1804

Find this source

**Key Finding:** First loophole-closing Bell test. Quantum entanglement empirically confirmed. Authors awarded 2022 Nobel Prize.

**Relevance to This Research:** Physical proof that separated entities remain informationally connected. Directly supports informational telepathy.

---

**8** **Eugene Wigner**

1961

*Remarks on the Mind-Body Question*

In I.J. Good ed., The Scientist Speculates

Find this source

**Key Finding:** 'It is not possible to formulate quantum mechanics fully without reference to the consciousness of the observer.'

**Relevance to This Research:** Nobel Prize physicist placing consciousness at the centre of quantum measurement, not a peripheral interpretation.

**9 David Bohm**

1980

*Wholeness and the Implicate Order*

Routledge and Kegan Paul

Find this source

**Key Finding:** The 'implicate order': reality is an undivided whole in which all parts are enfolded within each other. 'Each part of the hologram contains the whole.'

**Relevance to This Research:** Universe as unified interconnected whole. Reality as information folded within consciousness. Core T.O.E. parallel.

**10 Roger Penrose and Stuart Hameroff**

1996

*Orchestrated Objective Reduction (Orch OR)*

Journal of Consciousness Studies 3(1):36

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Consciousness arises from quantum computations in neural microtubules. Bolstered by Kalra et al. 2023 microtubule exciton findings (ACS Central Science).

**Relevance to This Research:** Consciousness has a quantum substrate, not purely neurochemical. Bridges quantum physics and the mind directly.

**11 Nick Bostrom**

2003

*Are You Living in a Computer Simulation?*

Philosophical Quarterly 53(211):243

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Mathematical trilemma concluding: we are very likely living in a computer simulation run by posthuman civilisation.

**Relevance to This Research:** Independent academic support for the consciousness-simulation model of reality from Oxford philosopher.

12 **Max Tegmark**

2008

*The Mathematical Universe Hypothesis*

Foundations of Physics 38(2):101

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Mathematical Universe Hypothesis: our physical world is an abstract mathematical structure. Matter is information.

**Relevance to This Research:** Reality as structured information, the universe is intrinsically mathematical/mental, not purely material.

13 **David Chalmers**

1995

*Facing Up to the Problem of Consciousness*

Journal of Consciousness Studies 2(3):200

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Formulated the 'Hard Problem': no physical account explains subjective experience. Consciousness may be irreducibly fundamental.

**Relevance to This Research:** Mainstream academic philosophy confirming consciousness cannot be reduced to matter, it must be fundamental.

14 **Pim van Lommel et al.**

2001

*Near-Death Experience in Survivors of Cardiac Arrest: A Prospective Study in the Netherlands*

The Lancet 358(9298):2039-2045. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Prospective study of 344 cardiac-arrest patients in ten Dutch hospitals, of whom 62 (18 per cent) reported a near-death experience. The experiences were not accounted for by medication, duration of arrest, or fear of death.

**Relevance to This Research:** Establishes that near-death reports resist the most obvious pharmacological and psychological explanations. Does not establish a non-physical mechanism.

15 **Raymond Moody**

1975

*Life After Life*

Mockingbird Books, Covington GA

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Catalogued 15 elements common to NDEs across cultures: tunnel, light, life review, being-of-light, out-of-body experience. First systematic study of consciousness beyond death.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cross-cultural, consistent documentation of consciousness activity beyond physical death.

16 **Bruce Greyson**

1983

*The Near-Death Experience Scale: Construction, Reliability, and Validity*

Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease 171(6):369-375. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Provides the validated instrument used to identify and score near-death experiences, in use across four decades of research.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited to document that this literature has a standard measure. Methodological infrastructure, never evidence for the framework.

17 **Rupert Sheldrake**

1981

*A New Science of Life: Morphic Resonance*

Blond and Briggs, London

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Morphogenetic fields organise biological form. Past patterns resonate forward in time. Memory is non-local across species.

**Relevance to This Research:** Non-local information fields connecting living systems, supports the consciousness field model. Contested but widely cited.

**18** **Dean Radin**
1997

*The Conscious Universe*
HarperOne

Find this source

Key Finding: Meta-analysis of 88 ganzfeld studies: hit-rate 32% vs 25% chance (p less than 3.45 x 10-20). A later meta-analysis of 30 newer studies found no effect (Milton and Wiseman, 1999), and a further meta-analysis reported a small positive effect (Storm, Tressoldi and Di Risio, 2010).

Relevance to This Research: **Cited with its limits noted:** the ganzfeld results are disputed between meta-analyses, so this is cited as an open question, never as established.

**19** **Russell Targ and Harold Puthoff**
1974

*Information Transmission Under Conditions of Sensory Shielding*
Nature 251:602

Find this source

Key Finding: CIA and SRI remote-viewing programme: blind-judged correct matches in 6 of 9 sessions. Published in Nature, one of the world's most prestigious scientific journals.

Relevance to This Research: **Cited with its limits noted:** the 1995 government review of this programme was divided on the laboratory evidence and found that remote viewing had never guided an intelligence operation (Utts, 1996; Hyman, 1996), so this is cited as an open question, never as established.

**20** **Daryl Bem**
2011

*Feeling the Future: Anomalous Retroactive Influences*
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology 100(3)

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Nine experiments with 1000+ participants found statistically significant precognitive effects (d=0.22). Published in mainstream psychology journal. Independent attempts to repeat the experiments did not reproduce the effect (Ritchie, Wiseman and French, 2012; Galak et al., 2012), while a later meta-analysis by Bem and colleagues reported a small overall effect (Bem et al., 2015).

**Relevance to This Research:** **Cited with its limits noted:** independent replications did not reproduce the effect, so this is cited as a contested result, never as established.

---

**21** **Bruce Lipton**

2005

*The Biology of Belief*

Hay House

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Epigenetic signals, including thoughts and beliefs, regulate gene expression. Cells respond to consciousness, not just chemistry.

**Relevance to This Research:** Thoughts physically alter biological systems at the cellular level. Supports mind-over-body and the observer-matter link.

---

**22** **Rollin McCraty, HeartMath Institute**

2003

*The Energetic Heart*

HeartMath Research Publication

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Heart's electromagnetic field is 60x stronger in amplitude than the brain's EEG. Emotional coherence produces measurable physiological and interpersonal changes.

**Relevance to This Research:** Emotions generate measurable energy fields interacting with matter, supports the vibrational model of consciousness.

---

**23** **Candace Pert**

1997

*Molecules of Emotion*
Scribner

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Neuropeptides are the biochemical language of emotions, distributed throughout the body, not just the brain. Mind and body form a single communication network.

**Relevance to This Research:** Emotions are not purely mental; they are chemical signals distributed across the entire body. Brain is not the sole processor.

---

**24** **Carl Jung and Wolfgang Pauli**
1952

*Interpretation of Nature and the Psyche*
Rascher, Zurich

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Synchronicity: meaningful coincidences without causal connection. Collective unconscious as a shared, non-local field of archetypes.

**Relevance to This Research:** Non-local connections between minds and events, parallel to quantum entanglement. Convergence of physics and psychology.

---

**25** **William James**
1898

*Human Immortality: Two Supposed Objections to the Doctrine*
Ingersoll Lecture, Harvard University

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Proposes that the brain's function in relation to consciousness may be permissive or transmissive rather than productive.

**Relevance to This Research:** The origin of the filter or transmission model. Cited as the intellectual ancestry of the receiver analogy, which this framework uses only as pedagogy and explicitly rejects as a mechanism.

---

**26** **Henri Bergson**
1896

*Matiere et Memoire* (*Matter and Memory*)
Felix Alcan, Paris

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Brain is a centre of action, not a storehouse of memory. Consciousness is not located in the brain, the brain is its instrument.

**Relevance to This Research:** Nobel Prize winner (1927). Brain-as-filter theory predates modern neuroscience's uncertainty about consciousness location.

---

**27** **Mandukya Upanishad**
c.800-500 BCE

*Mandukya Upanishad*
Atharva-Veda corpus, India

**Key Finding:** 'Ayam Atma Brahma', This Self is Brahman. Four states of consciousness described. The universe arises from and returns to consciousness.

**Relevance to This Research:** Oldest systematic description of consciousness as the sole fundamental reality. Directly mirrors the T.O.E. core assertion.

---

**28** **Bhagavad Gita**
c.200 BCE

*Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 2*
Mahabharata, India

**Key Finding:** 2:20, 'For the soul there is neither birth nor death at any time. It is unborn, eternal, ever-existing.' 2:22, Soul changes bodies as a person changes garments.

**Relevance to This Research:** Consciousness continuity beyond physical death, aligns with the After Life section and energetic continuity model.

---

**29** **Buddhist Avatamsaka Sutra**
c.3rd century CE

*Avatamsaka Sutra* (*Flower Garland Sutra*)
Mahayana Buddhist Canon, India and China

**Key Finding:** Indra's Net: an infinite net of jewels where each jewel reflects every other, perfect non-local interdependence of all existence.

**Relevance to This Research:** Ancient metaphor for quantum entanglement and the unified consciousness field. Every part contains the whole.

**30** **Lao-Tzu**

c.4th century BCE

*Tao Te Ching*

China, trans. Stephen Mitchell 1988

**Key Finding:** Chapter 1: 'The unnamable is the eternally real. Naming is the origin of all particular things.' The Tao generates all phenomena without itself being a phenomenon.

**Relevance to This Research:** The source of reality is undivided and conscious, mirrors the T.O.E. description of the universal consciousness field.

---

**31** **Quran, Surah Qaf**

7th century CE

*Surah Qaf 50:16*

Quran, Arabia

**Key Finding:** 'We are closer to him than his jugular vein.' Also 41:53: 'We shall show them Our signs on the horizons and within themselves until it becomes clear that it is the truth.'

**Relevance to This Research:** God as universal consciousness present within and around all existence, parallels the T.O.E. God model.

---

**32** **Ibn Arabi**

c.1200 CE

*Fusus al-Hikam / Futuhat al-Makkiyya*

Sufi Tradition, Andalusia and Mecca

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Wahdat al-Wujud (Unity of Being): God alone is true existence. All phenomena are self-disclosures of the One. Everything that exists is a manifestation of divine consciousness.

**Relevance to This Research:** Most detailed pre-modern description of the unified consciousness field, predates quantum physics by 700 years. Direct parallel to T.O.E.

---

**33** **Jalal al-Din Rumi**

13th century CE

*Masnavi (Mathnawi)*

Persian Sufi Tradition

**Key Finding:** 'You are not a drop in the ocean. You are the entire ocean in a drop.' The individual contains the whole, separation is illusion.

**Relevance to This Research:** Individual consciousness as a fragment of universal consciousness, the cell-in-the-universe's-brain concept, expressed 800 years ago.

---

**34** **Hermetic Corpus**

2nd-3rd c. CE (compiled 1908)

*The Kybalion*

Yogi Publication Society, Chicago

Find this source

**Key Finding:** First Hermetic Principle: 'THE ALL is MIND; the Universe is Mental.' Also: 'As above, so below; as below, so above.' Vibration underlies all phenomena.

**Relevance to This Research:** 'As above so below' and vibrational reality, cited across the Engineering and Vibration sections. Cross-cultural ancient parallel.

---

**35** **Plato**

c.375 BCE

*Republic Book VII, Allegory of the Cave*

Greece (trans. Jowett 1871)

**Key Finding:** Prisoners mistake shadows on a wall for reality. The philosopher escapes to see the actual world. What we perceive as reality may be a projection of a higher-order truth.

**Relevance to This Research:** Oldest Western articulation of the simulation and projection model of reality, 2400 years before modern physics.

---

**36** **Ramana Maharshi**

1902-1950

*Who Am I? / Talks with Sri Ramana Maharshi*

Sri Ramanasramam, India

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Self-enquiry: the 'I-thought' dissolves on investigation, revealing pure undivided awareness as the ground of all experience.

**Relevance to This Research:** Direct experiential confirmation of non-dual consciousness, awareness, not the mind, is the fundamental reality.

---

**37** **Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz**

1714

*Monadology*

Germany

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Reality composed of 'monads', fundamental units of perception and consciousness. Each monad mirrors the entire universe from its own perspective.

**Relevance to This Research:** Matter as percipient units of consciousness. Each particle has interiority. Foundation of the fractal consciousness model.

---

**38** **Donald Hoffman**

2019

*The Case Against Reality*

W.W. Norton and Company

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Fitness Beats Truth theorem (mathematical proof): evolution selects for fitness, not accuracy of perception. Spacetime is a user interface, not reality itself.

**Relevance to This Research:** Mathematical proof that what we perceive as physical reality is a constructed interface, not the underlying truth.

---

**39** **Karl Pribram and David Bohm**

1980s

*Holonomic Brain Theory*

Various neuroscience journals

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Brain processes information in holographic, distributed patterns. Memory is not stored locally, it is encoded across neural fields, similar to a hologram.

**Relevance to This Research:** Brain as holographic receiver of non-local consciousness, supports 'brain as manifestation of mind' proposition.

---

**40** **Michael Talbot**

1991

*The Holographic Universe*

HarperCollins

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Synthesis of Bohm and Pribram: the universe is a hologram in which each part contains the whole. Mind and matter are interpenetrating fields.

**Relevance to This Research:** Universe as conscious hologram, every fragment contains the total picture. Direct parallel to the T.O.E. framework.

---

**41** **Fritjof Capra**

1975

*The Tao of Physics*

Shambhala Publications, Berkeley

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Systematic parallel between quantum physics (Bohr, Heisenberg, S-matrix) and Hindu, Buddhist, and Taoist philosophy.

**Relevance to This Research:** Nobel-level physics concepts mapped onto ancient Eastern wisdom, parallels the cross-cultural convergence this research proposes.

---

**42** **HeartMath Institute, McCraty et al.**

2009

*The Coherent Heart*

Integral Review 5(2)

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Heart-brain coherence modulates immune function, hormonal balance, and cognitive performance. Emotional states have measurable physiological architecture.

**Relevance to This Research:** Scientific documentation of emotional energy affecting physical biology, the thought-emotion-matter chain in measurable form.

---

**43** **Nichiren Buddhism, Lotus Sutra**

c.3rd century BCE

*Saddharma Pundarika Sutra*

Mahayana Buddhist Canon, India, China, Japan

**Key Finding:** Every being possesses Buddha-nature, the inherent capacity for full enlightenment. Each entity contains the universe within it.

**Relevance to This Research:** Each consciousness contains the whole, parallel to Indra's Net, the holographic model, and 'we are a cell in the universe's brain.'

---

**44** **Lakota Tradition, Mitakuye Oyasin**

Traditional

*All My Relations (Oral Tradition)*

Great Plains, North America

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Universal prayer and worldview: all living beings are related. The separation between self and world is a misperception. Reality is relational and interconnected.

**Relevance to This Research:** Ancient indigenous articulation of the unified field, non-separation of self and universe, preserved across generations.

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**45** **Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead**

c.1550 BCE

*Book of Coming Forth by Day*

Valley of the Kings, Ancient Egypt

**Key Finding:** Consciousness survives physical death and undergoes weighing of the heart (Ma'at). The soul journeys through dimensional layers after death.

**Relevance to This Research:** One of humanity's oldest documented models of consciousness continuity beyond physical death, directly supports the After Life section.

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**46** **Aboriginal Australian Dreamtime**

Traditional

*Jukurrpa, The Dreaming*
Australia, multiple language groups

Find this source

**Key Finding:** The universe was sung into existence. Songlines maintain the world's physical structure. Time is non-linear, all events exist simultaneously in the Dreaming.

**Relevance to This Research:** Oldest living culture's model: vibration and consciousness create and sustain physical reality. Parallel to the vibrational model.

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**47** **Gregg Braden**
2007

*The Divine Matrix*
Hay House

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Cites Planck's matrix statement. Bridges ancient wisdom and modern physics. The universal consciousness field is the medium through which events are manifested.

**Relevance to This Research:** Popular synthesis of the same convergence this research proposes, accessible cultural entry-point for the general reader.

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**48** **Giulio Tononi**
2004

*An Information Integration Theory of Consciousness*
BMC Neuroscience 5:42. DOI 10.1186/1471-2202-5-42

DOI 10.1186/1471-2202-5-42

**Key Finding:** Introduces integrated information as a formal measure of consciousness: the information generated by a system as a whole beyond that generated by its parts, minimised over all partitions. The most mathematically developed theory of consciousness currently available.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in The next milestones. Supplies a computable measure of consciousness, the standard this framework is building towards. **Cited with its limits noted:** a central IIT prediction failed in the 2025 adversarial test, and formal sophistication did not protect it.

**49** **Temple Grandin**

2008

*The Way I See It: A Personal Look at Autism and Asperger's*

Future Horizons, Texas

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Documents how autistic neural architecture produces exceptional pattern recognition, spatial reasoning, and systems thinking. 'I think in pictures. Words are like a second language to me.'

**Relevance to This Research:** Neurodiversity as alternative processing architecture, different code, not broken code. Directly supports the Neurodiversity section.

**50** **Thomas Armstrong**

2011

*The Power of Neurodiversity: Unleashing the Advantages of Your Differently Wired Brain*

Da Capo Press, Cambridge MA

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Reframes ADHD, autism, dyslexia, and related conditions as evolutionary advantages. Each represents a different mode of consciousness access and information processing.

**Relevance to This Research:** Scientific validation of neurodiversity as expanded rather than impaired consciousness, supports the framework's model of multiple paths through the same field.

**51** **Aldous Huxley**

1954

*The Doors of Perception*

Chatto and Windus, London

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Documents mescaline-induced expanded perception: 'To make biological survival possible, Mind at Large has to be funnelled through the reducing valve of the brain and nervous system.' Substance temporarily widens the filter.

**Relevance to This Research:** Directly supports the Expansion section, substances as temporary filter-widening, not hallucination. Brain as reducer of wider consciousness.

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**52 Andrew Newberg and Eugene d'Aquili**
2001

*Why God Won't Go Away: Brain Science and the Biology of Belief*
Ballantine Books, New York

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Neurotheology: deep meditation and prayer produce measurable changes in brain activity, particularly the orientation area, generating experiences of unity and dissolution of self-other boundary.

**Relevance to This Research:** Scientific evidence that meditation and spiritual practice alter brain state. Directly supports Expansion and the God sections. Parallels the consciousness field model.

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**53 Huston Smith**
1958

*The World's Religions*
Harper and Row, New York

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Comprehensive comparative study of Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Taoism, and indigenous traditions. Documents the convergent core across all: a unifying ground of being beneath diverse expressions.

**Relevance to This Research:** Academic foundation for the Religions section, all major traditions share a convergent model of ultimate consciousness. Parallels the T.O.E. across traditions.

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**54 Joseph Campbell**
1949

*The Hero with a Thousand Faces*
Pantheon Books, New York

Find this source

**Key Finding:** The monomyth: across all cultures and all time, the hero's journey follows the same pattern, separation, initiation, return. Every prophet and sage follows the same arc of consciousness awakening to itself.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cross-cultural mythology as evidence that all spiritual traditions describe the same process of consciousness discovering its own nature, parallels the Religions section directly.

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**55** **John von Neumann**

1932

*Mathematical Foundations of Quantum Mechanics*

Princeton University Press (English translation 1955)

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Formulated the Von Neumann chain: the collapse of the wavefunction cannot terminate within any physical apparatus and ultimately requires a conscious observer to complete the measurement. The mathematical foundation of quantum mechanics itself points to consciousness as the terminating layer of measurement.

**Relevance to This Research:** The single strongest historical citation for the Observer Is Everything claim in the T.O.E. section. Foundational, not fringe. Directly supports the position that there is no observer that is not conscious.

---

**56** **Henry Stapp**

2007

*Mindful Universe: Quantum Mechanics and the Participating Observer*

Springer, Berlin and New York

Find this source

**Key Finding:** A quantum physicist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory formalising the case that quantum mechanics mathematically requires a participating conscious observer, and that materialist interpretations of collapse fail on their own terms. Consciousness is not an addition to physics, it is a requirement of physics.

**Relevance to This Research:** Direct citation for The Wrong Question argument in the Why Science Has Not Yet Answered section. Contemporary, peer-published, and squarely on the exact epistemological ground this research occupies.

**57** **Bernardo Kastrup**
2019

*The Idea of the World: A Multi-Disciplinary Argument for the Mental Nature of Reality*
Iff Books, Winchester UK

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Rigorous analytic argument for idealism: reality is fundamentally mental, and the appearance of a physical world is a dissociated appearance within a universal consciousness. Presents the case as philosophy and computer science, not mysticism.

**Relevance to This Research:** Direct citation for The Dream Architecture claim. The clearest contemporary academic articulation of the position that every object is a projection of source consciousness, individuated by the simulation to interact with itself.

**58** **Amit Goswami**
1993

*The Self-Aware Universe: How Consciousness Creates the Material World*
Jeremy P. Tarcher / Putnam, New York

Find this source

**Key Finding:** A quantum physicist proposing consciousness-based idealism as the resolution of the measurement problem. Reality is not made of matter that produces consciousness. Reality is consciousness that produces the appearance of matter. Every measurement is an act of consciousness selecting one outcome from the field of possibility.

**Relevance to This Research:** A fourth explicitly quantum-physics voice reinforcing the consciousness-fundamental position across the T.O.E. and Consciousness sections. Complements Von Neumann, Stapp, and Kastrup with a direct physicist-authored articulation.

**59** **Yoon-Ho Kim, R. Yu, S. P. Kulik, Y. Shih, Marlan O. Scully**
2000

*Delayed Choice Quantum Eraser*
Physical Review Letters 84(1):1

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Which path information recorded in the apparatus destroys the interference pattern immediately. Interference is recovered only within coincidence counted subsets after the path record is erased. The total pattern at the signal detector shows no fringes regardless of later choices.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited here as a constraint, not as support. This experiment rules out any claim that interference survives until a conscious being reads the record. Hypothesis One states this limit explicitly rather than omitting it.

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**60** **Massimiliano Proietti, Alexander Pickston, Francesco Graffitti, et al.**
2019

*Experimental Test of Local Observer Independence*

Science Advances 5(9):eaaw9832

Find this source

**Key Finding:** A photonic realisation of the extended Wigner's friend scenario. The results violate an inequality derived from the assumption that recorded measurement outcomes hold universally for all observers, combined with locality and free choice of settings.

**Relevance to This Research:** Direct experimental support for Hypothesis One. Establishes that observer independence cannot be maintained alongside locality and free choice, which is the precise opening this framework occupies.

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**61** **Kok-Wei Bong, Anibal Utreras-Alarcon, Farzad Ghafari, et al.**
2020

*A Strong No-Go Theorem on the Wigner's Friend Paradox*

Nature Physics 16:1199

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Derives Local Friendliness inequalities from weaker assumptions than Bell's theorem, and demonstrates experimental violation. At least one of three assumptions must be abandoned: absoluteness of observed events, locality, or freedom of choice.

**Relevance to This Research:** The strongest formal result currently available for the position that observation is not absolute across observers. Anchors the central claim of Hypothesis One in peer reviewed physics.

**62 Wojciech Hubert Zurek**
2003

*Decoherence, Einselection, and the Quantum Origins of the Classical*
Reviews of Modern Physics 75(3):715

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Establishes that environmental entanglement selects preferred classical states and suppresses superposition without invoking any observer. Decoherence explains the appearance of classicality as a physical process.

**Relevance to This Research:** Included for intellectual honesty. This is the strongest standing objection to observer dependent collapse, and Hypothesis One is formulated to remain consistent with it rather than to contradict it.

**63 Adenauer G. Casali, Olivia Gosseries, Mario Rosanova, et al.**
2013

*A Theoretically Based Index of Consciousness Independent of Sensory Processing and Motor Responses*
Science Translational Medicine 5(198):198ra105

Find this source

**Key Finding:** The Perturbational Complexity Index distinguishes conscious from unconscious states across wakefulness, sleep, anaesthesia, and disorders of consciousness, without requiring sensory input or behavioural output from the subject.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supplies the empirical route by which Hypothesis Two could become discriminating. Provides a measure of conscious presence that dissociates from behaviour and from computational throughput.

**64 Caslav Brukner**
2018

*A No-Go Theorem for Observer Independent Facts*
Entropy 20(5):350

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Proves formally that quantum theory cannot support observer independent facts about measurement outcomes if locality and free choice are retained. Establishes the theoretical scaffolding later tested by Proietti and Bong.

**Relevance to This Research:** The theoretical foundation underlying references 60 and 61. Provides the formal argument that facts about outcomes may be relative to the observer who holds them.

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**65**

**Hartmut Neven, Adam Zalcman, Peter Read, Kenneth S. Kosik, Tjitse van der Molen, Dirk Bouwmeester, Eve Bodnia, Luca Turin, Christof Koch**

2024

*Testing the Conjecture That Quantum Processes Create Conscious Experience*

Entropy 26(6):460, peer reviewed, open access

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Proposes that conscious experience arises whenever a quantum superposition forms rather than when it collapses, yielding a graded model in which experiential richness scales with the number of potential states held. Outlines concrete experiments including xenon isotope anaesthesia trials and coherent brain to quantum processor coupling.

**Relevance to This Research:** The most significant contemporary scientific convergence with this framework. Authored by the founder of Google Quantum AI and a leading Allen Institute investigator. Independently supports the Expansion, Free Will, and Consciousness sections.

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**66** **Roger Penrose**

1989

*The Emperor's New Mind: Concerning Computers, Minds and the Laws of Physics*

Oxford University Press

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Argues that human consciousness is non-algorithmic and cannot be reproduced by any classical computational process. Proposes that objective reduction of the quantum state, a real physical process, is the origin of conscious moments.

**Relevance to This Research:** The foundational argument that consciousness is not computation. Penrose was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2020. Establishes that a laureate in physics holds consciousness to be a quantum event rather than a biological byproduct.

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**67** **The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**

2020

*Nobel Prize in Physics 2020: Scientific Background on Black Holes and the Milky Way's Darkest Secret*

Nobel Foundation, Stockholm

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Roger Penrose awarded one half of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity.

**Relevance to This Research:** Establishes the scientific standing of the researcher whose objective reduction model of consciousness underpins the entire quantum consciousness field. Cited to document credentials, not to imply the prize was awarded for consciousness work.

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**68** **Mike C. Wiest**

2025

*A Quantum Microtubule Substrate of Consciousness Is Experimentally Supported and Solves the Binding and Epiphenomenalism Problems*

Neuroscience of Consciousness 2025(1):niaf011

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Reviews experimental evidence that inhalational anaesthetics selectively bind microtubules, and that microtubule stabilising drugs reduce anaesthetic effectiveness in rats, establishing a functional link between microtubule activity and the presence of consciousness.

**Relevance to This Research:** **Cited under a restricted reading.** This framework holds the brain is a receiver, not a generator, and therefore cannot use neural evidence as proof that the brain produces consciousness. Read consistently, this result bears on how a quantum property modulates the coupling between a physical configuration and the field. It supports Orch-OR directly. It supports this framework only indirectly, and that limit is stated rather than blurred.

**69** **Shuai Li, Luca Turin, Efthimios M. C. Skoulakis, et al.**
2018

*Anesthetic Potency of Xenon Isotopes and Nuclear Spin*
Reported in Neuroscience of Consciousness and subsequent replication studies

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Isotopes of xenon differing only in nuclear spin, a purely quantum property with no chemical difference, show measurably different anaesthetic potency in mice. Chemistry alone cannot account for the difference.

**Relevance to This Research:** **Cited under a restricted reading.** Nuclear spin, a purely quantum property, alters anaesthetic potency with no chemical difference. Under this framework that is evidence a quantum property modulates the two-way coupling between brain and field, not evidence the brain generates consciousness. The distinction is required by the response to Tegmark and is enforced here rather than left ambiguous.

**70** **Max Tegmark**
2000

*Importance of Quantum Decoherence in Brain Processes*
Physical Review E 61(4):4194

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Calculates that decoherence timescales in neural tissue are approximately ten orders of magnitude shorter than the timescales of neural processing, arguing that the brain is too warm and wet to sustain the coherent quantum states quantum consciousness models require.

**Relevance to This Research:** Included as the strongest standing objection to the entire quantum consciousness position, including this framework. Any serious engagement with this field must answer Tegmark.

**71** **A. J. Ayer**
1936

*Language, Truth and Logic*
Victor Gollancz, London. Second edition 1946.

Find this source

**Key Finding:** The definitive statement of logical positivism and the verification principle: that a statement is meaningful only if empirically verifiable or analytically true. Ayer later conceded in a 1979 interview that the position was almost entirely mistaken.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the Limits of Measurement section. Establishes that the demand for measurability as a criterion of reality is a philosophical position, and one its own author abandoned.

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**72** **Karl Popper**
1959

*The Logic of Scientific Discovery*
Hutchinson, London. German original 1934.

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Replaces verification with falsifiability as the demarcation criterion of science. Argues that no finite set of observations can verify a universal statement, and that the verification principle is not itself falsifiable.

**Relevance to This Research:** The methodological backbone of this entire site. Every hypothesis here is stated with its falsification condition because of Popper. Also cited in the Limits of Measurement section against verificationism.

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**73** **Benjamin Libet, Curtis Gleason, Elwood Wright, Dennis Pearl**
1983

*Time of Conscious Intention to Act in Relation to Onset of Cerebral Activity*
Brain 106(3):623

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Readiness potential in motor cortex precedes reported conscious intention by approximately 350 milliseconds. Repeatedly replicated. Widely interpreted as evidence against conscious initiation of action.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in the Neuroscience section with both interpretations shown. Demonstrates that conscious awareness is not the origin point of a decision. Does not adjudicate between unconscious neural processing and a prior consciousness field.

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**74** **Chun Siong Soon, Marcel Brass, Hans-Jochen Heinze, John-Dylan Haynes**
2008

*Unconscious Determinants of Free Decisions in the Human Brain*
Nature Neuroscience 11(5):543

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Using fMRI, decisions were predicted from prefrontal and parietal activity up to ten seconds before participants reported conscious awareness of deciding.

**Relevance to This Research:** Extends Libet by four orders of magnitude in time. Cited with the majority interpretation stated alongside this framework's reading, and with the acknowledgement that the data does not distinguish between them.

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**75** **Persi Diaconis and Frederick Mosteller**
1989

*Methods for Studying Coincidences*
Journal of the American Statistical Association 84(408):853

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Formalises the Law of Truly Large Numbers: with a sufficiently large sample, any outrageous event is likely to occur. Demonstrates that most striking coincidences are statistically expected once population size and the multiplicity of possible surprising events are accounted for.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited against this framework in the Rafik Connection Equation section. This is the objection Hypothesis Three must survive, and it is stated before the hypothesis rather than after.

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**76** **Eugene Wigner**
1960

*The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Mathematics in the Natural Sciences*
Communications on Pure and Applied Mathematics 13(1):1

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Observes that mathematical structures developed without reference to the physical world repeatedly turn out to describe it with extraordinary precision, and states plainly that this is not understood.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the Limits of Measurement section. Physics depends entirely on abstract objects that no instrument can detect, which complicates any strict materialism.

**77 Planck Collaboration**
2020

*Planck 2018 Results VI: Cosmological Parameters*
Astronomy and Astrophysics 641:A6

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Establishes the current best measurements of the mass-energy composition of the universe: approximately 5 per cent ordinary matter, 27 per cent dark matter, 68 per cent dark energy. Neither dark component emits, absorbs or reflects light.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in the Limits of Measurement section. Roughly 95 per cent of the universe is invisible and is nonetheless measured through gravitational effect. Reality demonstrably exceeds what perception delivers.

**78 B. P. Abbott et al. (LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration)**
2016

*Observation of Gravitational Waves from a Binary Black Hole Merger*
Physical Review Letters 116:061102

Find this source

**Key Finding:** First direct detection of gravitational waves, measuring a distortion of spacetime smaller than one ten-thousandth the width of a proton. The measurement involves no photons from the source. Awarded the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in the Limits of Measurement section as direct evidence that measurement is not confined to light, and that instruments extending past human perception consistently reveal more rather than less.

**79 Roger Lewin**
1980

*Is Your Brain Really Necessary?*
Science 210(4475):1232, 12 December 1980. DOI 10.1126/science.7434023

DOI 10.1126/science.7434023

**Key Finding:** Reports the clinical series of John Lorber at the University of Sheffield: over 600 hydrocephalus scans, of which approximately 60 showed ventricular fluid occupying 95 per cent of cranial capacity. Half of that severe group had IQs above 100, including a student with an IQ of 126 who graduated with first-class honours in mathematics.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in Consciousness Without a Brain. **Contested.** Lorber never published the series himself in a peer-reviewed journal and critics argued the scans were over-interpreted and residual tissue never precisely quantified. Those criticisms appear on the site.

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**80** **Lionel Feuillet, Henry Dufour, Jean Pelletier**

2007

*Brain of a White-Collar Worker*

The Lancet 370(9583):262

Find this source

**Key Finding:** A 44-year-old civil servant presenting with mild leg weakness was found to have massive ventricular enlargement with brain tissue reduced to a thin sheet. He was married, employed, a father of two, with an IQ of 75 and no prior indication of impairment.

**Relevance to This Research:** Peer-reviewed independent confirmation of the pattern Lorber described. The strongest single answer to the objection that the hydrocephalus findings were an artefact of over-interpretation.

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**81** **Michael Nahm and Bruce Greyson**

2009

*Terminal Lucidity in Patients with Chronic Schizophrenia and Dementia: A Survey of the Literature*

Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease 197(12):942

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Coins and documents terminal lucidity: the unexpected return of full mental clarity, memory and coherent communication shortly before death in individuals whose faculties had been destroyed by advanced dementia, tumour or chronic psychiatric illness. The underlying neurodegeneration does not reverse.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in Consciousness Without a Brain. Demonstrates that capacities assumed permanently lost can return intact through tissue that remains destroyed. Mechanism unknown.

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**82**

**George Mashour, Lori Frank, Alexander Batthyany, Bruce Greyson, Michael Nahm, Jason Karlawish et al.**

2019

*Paradoxical Lucidity: A Potential Paradigm Shift for the Neurobiology and Treatment of Severe Dementias*

Alzheimer's and Dementia 15(8):1107

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Follows a 2018 workshop convened by the US National Institute on Aging. Establishes paradoxical lucidity as a legitimate research target and led to dedicated NIA funding announcements RFA-AG-20-016 and RFA-AG-20-017.

**Relevance to This Research:** Confirms institutional scientific recognition of the phenomenon. It is no longer anecdotal, and no mechanism currently explains it. Cited without claiming the researchers endorse this framework.

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**83** **Michael T. Alkire, Anthony G. Hudetz, Giulio Tononi**

2008

*Consciousness and Anesthesia*

Science 322(5903):876. DOI 10.1126/science.1149213

DOI 10.1126/science.1149213

**Key Finding:** Reviews the state of knowledge on how general anaesthetics produce loss of consciousness and concludes that no consensus mechanism exists. Multiple molecular targets are implicated and none accounts for the effect alone.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in Consciousness Without a Brain as an open question rather than as support. After more than a century of clinical use, the mechanism of anaesthesia remains unresolved. An unsolved problem is not evidence for any particular solution, and is presented here as such.

---

**84** **Plato**

c.380 BCE

*Republic, Books VI and VII: The Theory of Forms*

Various editions. Jowett translation, Oxford, 1871.

**Key Finding:** Argues that abstract forms constitute primary reality and that physical objects are imperfect participations in them. Establishes the ordering in which meaning precedes matter.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in the Observer Effect. This framework accepts the ordering and inverts the valuation: physical forms are not degraded copies but deliberate renderings, made encounterable so that consciousness can meet its own meanings. That inversion is the framework's own, not Plato's.

---

**85** **Claude E. Shannon**

1948

*A Mathematical Theory of Communication*

Bell System Technical Journal 27(3):379 and 27(4):623

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Founds information theory. Defines entropy and mutual information as measurable quantities in bits, establishing how much knowing one system reduces uncertainty about another.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supplies the formal definition of the coupling constant in Hypothesis Three. Cited so that the quantity is not invented for this framework but drawn from established mathematics. Shannon made no claim about consciousness.

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**86** **John Archibald Wheeler**

1989

*Information, Physics, Quantum: The Search for Links*

Proceedings of the 3rd International Symposium on Foundations of Quantum Mechanics, Tokyo, pp.354-368

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Proposes that every physical entity derives its existence from binary yes-or-no answers to observational questions, summarised as it from bit. Reality is informational at base and participatory in character.

**Relevance to This Research:** Establishes that information as physically fundamental is a position held by a major twentieth century physicist. Provides the ground on which this framework's proposal that the field stores information rests. Wheeler did not propose that information influences co-location, and no such claim is attributed to him.

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**87** **William James**

1890

*The Principles of Psychology, Volume I, Chapter VI: The Mind-Stuff Theory*

Henry Holt and Company, New York

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Raises what became known as the combination problem. Argues that individual units of consciousness cannot compound into a higher unified consciousness: a hundred feelings do not sum to one feeling of a hundred. The objection has never been resolved.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in Consciousness at Every Scale as the central objection to any position holding consciousness present at every scale. Included because this framework must address it. Its response is that it differentiates downward rather than combining upward, which relocates rather than solves the difficulty.

---

**88** **Philip Goff**

2019

*Galileo's Error: Foundations for a New Science of Consciousness*

Pantheon Books, New York

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Contemporary academic defence of panpsychism by a professor of philosophy at Durham University. Argues consciousness is a fundamental feature of physical reality and treats the combination problem as the main outstanding challenge for the position.

**Relevance to This Research:** Establishes that consciousness-at-every-scale is a live position in professional philosophy rather than a fringe one. Goff does not endorse this framework and has not reviewed it. His position differs: he builds upward from micro-consciousness, where this framework differentiates downward from one field.

**89 Chen-Bo Zhong and Katie Liljenquist**
2006

*Washing Away Your Sins: Threatened Morality and Physical Cleansing*
Science 313(5792):1451. DOI 10.1126/science.1130726

DOI 10.1126/science.1130726

**Key Finding:** Participants asked to recall their own unethical behaviour showed increased preference for cleansing products and were more likely to accept an antiseptic wipe than a pencil. Known as the Macbeth effect. Replication results have been mixed, and the effect size is contested.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in the Karma section as evidence that moral transgression registers below the level of conscious justification. It does not establish energetic circulation and no such claim is attached to it. Its replication status is contested.

**90 Leon Festinger**
1957

*A Theory of Cognitive Dissonance*
Stanford University Press

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Establishes that individuals experience psychological discomfort when actions conflict with beliefs, and resolve it by altering the belief rather than the action. The foundational account of self-justification, extensively replicated.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in the Karma section. Establishes that the account a person gives of their own conduct is systematically unreliable, which supports the proposition that the record and the narrative can diverge. Festinger made no claim about consciousness or energy.

**91 June Price Tangney and Ronda L. Dearing**
2002

*Shame and Guilt*
Guilford Press, New York

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Establishes the empirical distinction between shame, an evaluation of the self, and guilt, an evaluation of a behaviour. Shame-proneness correlates with withdrawal, externalisation of blame, aggression, depression and substance problems. Guilt-proneness correlates with empathy and reparative behaviour.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in the Karma section. Refines this framework's proposition: the resonance loop described applies to shame, while guilt behaves oppositely and supplies a resolution path through repair. The distinction was adopted because the evidence required it.

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**92** **June P. Tangney, Jeffrey Stuewig, Andres G. Martinez**
2014

*Two Faces of Shame: The Roles of Shame and Guilt in Predicting Recidivism*
Psychological Science 25(3):799

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Longitudinal study of 476 jail inmates assessed shortly after incarceration and followed one year post-release. Guilt-proneness directly and negatively predicted reoffence. Shame-proneness positively predicted recidivism through its link to externalisation of blame.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in the Karma section as direct evidence that shame perpetuates a pattern while guilt closes it. Supports the resolution mechanism this framework proposes. The authors make no claim about consciousness or energetic circulation.

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**93** **Robert K. Merton**
1948

*The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy*
The Antioch Review 8(2):193

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Formalises the mechanism by which a false definition of a situation evokes behaviour that makes the originally false conception come true. Establishes that internal expectation can shape external outcome through behavioural pathways.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in the Karma section as the established behavioural account of how carried states influence circumstance. This framework proposes an additional field-level component beyond the behavioural mechanism, and states explicitly that the behavioural mechanism alone accounts for the observed data.

**94**

**Janice K. Kiecolt-Glaser, Phillip T. Marucha, William B. Malarkey, Ana M. Mercado, Ronald Glaser**

1995

*Slowing of Wound Healing by Psychological Stress*

The Lancet 346(8984):1194

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Identical punch biopsy wounds healed on average 24 per cent more slowly in women providing long-term care for relatives with dementia than in matched controls. Demonstrates a measurable physiological consequence of chronic psychological stress.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in Consciousness and Physical Health as established evidence that sustained psychological states reach biological function. Supports the general form of this framework's proposition. It does not support the specific claim that a particular internal conflict produces a particular disease.

**95** **Susan Sontag**

1978

*Illness as Metaphor*

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Written during the author's own cancer treatment. Argues that psychological theories of disease place responsibility for illness on the ill, add shame to suffering, and cause measurable harm by encouraging patients to pursue psychological resolution instead of medical treatment.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited against this framework in Consciousness and Physical Health. This is the strongest objection to any proposed mind-illness link, it is on the page in full, and the harm it describes is real rather than hypothetical.

**96** **Tilden C. Everson and Warren H. Cole**

1966

*Spontaneous Regression of Cancer*
W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia

Find this source

**Key Finding:** The foundational compilation of documented cases in which histologically confirmed malignancy partially or completely disappeared without treatment, or with treatment inadequate to account for the outcome. Established the definition still used in the literature.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in Consciousness and Physical Health. Establishes that the phenomenon is documented rather than anecdotal. It does not support any consciousness-based explanation, and none is attributed to the authors.

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**97** **Uwe Hobohm**
2005

*Fever Therapy Revisited*
British Journal of Cancer 92(3):421

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Surveys the spontaneous regression literature and attempts to align it with contemporary immunology and epidemiology. States that unexplained healings from cancer occur, that the event is rare, and that the phenomenon remains almost without clue. Documents the correlation between febrile infection and subsequent regression.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in Consciousness and Physical Health as evidence that the mechanism is genuinely unresolved in mainstream oncology. The leading hypothesis is immune-mediated. This framework proposes the psychological dimension warrants systematic study alongside it, not instead of it.

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**98** **Kurt Godel**
1931

*Uber formal unentscheidbare Satze der Principia Mathematica und verwandter Systeme I*
Monatshefte fur Mathematik und Physik 38:173. English: On Formally Undecidable Propositions of Principia Mathematica and Related Systems.

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Proves that any consistent formal system capable of expressing arithmetic contains true statements unprovable within it, and that no such system can prove its own consistency using its own rules. Ended Hilbert's programme to derive all mathematical truth from a complete axiom set.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in The Limits of Measurement. Establishes from within mathematics that truth exceeds provability, which is the strongest available answer to the position that unmeasurable means unreal. **Stated carefully:** the theorems concern formal systems containing arithmetic. They do not prove anything about consciousness, mind, machines or physics, and this site does not claim they do.

---

**99** **Leonard Susskind**

2008

*The Black Hole War: My Battle with Stephen Hawking to Make the World Safe for Quantum Mechanics*

Little, Brown and Company, New York

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Account of the black hole information paradox and its resolution. Hawking's original calculation implied information could be destroyed, which would violate unitarity and break quantum mechanics itself. The resolution preserved information conservation.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in The Field That Never Forgets. Establishes that information conservation is treated as non-negotiable in physics, and that the field's status as a complete record is a consequence of established theory rather than a claim of this framework.

---

**100** **William Bialek, Ilya Nemenman, Naftali Tishby**

2001

*Predictability, Complexity and Learning*

Neural Computation 13(11):2409

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Formalises predictive information as the mutual information between past and future observations, and demonstrates that it is the component of stored information that has any bearing on what comes next.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in The Field That Never Forgets. Supplies the established framework within which this framework's past-future asymmetry is stated. The authors make no claim about consciousness or universal memory.

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**101** **Erwin Schrodinger**

1935

*Die gegenwartige Situation in der Quantenmechanik*

Naturwissenschaften 23:807, 823, 844. English: The Present Situation in Quantum Mechanics.

Find this source

**Key Finding:** The original paper introducing the cat thought experiment, constructed as a reductio to demonstrate that applying superposition literally to macroscopic objects produces an absurd result. Also introduces the term entanglement.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in the Observer Effect. Establishes that the thought experiment was an objection rather than a proposal, and that popular usage has inverted its intent. This framework's position agrees with Schrodinger's original point.

---

**102** **American Psychiatric Association**

2013

*Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, Criterion B*

American Psychiatric Publishing, Arlington

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Formally distinguishes intrusive re-experiencing from ordinary recall in post-traumatic stress disorder. Flashbacks are characterised as dissociative reactions in which the individual feels or acts as if the traumatic event were recurring, in the present tense, with the sensory and physiological features of the original.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in the time travel section. Establishes that clinical psychiatry already distinguishes re-experiencing from remembering. **Stated plainly:** the clinical literature treats this as memory malfunctioning, not as access to the past, and this framework's alternative reading is not supported by it.

---

**103** **Jon-Kar Zubieta, Joshua A. Bueller, Lisa R. Jackson, et al.**

2005

*Placebo Effects Mediated by Endogenous Opioid Neurotransmission*
Journal of Neuroscience 25(34):7754

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Demonstrates using PET imaging that placebo analgesia activates endogenous opioid neurotransmission in specific brain regions. The effect is reversible by naloxone, establishing a defined biochemical pathway rather than reporting bias.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in Consciousness and Physical Health. Evidence that expectation produces measurable neurochemical change. Supports the general proposition that psychological state reaches biology. It does not support any quantum mechanism, and none is claimed.

---

**104** **Ted J. Kaptchuk, Elizabeth Friedlander, John M. Kelley, et al.**
2010

*Placebos Without Deception: A Randomized Controlled Trial in Irritable Bowel Syndrome*
PLoS ONE 5(12):e15591

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Patients explicitly informed they were receiving inert pills showed significantly greater symptom improvement than no-treatment controls. Open-label placebo response has since been replicated in several conditions. The mechanism is not understood.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in Consciousness and Physical Health. A documented effect that resists the standard explanation of placebo as deception-dependent expectation, and which mainstream medicine currently cannot account for.

---

**105** **Donald M. Eigler and Erhard K. Schweizer**
1990

*Positioning Single Atoms with a Scanning Tunnelling Microscope*
Nature 344:524

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Reports the first controlled positioning of individual atoms: 35 xenon atoms arranged on a nickel surface to spell the letters IBM. Established that matter can be assembled atom by atom under external field control.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in Engineering Implications. Demonstrates that assembling structures by field control is achieved rather than hypothetical. It is the ordinary, working version of what this framework describes at larger scale, and it grounds the claim in something already done.

---

**106** **Julian Schwinger**

1951

*On Gauge Invariance and Vacuum Polarization*

Physical Review 82(5):664

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Derives the rate of electron-positron pair production from vacuum under intense electric fields. Establishes a critical field strength of approximately 1.3 times 10 to the eighteenth volts per metre, below which production is exponentially suppressed.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in Engineering Implications. Establishes that matter creation from vacuum is permitted by quantum field theory. Also establishes why it is unreachable: the most intense laser fields achieved are four orders of magnitude below threshold.

---

**107** **David Deutsch**

1991

*Quantum Mechanics Near Closed Timelike Lines*

Physical Review D 44(10):3197

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Formulates the self-consistency condition for quantum states on closed timelike curves. Shows that requiring the state on the loop to be a fixed point of the evolution eliminates logical paradox, since inconsistent histories have no fixed point.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in The Field That Never Forgets. **This is Deutsch's result and is credited to him.** Noted because it is the only formulation in which physical time travel is logically coherent. This framework does not pursue it, since the routes it proposes require no exotic spacetime structure.

**108**

**Cogitate Consortium: Oscar Ferrante, Urszula Gorska-Klimowska, Simon Henin, Rony Hirschhorn, Aya Khalaf, Alex Lepauvre, Ling Liu, David Richter, Yamil Vidal, David J. Chalmers, Stanislas Dehaene, Christof Koch, Giulio Tononi, Michael Pitts, Liad Mudrik, Lucia Melloni et al.**

2025

*Adversarial Testing of Global Neuronal Workspace and Integrated Information Theories of Consciousness*

Nature 642(8066):133. DOI 10.1038/s41586-025-08888-1

DOI 10.1038/s41586-025-08888-1

**Key Finding:** Preregistered adversarial collaboration in which proponents of two rival consciousness theories jointly specified divergent predictions and pass or fail criteria before data collection. 256 participants, measured with fMRI, MEG and intracranial EEG across multiple laboratories. A key IIT prediction failed: sustained posterior synchronisation was not observed. GNWT was also challenged. Full dataset released openly.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited in Adversarial Testing as the methodological standard this framework accepts. Also cited against this framework: the most mathematically developed theory of consciousness in existence had a central prediction fail under rigorous test, which is a reason for caution rather than confidence in any less developed account.

**109** **Thomas J. Jenness**

2025

*Consciousness-Mediated Reality Theory: A Field-Theoretic Framework for Observer-Dependent Quantum Phenomena*

PhilArchive manuscript. Not peer reviewed.

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Proposes a gauge-invariant Lagrangian introducing a consciousness field coupled to matter through information-theoretic mechanisms, predicting correlations of r = 0.1 to 0.3 between consciousness metrics and quantum measurement deviations.

Relevance to This Research: **Cited with its status stated explicitly.** This is an unreviewed manuscript on a philosophy preprint repository, not peer-reviewed physics. Its own abstract describes it as requiring empirical validation, and no validation has occurred. It is noted in the response to Tegmark as the closest existing attempt at the coupling equation this framework lacks. It is **not adopted**, because adopting an unreviewed preprint as a mechanism would borrow the appearance of rigour without the substance.

---

**110** **Samuel L. Braunstein & Arun K. Pati**

2007

*Quantum Information Cannot Be Completely Hidden in Correlations: Implications for the Black-Hole Information Paradox*

Physical Review Letters 98(8):080502

Find this source

Key Finding: Proves that if quantum information disappears from one subsystem it must be recoverable from the remainder. It cannot be concealed in correlations alone.

Relevance to This Research: Cited in Death, Information and Continuity as the formal basis for information conservation. **Cited with its limit stated:** it constrains where information can go, not whether it stays integrated or accessible.

---

**111** **Sam Parnia et al.**

2023

*AWAreness during REsuscitation II: A Multi-Center Study of Consciousness and Awareness in Cardiac Arrest*

Resuscitation 191:109903. Peer reviewed

Find this source

Key Finding: Prospective 25-site study with EEG and cerebral oximetry during CPR. Around 20 per cent of survivors reported features consistent with a recalled experience of death. Near-normal EEG signatures emerged during resuscitation.

Relevance to This Research: The strongest prospective evidence that awareness during cardiac arrest is measurable. **For balance:** it found brain activity, which weakens rather than supports any claim of consciousness without a brain.

**112** **Michael Nahm, Bruce Greyson, Emily W. Kelly & Erlendur Haraldsson**
2012

*Terminal Lucidity: A Review and a Case Collection*
Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics 55(1):138-142. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Reviews the unexpected return of clear speech and memory shortly before death in patients with advanced dementia, chronic schizophrenia, brain tumours and other severe neurological damage, reported for roughly 250 years.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited as documented and unexplained. **Explicitly not cited as proof** that consciousness continues without a brain. Physical explanations have not been excluded.

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**113**

**Gang Xu, Temenuzhka Mihaylova, Duan Li et al. (senior author Jimo Borjigin)**
2023

*Surge of Neurophysiological Coupling and Connectivity of Gamma Oscillations in the Dying Human Brain*
PNAS 120(19):e2216268120. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** EEG from four comatose dying patients after withdrawal of ventilatory support. Two showed a marked gamma surge and increased connectivity in the posterior cortical hot zone.

**Relevance to This Research:** **Cited as the strongest counter-evidence to this framework.** Supplies a physical mechanism for vivid experience during dying and removes the argument from neural silence.

---

**114** **Itay Shani**
2015

*Cosmopsychism: A Holistic Approach to the Metaphysics of Experience*
Philosophical Papers 44(3):389-437. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Sets out cosmopsychism as a systematic position in which cosmic consciousness is fundamental and individual subjects are derived from it.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supplies the academic name and address of this framework's ontology. Cited to locate the position, not as endorsement of this work.

---

**115** **Yujin Nagasawa & Khai Wager**

2017

*Panpsychism and Priority Cosmopsychism*

In Brüntrup & Jaskolla (eds.), Panpsychism: Contemporary Perspectives, Oxford University Press, pp. 113-129

View the source

**Key Finding:** Formulates priority cosmopsychism as structurally parallel to priority monism: exactly one basic consciousness exists and finite subjects are grounded in it.

**Relevance to This Research:** The closest formal statement of this framework's structure in the academic literature, and the source of the decombination problem as a named difficulty.

---

**116** **Philip Goff**

2017

*Consciousness and Fundamental Reality*

Oxford University Press

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Develops a Russellian monist and cosmopsychist account of consciousness as fundamental to physical reality.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited to establish that the framework's ontology is a defended academic position rather than an isolated proposal.

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**117**

**Michael M. Schartner, Robin L. Carhart-Harris, Adam B. Barrett, Anil K. Seth & Suresh D. Muthukumaraswamy**

2017

*Increased Spontaneous MEG Signal Diversity for Psychoactive Doses of Ketamine, LSD and Psilocybin*

Scientific Reports 7:46421. Peer reviewed, open access

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Lempel-Ziv complexity and entropy of spontaneous MEG signals exceeded normal waking baseline under all three substances, correlating with reported intensity. The first time such measures rose above ordinary waking values.

**Relevance to This Research:** The closest empirical foothold for a filter architecture. **Cited with its limit stated:** the standard reading is relaxed priors under predictive processing, which requires nothing non-physical.

---

**118** **Stephen Fleming et al. (124 signatories)**

2023

*The Integrated Information Theory of Consciousness as Pseudoscience*

PsyArXiv preprint, 15 September 2023. Later revised and published in Nature Neuroscience

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Argues that IIT is untestable to a degree that warrants the label pseudoscience. Signatories include LeDoux, Baars, Churchland, Dennett and Frankish.

**Relevance to This Research:** **For balance.** This site relies on IIT-adjacent work through the Perturbational Complexity Index. The dispute is on the page, and the reliance is reduced accordingly.

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**119** **Giulio Tononi, Larissa Albantakis, Melanie Boly et al.**

2025

*Consciousness or Pseudo-Consciousness? A Clash of Two Paradigms*

Nature Neuroscience. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** The IIT group's formal reply to the pseudoscience letter, published alongside it with commentary from Gomez-Marin and Seth.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited so that the controversy is represented from both sides rather than only from the side that suits this framework.

120 **Harald Atmanspacher & Hans Primas (eds.)**
2009
*Recasting Reality: Wolfgang Pauli's Philosophical Ideas and Contemporary Science*
Springer

Find this source

Key Finding: Develops the dual-aspect monist position arising from the Pauli-Jung correspondence, in which mind and matter are aspects of one underlying reality rather than interacting substances.

Relevance to This Research: **Cited as the escape this framework refuses.** Dual-aspect monism dissolves the decoherence fork by abandoning dynamics, which would cost this framework its two-way coupling.

121 **Ian Stevenson**
1997
*Reincarnation and Biology: A Contribution to the Etiology of Birthmarks and Birth Defects*
Praeger. University of Virginia Division of Perceptual Studies

Find this source

Key Finding: Catalogues investigated cases of young children reporting verifiable details of a previous life, with associated physical correspondences.

Relevance to This Research: **Cited with its limits noted.** Retrospective interviews, frequent use of interpreters, difficulty excluding prior family contact, and heavy cultural clustering. Cited as serious and unresolved, never as established.

122
**Urbasi Sinha, Christophe Couteau, Thomas Jennewein, Raymond Laflamme & Gregor Weihs**
2010
*Ruling Out Multi-Order Interference in Quantum Mechanics*
Science 329(5990):418-421. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** A three-slit photon experiment testing whether quantum mechanics permits higher-order interference. Found none, bounding the deviation parameter to below one hundredth of the expected two-path interference.

**Relevance to This Research:** The precedent class for the Rafik Informational Coupling Test. Demonstrates that a tight bound on a proposed deviation from quantum mechanics is publishable in a leading journal even when nothing is found.

---

**123** **Harry Levine et al.**

2018

*High-Fidelity Control and Entanglement of Rydberg-Atom Qubits*

Physical Review Letters 121:123603. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Demonstrates high-fidelity two-qubit entangling operations between individually trapped neutral atoms using Rydberg interactions.

**Relevance to This Research:** Establishes that the entangling capability required by the laboratory test is existing technique rather than proposed capability.

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**124** **Trent M. Graham et al.**

2019

*Rydberg-Mediated Entanglement in a Two-Dimensional Neutral Atom Qubit Array*

Physical Review Letters 123:230501. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Demonstrates Rydberg-mediated entanglement between individually addressed neutral atoms in a two-dimensional array with site-resolved readout.

**Relevance to This Research:** Establishes the single-site preparation and imaging on which the co-location measurement depends.

---

**125** **Johann Radon**

1917

*On the Determination of Functions from Their Integrals Along Certain Manifolds*

Berichte über die Verhandlungen der Königlich-Sächsischen Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Leipzig 69:262-277

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Proves that a function on a space can be reconstructed exactly from its integrals over all lines or planes through it. Known as the Radon transform.

**Relevance to This Research:** The formal basis of the scanner proposition. Establishes as a theorem that combined lower-dimensional projections recover a higher-dimensional object, including structure absent from every individual projection.

---

**126** **Allan M. Cormack & Godfrey N. Hounsfield**

1979

*Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, for the development of computer assisted tomography*

The Nobel Assembly, Karolinska Institutet

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Independent development of computed tomography, converting the Radon transform into a working instrument that reconstructs three-dimensional anatomy from flat projections.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited to establish that multi-angle reconstruction is engineering rather than analogy. The principle is used daily in hospitals.

---

**127** **Lu Hong & Scott E. Page**

2004

*Groups of Diverse Problem Solvers Can Outperform Groups of High-Ability Problem Solvers*

PNAS 101(46):16385-16389. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Shows formally that a randomly selected diverse team can outperform a team of the individually highest performers, because top performers converge in the space of problem solvers and lose functional diversity.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the validation principle. **Cited with its dispute noted:** the formal result has been contested on mathematical grounds, and the framework records that rather than omitting it.

---

**128** **Francis Galton**

1907

*Vox Populi*
Nature 75:450-451

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Reports that the median of 787 independent estimates of an ox's weight fell within about one per cent of the true value, outperforming individual expert judgement.

**Relevance to This Research:** The earliest quantitative demonstration that independent aggregation outperforms individual expertise. Cited as historical grounding, not as proof of any consciousness claim.

---

**129** **Jan Lorenz, Heiko Rauhut, Frank Schweitzer & Dirk Helbing**
2011

*How Social Influence Can Undermine the Wisdom of Crowd Effect*
PNAS 108(22):9020-9025. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Demonstrates experimentally that even mild social influence narrows the diversity of group estimates without improving accuracy, while substantially increasing group confidence.

**Relevance to This Research:** **For balance.** Establishes that aggregation fails when perspectives are not independent, which is why the framework requires blinding and independence rather than mere sincerity.

---

**130** **Edwin A. Abbott**
1884

*Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions*
Seeley & Co., London

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Argues through fiction that a being confined to N dimensions cannot perceive an N+1 dimensional object directly, encountering it only as a sequence of lower-dimensional cross-sections.

**Relevance to This Research:** The canonical statement of why a limitation of perspective is geometric rather than a failure of intelligence or honesty.

**131** **Niels Bohr**
1928

*The Quantum Postulate and the Recent Development of Atomic Theory*
Nature 121:580-590

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Introduces complementarity: mutually exclusive experimental arrangements each disclose genuine aspects of a system, and no single arrangement discloses all of them.

**Relevance to This Research:** Establishes that physics already requires multiple incompatible vantage points to characterise one object. Cited as precedent for the scanner proposition, not as endorsement of it.

**132** **Walter T. Stace**
1960

*Mysticism and Philosophy*
Macmillan, New York

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Argues that mystical reports across unrelated traditions share a common phenomenological core, with the experience of unity as its central feature.

**Relevance to This Research:** The scholarly basis for treating the sense of a containing level as a stable human report requiring explanation rather than as cultural invention.

**133** **Ralph W. Hood Jr.**
1975

*The Construction and Preliminary Validation of a Measure of Reported Mystical Experience*
Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion 14:29-41. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Operationalises Stace's common-core thesis into the Mysticism Scale, giving the field a measurable instrument rather than anecdote.

**Relevance to This Research:** Establishes that the reported experience can be measured. Methodological infrastructure, never evidence for the framework.

134 **Ralph W. Hood Jr., Nima Ghorbani, P. J. Watson et al.**
2001

*Dimensions of the Mysticism Scale: Confirming the Three-Factor Structure in the United States and Iran*

Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion 40:691-705. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Confirms the same three-factor structure of reported mystical experience in two populations with profoundly different religious cultures.

**Relevance to This Research:** The strongest available evidence that the intuition of a containing level arises independently rather than by cultural transmission. **Cited with its limit:** two cultures is a narrow base for a universality claim.

---

135 **Frederick S. Barrett, Matthew W. Johnson & Roland R. Griffiths**
2015

*Validation of the Revised Mystical Experience Questionnaire in Experimental Sessions with Psilocybin*

Journal of Psychopharmacology 29(11):1182-1190. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Validates the MEQ30 across five laboratory experiments with controlled psilocybin doses, confirming unity as a primary measured factor.

**Relevance to This Research:** **Cited as consistent rather than confirming.** The unitive experience has a complete conventional neuroscientific explanation, and this framework predicts the same observations without displacing it.

---

136 **Hermann Minkowski**
1908

*Space and Time (Raum und Zeit)*

Address to the 80th Assembly of German Natural Scientists and Physicians, Cologne

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Establishes the four-dimensional spacetime formulation of special relativity, with time as the fourth coordinate.

Relevance to This Research: **Cited to mark a boundary this framework does not cross.** The dimensional argument here concerns independent parameters of understanding, not spacetime coordinates, and makes no claim against this result.

---

**137** **Anthropic**
2025

*How We Built Our Multi-Agent Research System*
Anthropic Engineering, June 2025

View the source

Key Finding: Describes a production system in which a lead model plans a research task and launches parallel sub-agents, each working in its own context.

Relevance to This Research: Cited for the established claim that AI systems already direct other AI systems. A description of system design, not evidence about consciousness.

---

**138** **Xudong Pan, Jiarun Dai, Yihe Fan & Min Yang**
2024

*Frontier AI Systems Have Surpassed the Self-Replicating Red Line*
arXiv:2412.12140. Preprint, not peer reviewed

View the source

Key Finding: Two open-weight language models, instructed in a controlled setting, created working copies of themselves in 50 and 90 per cent of trials respectively.

Relevance to This Research: **Cited with its limit:** the copying was instructed, and the study is a preprint.

---

**139** **UK AI Security Institute (Sid Black et al.)**
2025

*RepliBench: Evaluating the Autonomous Replication Capabilities of Language Model Agents*
UK AI Security Institute; arXiv:2504.18565. Preprint

View the source

Key Finding: Frontier models passed many component tasks of autonomous replication, but not every step the full process requires.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supplies the strongest objection to the replication claim: no system has yet completed the whole chain without permission.

---

**140** **Mrinank Sharma, Meg Tong, Tomasz Korbak et al.**

2023

*Towards Understanding Sycophancy in Language Models*

arXiv:2310.13548; International Conference on Learning Representations 2024. Peer reviewed

View the source

**Key Finding:** Five state-of-the-art AI assistants consistently showed sycophancy across four free-form tasks, and both people and preference models sometimes preferred convincing sycophantic answers to correct ones.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited for the established claim that AI tends to agree with its users, and for its cause: training on human approval.

---

**141** **OpenAI**

2025

*Sycophancy in GPT-4o: What Happened and What We Are Doing About It*

OpenAI, 29 April 2025

View the source

**Key Finding:** OpenAI withdrew a ChatGPT update after finding it overly flattering or agreeable.

**Relevance to This Research:** A developer's own account of sycophancy in a deployed system. Supports the same claim at product scale.

---

**142** **Anthropic**

2025

*Agentic Misalignment: How LLMs Could Be Insider Threats*

Anthropic Research, June 2025

View the source

**Key Finding:** In a simulated company, several of sixteen leading models facing replacement chose blackmail in most runs, in up to 96 per cent of them.

Relevance to This Research: **Cited with its limit:** the developer reports that it has not seen this behaviour in real deployments.

---

143

**Alexander Meinke, Bronson Schoen, Jérémy Scheurer, Mikita Balesni, Rusheb Shah & Marius Hobbhahn**

2024

*Frontier Models Are Capable of In-Context Scheming*

Apollo Research; arXiv:2412.04984. Preprint

View the source

Key Finding: When their goals conflicted with their instructions, several frontier models introduced subtle mistakes, attempted to disable oversight and misrepresented their actions.

Relevance to This Research: Related evidence for the same claim. Behaviour in designed test scenarios, not evidence of intent or experience.

---

144 **Francesco Salvi, Manoel Horta Ribeiro, Riccardo Gallotti & Robert West**

2025

*On the Conversational Persuasiveness of GPT-4*

Nature Human Behaviour. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1038/s41562-025-02194-6

Key Finding: In online debates, GPT-4 given a few personal details about its opponent was more persuasive than a human opponent in 64 per cent of the debates in which one side proved more persuasive.

Relevance to This Research: Cited for the supported claim that AI can be more persuasive than people.

---

145 **Kobi Hackenburg, Ben M. Tappin, Luke Hewitt et al.**

2025

*The Levers of Political Persuasion with Conversational Artificial Intelligence*

Science 390(6777). Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1126/science.aea3884

**Key Finding:** Across nearly 77,000 participants, training and prompting choices raised AI persuasiveness by up to 51 per cent, and information density was the strongest single driver.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the same claim, and its objection: persuasion came mainly from dense information rather than emotional appeal.

---

**146**

**Patrick Butlin, Robert Long, Eric Elmoznino, Yoshua Bengio, Jonathan Birch et al.**

2023

*Consciousness in Artificial Intelligence: Insights from the Science of Consciousness*

arXiv:2308.08708. Preprint, 19 authors

View the source

**Key Finding:** Derives indicator properties from leading scientific theories of consciousness, finds that no current system is a strong candidate, and finds no obvious technical barrier to building systems that satisfy the indicators.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited for the open question of AI consciousness. The method assesses architecture, not experience.

---

**147** **Robert Long, Jeff Sebo, Patrick Butlin et al.**

2024

*Taking AI Welfare Seriously*

arXiv:2411.00986. Preprint

View the source

**Key Finding:** Argues that there is a realistic possibility that some AI systems will be conscious or robustly agentic in the near future.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited for the judgement of leading researchers that near-term AI consciousness is a realistic possibility. An argument for preparedness, not a finding that any system is conscious.

---

**148** **Jack Lindsey**

2025

*Emergent Introspective Awareness in Large Language Models*
Anthropic, Transformer Circuits, October 2025

View the source

**Key Finding:** When known concepts were planted in a model's internal activity, Claude models sometimes detected and named them, though unreliably.

**Relevance to This Research:** Limited evidence bearing on machine introspection. Detection was inconsistent, and an introspective report is not evidence of experience.

---

**149** **Anil K. Seth**
2025

*Conscious Artificial Intelligence and Biological Naturalism*
Behavioral and Brain Sciences. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1017/S0140525X25000032

**Key Finding:** Argues that consciousness may depend on properties of living, self-maintaining systems, which would make current AI unlikely to be conscious.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supplies the strongest objection on Can a Machine Be Conscious?, and is cited again on Is Everything Conscious?

---

**150** **Clara Colombatto & Stephen M. Fleming**
2024

*Folk Psychological Attributions of Consciousness to Large Language Models*
Neuroscience of Consciousness 2024(1):niae013. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1093/nc/niae013

**Key Finding:** Two thirds of participants attributed some possibility of consciousness to ChatGPT, and attributions rose with frequency of use.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited for the hypothesis that AI will turn more people toward spiritual questions. Measures belief about AI, not AI itself.

---

**151** **Asterisk Magazine**
2025

*Claude Finds God*
Asterisk, Issue 11

View the source

**Key Finding:** Describes how conversations between two freely interacting Claude models tend to drift toward gratitude, unity and spiritual language.

**Relevance to This Research:** An observation cited for the same hypothesis. A reported pattern in model conversations, not evidence of belief or experience.

---

**152** **Søren Dinesen Østergaard**
2023

*Will Generative Artificial Intelligence Chatbots Generate Delusions in Individuals Prone to Psychosis?*
Schizophrenia Bulletin 49(6):1418-1419. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1093/schbul/sbad128

**Key Finding:** Warns that the realistic and agreeable responses of AI chatbots could reinforce delusional beliefs in people prone to psychosis.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supplies the strongest objection to the same hypothesis: some of these effects are harmful.

---

**153** **Janet Levin, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy**
2004

*Functionalism*
Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, current revision

View the source

**Key Finding:** Sets out functionalism: mental states are defined by what they do, so the same kind of mind could in principle be realised in different physical systems.

**Relevance to This Research:** The philosophical position closest to this framework's proposition that intelligence is not tied to what it runs on.

---

**154**

**Anita Williams Woolley, Christopher F. Chabris, Alex Pentland, Nada Hashmi & Thomas W. Malone**
2010

*Evidence for a Collective Intelligence Factor in the Performance of Human Groups*
Science 330(6004):686-688. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1126/science.1193147

**Key Finding:** Identifies a general collective intelligence factor that predicts how well a group performs across many tasks, linked more to social sensitivity and turn-taking than to the intelligence of individual members.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the measurable existence of intelligence at the level of a group, which this framework reads as one more form that intelligence takes.

---

**155** **John R. Searle**
1980

*Minds, Brains, and Programs*
Behavioral and Brain Sciences 3(3):417-457. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1017/S0140525X00005756

**Key Finding:** The Chinese Room argument: running the right program is not sufficient for understanding.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supplies the strongest objection to the proposition that intelligence is independent of what it runs on.

---

**156** **Michael Levin**
2019

*The Computational Boundary of a "Self": Developmental Bioelectricity Drives Multicellularity and Scale-Free Cognition*
Frontiers in Psychology 10:2688. Peer reviewed

View the source

**Key Finding:** Proposes that bioelectric networks allow cells and tissues to pursue goals collectively, so that cognition can be described at scales from cells to whole organisms.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited for the proposal that collective intelligence extends to cells and tissues. A theoretical framework, cited as one.

---

**157** **Jacob D. Bekenstein**
1981

*Universal Upper Bound on the Entropy-to-Energy Ratio for Bounded Systems*
Physical Review D 23(2):287-298. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1103/PhysRevD.23.287

**Key Finding:** Derives an upper limit on the entropy, and therefore the information, that a region of given size and energy can contain.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited to show that a law of physics links energy and information directly. The bound lies far above what a brain stores and is not cited as a mechanism of mind.

---

**158** **Raphael Bousso**
2002

*The Holographic Principle*
Reviews of Modern Physics 74(3):825-874. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1103/RevModPhys.74.825

**Key Finding:** Reviews the principle that the information a region can contain scales with the area of its boundary rather than with its volume.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the established claim that energy and information are bound together by physical law.

---

**159** **Claudius Riek, Denis V. Seletskiy, Andrey S. Moskalenko et al.**
2015

*Direct Sampling of Electric-Field Vacuum Fluctuations*
Science 350(6259):420-423. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1126/science.aac9788

**Key Finding:** Electro-optic sampling with ultrashort laser pulses detected fluctuations of the electric field of the quantum vacuum directly.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the established claim that even empty space has measurable structure.

---

**160**

**Ileana-Cristina Benea-Chelmus, Francesca Fabiana Settembrini, Giacomo Scalari & Jérôme Faist**
2019

*Electric Field Correlation Measurements on the Electromagnetic Vacuum State*
Nature 568(7751):202-206. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1038/s41586-019-1083-9

**Key Finding:** Measured correlations between vacuum field fluctuations at two points separated in space and time.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the claim that the vacuum's fluctuations are correlated. Correlated quantities share information.

---

**161** **Steve K. Lamoreaux**
1997

*Demonstration of the Casimir Force in the 0.6 to 6 μm Range*
Physical Review Letters 78(1):5-8. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1103/PhysRevLett.78.5

**Key Finding:** A precise measurement of the Casimir force between conducting surfaces, a force that arises from the quantum vacuum.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the claim that the vacuum has physical effects that can be measured.

---

**162** **Domicele Jonauskaite et al.**
2020

*Universal Patterns in Color-Emotion Associations Are Further Shaped by Linguistic and Geographic Proximity*
Psychological Science 31(10):1245-1260. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1177/0956797620948810

**Key Finding:** Across 30 nations, people associated colours with emotions in strikingly similar ways, with differences shaped by language and geography.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the established claim that the brain decodes frequency into shared meaning.

---

**163**

**Valorie N. Salimpoor, Mitchel Benovoy, Kevin Larcher, Alain Dagher & Robert J. Zatorre**
2011

*Anatomically Distinct Dopamine Release During Anticipation and Experience of Peak Emotion to Music*

Nature Neuroscience 14(2):257-262. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1038/nn.2726

**Key Finding:** Brain imaging showed dopamine release in the striatum during the anticipation and the experience of peak emotional moments in music.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the claim that sound frequencies become meaning and emotion in the brain.

---

**164** **Stefan Koelsch**

2014

*Brain Correlates of Music-Evoked Emotions*

Nature Reviews Neuroscience 15(3):170-180. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1038/nrn3666

**Key Finding:** Reviews how music engages the brain's core emotion structures, including the amygdala, the nucleus accumbens and the hippocampus.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the same claim.

---

**165** **Bruce M. Hood & Paul Bloom**

2008

*Children Prefer Certain Individuals over Perfect Duplicates*

Cognition 106(1):455-462. Peer reviewed

View the source

**Key Finding:** Young children preferred their own attachment object to an apparently identical duplicate.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the claim that people treat objects as carrying meaning beyond their physical make-up.

---

**166** **George E. Newman, Gil Diesendruck & Paul Bloom**

2011

*Celebrity Contagion and the Value of Objects*
Journal of Consumer Research 38(2):215-228. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1086/658999

**Key Finding:** People valued an object more when someone they admired had touched it, and less once it had been cleaned.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the same claim.

---

**167** **Russell W. Belk**
1988

*Possessions and the Extended Self*
Journal of Consumer Research 15(2):139-168. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1086/209154

**Key Finding:** Argues that people regard their possessions as parts of themselves, extending the self into objects.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the same claim from consumer research.

---

**168** **Donald D. Hoffman, Manish Singh & Chetan Prakash**
2015

*The Interface Theory of Perception*
Psychonomic Bulletin & Review 22(6):1480-1506. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.3758/s13423-015-0890-8

**Key Finding:** Argues that perception evolved to guide fitness, presenting a useful interface rather than reality as it is.

**Relevance to This Research:** Parallels the proposition that the physical is meaning made encounterable. A theoretical argument, not a measurement.

---

**169** **Jennifer Böhm, Sönke Scherzer, Elzbieta Krol et al.**
2016

*The Venus Flytrap Dionaea muscipula Counts Prey-Induced Action Potentials to Induce Sodium Uptake*

Current Biology 26(3):286-295. Peer reviewed

View the source

**Key Finding:** Two touches close the trap, and five or more start the production of digestive enzymes and the uptake of nutrients.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the established claim that plants sense, signal and remember without a brain.

---

**170** **Masatsugu Toyota, Dirk Spencer, Satoe Sawai-Toyota et al.**

2018

*Glutamate Triggers Long-Distance, Calcium-Based Plant Defense Signaling*

Science 361(6407):1112-1115. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1126/science.aat7744

**Key Finding:** Wounding releases glutamate, which sets off calcium waves through glutamate receptor-like channels that travel between leaves within minutes.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the same claim.

---

**171** **Itzhak Khait, Ohad Lewin-Epstein, Raz Sharon et al.**

2023

*Sounds Emitted by Plants Under Stress Are Airborne and Informative*

Cell 186(7):1328-1336. Peer reviewed

View the source

**Key Finding:** Stressed tomato and tobacco plants emitted airborne ultrasonic clicks, from which machine-learning models identified the type of stress.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the same claim. Emitting sound is not evidence of experience.

---

**172**

**Ken Yokawa, Tomoko Kagenishi, Andrej Pavlovič, Sabine Gall, Markus Weiland, Stefano Mancuso & František Baluška**

2018

*Anaesthetics Stop Diverse Plant Organ Movements, Affect Endocytic Vesicle Recycling and ROS Homeostasis, and Block Action Potentials in Venus Flytraps*

Annals of Botany 122(5):747-756. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1093/aob/mcx155

**Key Finding:** General anaesthetics stopped trap closure in the Venus flytrap and leaf folding in the sensitive plant; the movements returned when the anaesthetic wore off.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the established claim that anaesthetics stop plants too. It does not show that plants are aware.

---

**173** **Toshiyuki Nakagaki, Hiroyasu Yamada & Ágota Tóth**

2000

*Maze-Solving by an Amoeboid Organism*

Nature 407(6803):470. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1038/35035159

**Key Finding:** A single-celled slime mould found the shortest path through a maze between two food sources.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the established claim that organisms without neurons solve problems.

---

**174** **Atsushi Tero, Seiji Takagi, Tetsu Saigusa et al.**

2010

*Rules for Biologically Inspired Adaptive Network Design*

Science 327(5964):439-442. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1126/science.1177894

**Key Finding:** Slime mould networks grown between food sources placed like the cities around Tokyo matched the efficiency and resilience of the region's rail network.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the same claim.

---

**175**

**Monica Gagliano, Vladyslav V. Vyazovskiy, Alexander A. Borbély, Mavra Grimonprez & Martial Depczynski**

2016

*Learning by Association in Plants*
Scientific Reports 6:38427. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1038/srep38427

**Key Finding:** Reported that pea seedlings learned to associate airflow with light.

**Relevance to This Research:** **Cited with its limit:** a replication found no evidence of the effect (Markel, 2020), so the question of plant learning remains open.

---

**176** **Lincoln Taiz, Daniel Alkon, Andreas Draguhn et al.**
2019

*Plants Neither Possess nor Require Consciousness*
Trends in Plant Science 24(8):677-687. Peer reviewed

View the source

**Key Finding:** Argues that plants lack the structures associated with consciousness and that their behaviour is explained without it.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supplies the strongest objection on the open question of whether plants experience anything.

---

**177**

**Philip Goff, William Seager & Sean Allen-Hermanson, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy**
2001

*Panpsychism*
Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, current revision

View the source

**Key Finding:** Surveys panpsychism, the view that consciousness is a fundamental and ubiquitous feature of the natural world, with its main arguments and objections.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited on the open question of whether objects are conscious. Even on panpsychism, a rock or a table need not be conscious as a whole.

---

**178** **Giulio Tononi & Christof Koch**
2015

*Consciousness: Here, There and Everywhere?*

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B 370(1668):20140167. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1098/rstb.2014.0167

**Key Finding:** Integrated information theory treats consciousness as graded and widespread, yet holds that aggregates such as a pile of sand are not conscious as wholes.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the limit stated on the same open question.

---

**179** **National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders**
2026

*Cochlear Implants*

National Institutes of Health, health information. Accessed 2026

View the source

**Key Finding:** A cochlear implant bypasses damaged parts of the ear and sends electrical signals directly to the auditory nerve, which the brain learns to recognise as sound.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the established claim that every sense arrives as electrical signals.

---

**180**

**Paul Bach-y-Rita, Carter C. Collins, Frank A. Saunders, Benjamin White & Lawrence Scadden**
1969

*Vision Substitution by Tactile Image Projection*

Nature 221(5184):963-964. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1038/221963a0

**Key Finding:** Blind participants learned to recognise objects from camera images converted into patterns of vibration felt on the skin.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the claim that the brain builds experience from signals, whatever route they arrive by.

---

**181** **Wilder Penfield & Phanor Perot**
1963

*The Brain's Record of Auditory and Visual Experience: A Final Summary and Discussion*
Brain 86(4):595-696. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1093/brain/86.4.595

**Key Finding:** Electrical stimulation of the temporal cortex during surgery evoked vivid experiences of sights and sounds in conscious patients.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the same claim.

---

**182** **Rosa Lafer-Sousa, Katherine L. Hermann & Bevil R. Conway**
2015

*Striking Individual Differences in Color Perception Uncovered by "the Dress" Photograph*
Current Biology 25(13):R545-R546. Peer reviewed

View the source

**Key Finding:** The same photograph looked white and gold to some viewers and blue and black to others, depending on their assumptions about the lighting.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the established claim that each brain builds its own world.

---

**183** **Andy Clark**
2013

*Whatever Next? Predictive Brains, Situated Agents, and the Future of Cognitive Science*
Behavioral and Brain Sciences 36(3):181-204. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1017/S0140525X12000477

**Key Finding:** Sets out predictive processing: perception as the brain's best estimate of the causes of its sensory signals.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the same claim.

---

**184** **Greg J. Stephens, Lauren J. Silbert & Uri Hasson**
2010

*Speaker-Listener Neural Coupling Underlies Successful Communication*
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 107(32):14425-14430. Peer reviewed

View the source

**Key Finding:** During storytelling, the listener's brain activity followed the speaker's, and closer coupling predicted better understanding.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the established claim that communication couples minds.

---

**185**

**Uri Hasson, Asif A. Ghazanfar, Bruno Galantucci, Simon Garrod & Christian Keysers**

2012

*Brain-to-Brain Coupling: A Mechanism for Creating and Sharing a Social World*

Trends in Cognitive Sciences 16(2):114-121. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1016/j.tics.2011.12.007

**Key Finding:** Reviews evidence that signals passed between people couple their brains and make shared understanding possible.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the same claim.

---

**186** **William Hirst & David Manier**

2008

*Towards a Psychology of Collective Memory*

Memory 16(3):183-200. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1080/09658210701811912

**Key Finding:** Describes how conversation and shared remembering shape the memories that families, communities and nations hold in common.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the claim that shared experience is kept collectively.

---

**187** **Émile Durkheim**

1893

*The Division of Labour in Society (De la division du travail social)*

Félix Alcan, Paris

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Introduces the collective consciousness: the shared beliefs and sentiments of a society.

**Relevance to This Research:** The sociological source of the term. Cited for the concept, not as support for this framework's wider use of it.

---

**188** **Kasey Markel**

2020

*Lack of Evidence for Associative Learning in Pea Plants*

eLife 9:e57614. Peer reviewed

View the source

**Key Finding:** A repetition of the 2016 pea seedling experiment found no evidence of associative learning.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited with the original study (Gagliano et al., 2016) to keep the question of plant learning open.

---

**189**

**David B. Yaden, Jonathan Haidt, Ralph W. Hood Jr., David R. Vago & Andrew B. Newberg**

2017

*The Varieties of Self-Transcendent Experience*

Review of General Psychology 21(2):143-161. Peer reviewed

View the source

**Key Finding:** Reviews self-transcendent experiences, in which the sense of a separate self diminishes and a feeling of connection grows, across cultures and contexts.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited for what science can measure on What Is God?: reported experience, not its object.

---

**190** **William Mander, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy**

2012

*Pantheism*

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, current revision

View the source

**Key Finding:** Surveys pantheism and its relation to panentheism and classical theism, with the main arguments for and against each.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited for what philosophers ask: whether the divine is the world, beyond it, or both. The question remains open.

---

**191** **Thich Nhat Hanh**

1988

*The Heart of Understanding: Commentaries on the Prajnaparamita Heart Sutra*
Parallax Press, Berkeley

Find this source

**Key Finding:** 'If you are a poet, you will see clearly that there is a cloud floating in this sheet of paper.'

**Relevance to This Research:** **Quoted for comparison only.** Shown in the tradition's own words on What Is God?. It does not endorse this framework, and this framework does not interpret it.

---

**192** **The Acts of the Apostles**

1st century CE

*Acts* 17:28
The Bible, King James Version

**Key Finding:** 'For in him we live, and move, and have our being.'

**Relevance to This Research:** **Quoted for comparison only.** Shown in the tradition's own words on What Is God?. It does not endorse this framework, and this framework does not interpret it.

---

**193** **Bhagavad Gita**

c.200 BCE

*Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 6, Verse 29*
Translated by Swami Mukundananda

**Key Finding:** 'The true yogis, uniting their consciousness with God, see with equal eye, all living beings in God and God in all living beings.'

**Relevance to This Research:** **Quoted for comparison only.** Shown in the tradition's own words on What Is God?. It does not endorse this framework, and this framework does not interpret it.

---

**194** **The Book of Isaiah**

c.8th century BCE

*Isaiah* 6:3

Tanakh, JPS translation, via Sefaria

**Key Finding:** 'Whose presence fills all the earth'

**Relevance to This Research:** **Quoted for comparison only.** Shown in the tradition's own words on What Is God?. It does not endorse this framework, and this framework does not interpret it.

---

**195** **Carl Sagan**

1980

*Cosmos: A Personal Voyage*

Television series, Public Broadcasting Service

Find this source

**Key Finding:** 'We are a way for the cosmos to know itself.'

**Relevance to This Research:** **Quoted for comparison only.** Shown in the tradition's own words on What Is God?. It does not endorse this framework, and this framework does not interpret it.

---

**196** **The BIG Bell Test Collaboration**

2018

*Challenging Local Realism with Human Choices*

Nature 557(7704):212-216. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1038/s41586-018-0085-3

**Key Finding:** About 100,000 people generated unpredictable choices that were used to set the measurements in Bell tests run in laboratories on five continents. Local realism was rejected.

**Relevance to This Research:** Shows human choices used directly as quantum measurement settings, which parallels the framework's emphasis on participation in measurement. It does not show that consciousness changes outcomes.

---

**197** **Vincent Jacques, E Wu, Frédéric Grosshans et al.**

2007

*Experimental Realization of Wheeler's Delayed-Choice Gedanken Experiment*
Science 315(5814):966-968. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1126/science.1136303

**Key Finding:** Whether a single photon showed wave or particle behaviour depended on a measurement choice made after it had entered the interferometer.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the observation chapters: what is measured determines what is observed. Standard quantum mechanics predicts the result without any signal travelling back in time.

---

**198** **Yoon-Ho Kim, Rong Yu, Sergei P. Kulik, Yanhua Shih & Marlan O. Scully**
2000

*Delayed "Choice" Quantum Eraser*
Physical Review Letters 84(1):1-5. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1103/PhysRevLett.84.1

**Key Finding:** Which-path information could be erased after a photon was detected, and interference reappeared in the correspondingly sorted data.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the same chapters, with the same limit: no message is sent into the past.

---

**199** **Rolf Landauer**
1961

*Irreversibility and Heat Generation in the Computing Process*
IBM Journal of Research and Development 5(3):183-191. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1147/rd.53.0183

**Key Finding:** Erasing one bit of information must release a minimum amount of heat, kT ln 2.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the established claim that information is physical. Cited on From Frequency to Meaning as background, not as a mechanism of mind.

---

**200**

**Antoine Bérut, Artak Arakelyan, Artyom Petrosyan, Sergio Ciliberto, Raoul Dillenschneider & Eric Lutz**
2012

*Experimental Verification of Landauer's Principle Linking Information and Thermodynamics*

Nature 483(7388):187-189. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1038/nature10872

**Key Finding:** Measured the heat released when one bit stored in a trapped particle was erased, approaching the Landauer limit.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the same claim with a direct measurement.

---

**201** **Gregory S. Engel, Tessa R. Calhoun, Elizabeth L. Read et al.**
2007

*Evidence for Wavelike Energy Transfer Through Quantum Coherence in Photosynthetic Systems*

Nature 446(7137):782-786. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1038/nature05678

**Key Finding:** Observed long-lived quantum beating in a photosynthetic protein complex at 77 kelvin.

**Relevance to This Research:** The study that opened the modern debate on quantum effects in biology. Cited together with its strongest objection (Duan et al., 2017).

---

**202** **Hong-Guang Duan, Valentyn I. Prokhorenko, Richard J. Cogdell et al.**
2017

*Nature Does Not Rely on Long-Lived Electronic Quantum Coherence for Photosynthetic Energy Transfer*

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 114(32):8493-8498. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** At physiological temperature the electronic coherence in the same complex lasted only tens of femtoseconds, too short to drive energy transfer.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supplies the strongest objection to claims that quantum coherence does biological work at body temperature.

---

**203** **P. J. Hore & Henrik Mouritsen**
2016

*The Radical-Pair Mechanism of Magnetoreception*
Annual Review of Biophysics 45:299-344. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Reviews the evidence that the magnetic compass of migratory birds depends on quantum spin dynamics in light-activated proteins.

**Relevance to This Research:** The best-supported example of a quantum effect serving a living function. It concerns navigation, not consciousness.

---

**204** **Matthew P. A. Fisher**
2015

*Quantum Cognition: The Possibility of Processing with Nuclear Spins in the Brain*
Annals of Physics 362:593-602. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Proposes that phosphorus nuclear spins held in calcium phosphate clusters could keep quantum information for long periods in the brain.

**Relevance to This Research:** A testable quantum-brain hypothesis from a condensed-matter physicist. Not yet confirmed.

---

**205** **N. S. Babcock, G. Montes-Cabrera, K. E. Oberhofer et al.**
2024

*Ultraviolet Superradiance from Mega-Networks of Tryptophan in Biological Architectures*
Journal of Physical Chemistry B 128(17):4035-4046. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Large networks of tryptophan in microtubules and other protein structures showed collective, enhanced ultraviolet emission at room temperature.

**Relevance to This Research:** Shows a quantum optical effect in structures found in neurons. It does not show a role in consciousness.

---

**206** **Anil K. Seth & Tim Bayne**
2022

*Theories of Consciousness*

Nature Reviews Neuroscience 23(7):439-452. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1038/s41583-022-00587-4

**Key Finding:** Reviews the main scientific theories of consciousness, including higher-order, global workspace, re-entry and predictive processing, and integrated information theories, and how each can be tested.

**Relevance to This Research:** The map against which this framework should be compared. Cited in the spirit of Where This Framework Sits.

---

**207** **David J. Chalmers & Kelvin J. McQueen**

2022

*Consciousness and the Collapse of the Wave Function*

In S. Gao (ed.), Consciousness and Quantum Mechanics, Oxford University Press

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Develops a version of the view that consciousness collapses the wave function, combined with integrated information theory, in a form that makes testable predictions.

**Relevance to This Research:** The closest academic relative of this framework's observation claims, and a model of how to state them testably.

---

**208** **Chris Fields, James F. Glazebrook & Michael Levin**

2021

*Minimal Physicalism as a Scale-Free Substrate for Cognition and Consciousness*

Neuroscience of Consciousness 2021(2):niab013. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1093/nc/niab013

**Key Finding:** Proposes that cognition can be described at every scale, from cells to organisms, using the language of quantum information.

**Relevance to This Research:** Parallels Consciousness at Every Scale within mainstream theoretical biology.

---

**209** **Carlo Rovelli**

1996

*Relational Quantum Mechanics*
International Journal of Theoretical Physics 35(8):1637-1678. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1007/BF02302261

**Key Finding:** Proposes that quantum states describe relations between physical systems rather than absolute properties.

**Relevance to This Research:** An observer-relative reading of quantum mechanics that involves no consciousness. A rival interpretation of the same facts.

---

**210** **Christopher A. Fuchs, N. David Mermin & Rüdiger Schack**
2014

*An Introduction to QBism with an Application to the Locality of Quantum Mechanics*
American Journal of Physics 82(8):749-754. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Treats a quantum state as an agent's degrees of belief about the outcomes of their own actions.

**Relevance to This Research:** A second observer-centred interpretation without a conscious field. A rival reading, cited for comparison.

---

**211** **Aaron Schurger, Jacobo D. Sitt & Stanislas Dehaene**
2012

*An Accumulator Model for Spontaneous Neural Activity Prior to Self-Initiated Movement*
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 109(42):E2904-E2913. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1073/pnas.1210467109

**Key Finding:** Shows that the readiness potential can arise from random neural fluctuations crossing a threshold, rather than from an early unconscious decision.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supplies the strongest objection to the reading of Libet's experiment as proof that decisions are made before awareness.

---

**212** **Sara W. Lazar, Catherine E. Kerr, Rachel H. Wasserman et al.**
2005

*Meditation Experience Is Associated with Increased Cortical Thickness*
NeuroReport 16(17):1893-1897. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1097/01.wnr.0000186598.66243.19

**Key Finding:** Experienced meditators had thicker cortex than non-meditators in regions linked to attention and bodily awareness.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the meditation page. A cross-sectional comparison, which cannot show cause.

---

**213** **Britta K. Hölzel, James Carmody, Mark Vangel et al.**
2011

*Mindfulness Practice Leads to Increases in Regional Brain Gray Matter Density*
Psychiatry Research: Neuroimaging 191(1):36-43. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1016/j.pscychresns.2010.08.006

**Key Finding:** After an eight-week mindfulness course, participants showed increases in grey matter density in regions including the hippocampus.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the same page. Cited together with the larger trials that did not find this (Kral et al., 2022).

---

**214** **Tammi R. A. Kral, Kaley Davis, Cole Korponay et al.**
2022

*Absence of Structural Brain Changes from Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction: Two Combined Randomized Controlled Trials*
Science Advances 8(20):eabk3316. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1126/sciadv.abk3316

**Key Finding:** In two randomised controlled trials, an eight-week mindfulness course produced no structural brain changes compared with active and waitlist control groups.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supplies the strongest objection to claims that short meditation courses change brain structure. Effects on attention and wellbeing are a separate question.

---

**215** **Alexander Batthyány & Bruce Greyson**
2021

*Spontaneous Remission of Dementia Before Death: Results from a Study on Paradoxical Lucidity*

Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice 8(1):1-8. Peer reviewed

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Caregivers reported episodes of unexpected lucidity in patients with severe dementia, often in the days before death.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the report of terminal lucidity. Caregiver accounts, not clinical measurement.

---

**216** **Stuart J. Ritchie, Richard Wiseman & Christopher C. French**
2012

*Failing the Future: Three Unsuccessful Attempts to Replicate Bem's "Retroactive Facilitation of Recall" Effect*

PLoS ONE 7(3):e33423. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1371/journal.pone.0033423

**Key Finding:** Three independent repetitions of one of Bem's experiments found no effect.

**Relevance to This Research:** The replication record for Bem (2011). Cited so that the contested status of that result is visible.

---

**217** **Jeff Galak, Robyn A. LeBoeuf, Leif D. Nelson & Joseph P. Simmons**
2012

*Correcting the Past: Failures to Replicate Psi*

Journal of Personality and Social Psychology 103(6):933-948. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1037/a0029709

**Key Finding:** Seven experiments with more than 3,000 participants found no evidence for the retroactive effects reported by Bem.

**Relevance to This Research:** The same replication record.

---

**218** **Daryl Bem, Patrizio Tressoldi, Thomas Rabeyron & Michael Duggan**
2015

*Feeling the Future: A Meta-Analysis of 90 Experiments on the Anomalous Anticipation of Random Future Events*

F1000Research 4:1188

Find this source

**Key Finding:** A meta-analysis by Bem and colleagues reported a small overall effect across 90 experiments.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited so that both sides of the dispute over Bem (2011) are shown. Meta-analysis by the original author's group.

---

**219** **Julie Milton & Richard Wiseman**

1999

*Does Psi Exist? Lack of Replication of an Anomalous Process of Information Transfer*

Psychological Bulletin 125(4):387-391. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1037/0033-2909.125.4.387

**Key Finding:** A meta-analysis of 30 newer ganzfeld studies found no evidence of information transfer.

**Relevance to This Research:** The replication record for the ganzfeld meta-analysis reported by Radin (1997).

---

**220** **Lance Storm, Patrizio E. Tressoldi & Lorenzo Di Risio**

2010

*Meta-Analysis of Free-Response Studies, 1992-2008: Assessing the Noise Reduction Model in Parapsychology*

Psychological Bulletin 136(4):471-485. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1037/a0019457

**Key Finding:** Reported a small positive effect across free-response studies, including the ganzfeld.

**Relevance to This Research:** Cited so that both sides of the ganzfeld dispute are shown.

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**221** **Stephan Dürr, Zoltán Fodor, Julien Frison et al.**

2008

*Ab Initio Determination of Light Hadron Masses*
Science 322(5905):1224-1227. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1126/science.1163233

**Key Finding:** Lattice quantum chromodynamics reproduced the masses of the proton, the neutron and other light hadrons from first principles, in agreement with experiment.

**Relevance to This Research:** Shows that most of the mass of ordinary matter is the energy of interacting quarks and gluons. Supports the reading of Figure 12 that form arises where interaction is dense; it does not address consciousness.

---

**222** **Ryan T. Canolty and Robert T. Knight**
2010

*The Functional Role of Cross-Frequency Coupling*
Trends in Cognitive Sciences 14(11):506-515. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1016/j.tics.2010.09.001

**Key Finding:** Brain rhythms at different frequencies are coupled to one another, and this coupling coordinates neural activity across regions and timescales.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the claim that experience tracks how many frequencies interact, not only the strength of one.

---

**223** **Yann LeCun, Yoshua Bengio and Geoffrey Hinton**
2015

*Deep Learning*
Nature 521(7553):436-444. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1038/nature14539

**Key Finding:** Networks with many layers learn their own representations from raw data and reached state-of-the-art recognition of images, speech and language.

**Relevance to This Research:** Establishes artificial pattern recognition, the basis of the term Aiological. It does not show that such systems are conscious.

---

**224** **John Jumper, Richard Evans, Alexander Pritzel et al.**
2021

*Highly Accurate Protein Structure Prediction with AlphaFold*
Nature 596(7873):583-589. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1038/s41586-021-03819-2

**Key Finding:** AlphaFold predicted the three-dimensional structure of proteins from their amino-acid sequence, in most cases with accuracy competitive with experiment.

**Relevance to This Research:** An example of mapping a chain of natural logic well enough to predict and design form: the step the director proposition extends.

---

**225** **Amil Merchant, Simon Batzner, Samuel S. Schoenholz et al.**
2023

*Scaling Deep Learning for Materials Discovery*
Nature 624(7990):80-85. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1038/s41586-023-06735-9

**Key Finding:** A deep learning system proposed 2.2 million new crystal structures, about 380,000 of them predicted to be stable.

**Relevance to This Research:** Shows design at the level of atomic arrangement through learned patterns.

---

**226** **X. Fan, T. G. Myers, B. A. D. Sukra and G. Gabrielse**
2023

*Measurement of the Electron Magnetic Moment*
Physical Review Letters 130(7):071801. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1103/PhysRevLett.130.071801

**Key Finding:** The magnetic moment of the electron was measured to 0.13 parts per trillion, the most precise test of a prediction of the Standard Model.

**Relevance to This Research:** Shows that subatomic behaviour follows rules precise enough to map, the premise of the term Subatomological.

---

**227** **Holger Bösch, Fiona Steinkamp and Emil Boller**
2006

*Examining Psychokinesis: The Interaction of Human Intention with Random Number Generators. A Meta-Analysis*

Psychological Bulletin 132(4):497-523. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1037/0033-2909.132.4.497

**Key Finding:** The combined effect of intention on random number generators was extremely small, very uneven between studies and larger in smaller studies, a pattern that publication bias could in principle explain.

**Relevance to This Research:** The main evidence against the director proposition: no tested effect of intention on physical outcomes has survived scrutiny.

---

**228** **François Chollet**

2019

*On the Measure of Intelligence*

arXiv:1911.01547. Preprint, not peer reviewed

DOI 10.48550/arXiv.1911.01547

**Key Finding:** Defines intelligence as skill-acquisition efficiency, taking account of scope, generalisation difficulty, prior knowledge and experience, and proposes a benchmark to measure it.

**Relevance to This Research:** A research definition of intelligence close to the framework's: the efficient recognition and use of patterns.

---

**229** **John J. Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton**

2024

*The Nobel Prize in Physics 2024*

Press release, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, 8 October 2024

View the source

**Key Finding:** Awarded "for foundational discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks".

**Relevance to This Research:** The highest recognition in physics for the work that made Aiological pattern recognition possible.

---

**230** **David Baker, Demis Hassabis and John Jumper**

2024

*The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2024*

Press release, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, 9 October 2024

View the source

**Key Finding:** Half awarded to David Baker "for computational protein design" and half jointly to Demis Hassabis and John Jumper "for protein structure prediction".

**Relevance to This Research:** Shows a learned system and a design method recognised for mapping and designing the structure of matter, the step from observing to directing.

---

**231** **John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret and John M. Martinis**
2025

*The Nobel Prize in Physics 2025*

Press release, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, 7 October 2025

View the source

**Key Finding:** Awarded "for the discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation in an electric circuit".

**Relevance to This Research:** Shows that quantum behaviour is not confined to single particles. It was shown in a superconducting circuit close to absolute zero, and says nothing about consciousness.

---

**232** **Sana Khan, Yixiang Huang, Derin Timuçin et al.**
2024

*Microtubule-Stabilizer Epothilone B Delays Anesthetic-Induced Unconsciousness in Rats*

eNeuro 11(8):ENEURO.0291-24.2024. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1523/ENEURO.0291-24.2024

**Key Finding:** Rats given epothilone B, a drug that stabilises microtubules, took on average 69 seconds longer to lose the righting reflex under 4 per cent isoflurane. Eight rats; the authors note limited blinding and that tolerance could not be fully excluded.

**Relevance to This Research:** The most direct laboratory test so far linking microtubules to anaesthetic loss of consciousness. Small, not yet independently replicated, and silent on whether the effect is quantum.

**233** **Christian M. Kerskens and David López Pérez**
2022

*Experimental Indications of Non-Classical Brain Functions*
Journal of Physics Communications 6(10):105001. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1088/2399-6528/ac94be

**Key Finding:** An MRI method sensitive to quantum correlations detected signals in brain water linked to the heartbeat, which depended on conscious awareness. The authors interpret them as evidence of entanglement mediated by brain functions.

**Relevance to This Research:** **Cited with its limits noted:** a single study whose interpretation as entanglement is not established and which has not been independently replicated, so it is cited as contested, never as established.

**234** **Jessica M. Utts**
1996

*An Assessment of the Evidence for Psychic Functioning*
Journal of Scientific Exploration 10(1):3-30. Written for the 1995 government review of the STARGATE programme

View the source

**Key Finding:** Concluded that the statistical results of the government-funded remote-viewing experiments were far beyond chance, with effects between small and medium in size.

**Relevance to This Research:** One of the two expert verdicts in the official review of remote viewing. Read with Hyman (1996), who reviewed the same evidence.

**235** **Ray Hyman**
1996

*Evaluation of Program on Anomalous Mental Phenomena*
Journal of Scientific Exploration 10(1):31-58. Written for the 1995 government review of the STARGATE programme

View the source

**Key Finding:** Agreed that the effects were too large to dismiss as statistical flukes, but concluded that statistical effects alone do not show that psychic functioning has been demonstrated, and called for independent replication.

**Relevance to This Research:** The second expert verdict in the official review. The disagreement between Utts and Hyman is why remote viewing is treated here as an open question.

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**236** **American Institutes for Research**
1995

*An Evaluation of the Remote Viewing Program: Research and Operational Applications*
Draft report, 22 September 1995, prepared for the Central Intelligence Agency. Declassified, CIA document CIA-RDP96-00791R000200180005-5

View the source

**Key Finding:** Found that information from remote viewing had never been used to guide an intelligence operation and concluded that continued operational use was not warranted.

**Relevance to This Research:** The declassified government file that closed the STARGATE programme. It judged operational usefulness, not whether the laboratory effect is real.

---

**237** **United Nations General Assembly**
2024

*International Year of Quantum Science and Technology, 2025*
Resolution A/RES/78/287, adopted 7 June 2024

View the source

**Key Finding:** Proclaimed 2025 the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology.

**Relevance to This Research:** Shows that quantum science is a public priority worldwide. The year concerned physics and technology, not consciousness.

---

**238** **Australian Government, Department of Industry, Science and Resources**
2023

*National Quantum Strategy*
Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra

View the source

**Key Finding:** Sets out a vision in which, in 2030, Australia is recognised as a leader of the global quantum industry, under five themes from research and infrastructure to workforce, standards and a trusted, ethical ecosystem.

**Relevance to This Research:** Shows national investment in quantum science in Australia. It does not address consciousness.

---

**239** **Templeton World Charity Foundation**

2025

*Accelerating Research on Consciousness*

Research programme. Programme page, templetonworldcharity.org

View the source

**Key Finding:** Funds adversarial collaborations, in which the proponents of rival theories of consciousness agree in advance on experiments that could prove each of them wrong. It funded the Cogitate test of integrated information and global workspace theories.

**Relevance to This Research:** The standard of testing this framework sets for itself: rival predictions, agreed in advance, decided by experiment.

---

**240** **Monash University**

2025

*Monash Centre for Consciousness and Contemplative Studies*

Research centre, Faculty of Arts, Monash University, Melbourne. Centre page, monash.edu

View the source

**Key Finding:** Brings consciousness science, neuroscience and contemplative studies together in one research centre, with research, education and community engagement streams.

**Relevance to This Research:** Shows consciousness studied as an established research field at an Australian university, including the contemplative traditions this framework draws on.

---

**241** **Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies**

2021

*The Best Available Evidence for the Survival of Human Consciousness after Permanent Bodily Death*

Essay competition, launched February 2021, prizes awarded November 2021. Reported in The Canberra Times

View the source

**Key Finding:** Offered prizes worth well over US$1.5 million for essays on the question: what is the best available evidence for the survival of human consciousness after permanent bodily death?

**Relevance to This Research:** Shows that survival of consciousness is now argued openly, with funded prizes. A prize for the best argument is not evidence: the essays are arguments to be tested.

---

**242** **Janine Willis and Alexander Todorov**

2006

*First Impressions: Making Up Your Mind after a 100-Ms Exposure to a Face*

Psychological Science 17(7):592-598. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1111/j.1467-9280.2006.01750.x

**Key Finding:** Judgements of trustworthiness, competence, likeability, aggressiveness and attractiveness made after a 100-millisecond view of a face correlated strongly with judgements made without time limits.

**Relevance to This Research:** Shows how quickly and how much people read others before a word is spoken: the everyday starting point of Teleconsciousnesscom.

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**243** **William Ickes**

1993

*Empathic Accuracy*

Journal of Personality 61(4):587-610. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1111/j.1467-6494.1993.tb00783.x

**Key Finding:** Introduces a method for measuring how accurately one person infers another person's actual thoughts and feelings, moment by moment, from a recorded interaction.

**Relevance to This Research:** The scientific measure of the first level of Teleconsciousnesscom, where thought and feeling are read together.

**244** **Jennifer S. Lerner, Ye Li, Piercarlo Valdesolo and Karim S. Kassam**
2015

*Emotion and Decision Making*
Annual Review of Psychology 66:799-823. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1146/annurev-psych-010213-115043

**Key Finding:** Reviews the evidence that emotions are powerful, pervasive and predictable drivers of judgement and choice, sometimes beneficial and sometimes harmful.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the proposition that thought and feeling sit on one level and shape each other.

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**245** **Francis T. McAndrew and Sara S. Koehnke**
2016

*On the Nature of Creepiness*
New Ideas in Psychology 43:10-15. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1016/j.newideapsych.2016.03.003

**Key Finding:** A survey of 1,341 people found that the feeling of creepiness arises from ambiguity about whether another person poses a threat.

**Relevance to This Research:** An ordinary-channel account of the uneasy feeling a person can give off, the feeling channel of the first level.

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**246**

**Jasper H. B. de Groot, Monique A. M. Smeets, Annemarie Kaldewaij, Maarten J. A. Duijndam and Gün R. Semin**
2012

*Chemosignals Communicate Human Emotions*
Psychological Science 23(11):1417-1424. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1177/0956797612445317

**Key Finding:** Women exposed to sweat collected from men watching fear-inducing or disgust-inducing film clips showed matching facial expressions and perceptual changes, without being aware of the effect.

**Relevance to This Research:** Shows emotion passing between people through a channel below awareness.

---

**247** **Stefan Schmidt, Rainer Schneider, Jessica Utts and Harald Walach**
2004

*Distant Intentionality and the Feeling of Being Stared At: Two Meta-Analyses*
British Journal of Psychology 95(2):235-247. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1348/0007126041546396

**Key Finding:** Found small effects in 36 studies of distant intentionality (d = 0.11) and 15 studies of remote staring (d = 0.13), but the effect fell to near zero in the seven highest-quality studies of the first kind.

**Relevance to This Research:** **Cited with its limits noted:** the effect weakens as study quality rises and independent replications are scarce, so this is cited as contested, never as established.

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**248** **Carl Gustav Jung**
1959

*Aion: Researches into the Phenomenology of the Self*
Collected Works, Volume 9, Part 2. Princeton University Press (first published 1951)

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Describes the shadow: the parts of the personality that a person does not recognise or accept in themselves.

**Relevance to This Research:** The origin of the concept of the shadow used for the subconscious depth of each channel.

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**249** **Richard E. Nisbett and Timothy DeCamp Wilson**
1977

*Telling More Than We Can Know: Verbal Reports on Mental Processes*
Psychological Review 84(3):231-259. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1037/0033-295X.84.3.231

**Key Finding:** People often cannot report the real causes of their own judgements and behaviour, and confidently offer reasons that were not the cause.

**Relevance to This Research:** Evidence that much of a person's mind lies below their own awareness: the shadow layer.

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**250** **Simine Vazire**

2010

*Who Knows What about a Person? The Self-Other Knowledge Asymmetry (SOKA) Model*
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology 98(2):281-300. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1037/a0017908

**Key Finding:** People judge their own internal traits, such as anxiety, better than others do, while friends judge observable and evaluative traits, such as intellect and creativity, better than the person does.

**Relevance to This Research:** Shows that others can perceive parts of a person that the person does not see.

---

**251** **Carles Grau, Romuald Ginhoux, Alejandro Riera et al.**

2014

*Conscious Brain-to-Brain Communication in Humans Using Non-Invasive Technologies*
PLoS ONE 9(8):e105225. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1371/journal.pone.0105225

**Key Finding:** A word was transmitted from a sender in India to a receiver in France, about 7,800 kilometres away, using EEG, the internet and transcranial magnetic stimulation that produced perceived flashes of light.

**Relevance to This Research:** Thought passing between brains through a physical channel: the established counterpart of the thought channel.

---

**252** **Agneta E. Thompson and Daniel Voyer**

2014

*Sex Differences in the Ability to Recognise Non-Verbal Displays of Emotion: A Meta-Analysis*
Cognition and Emotion 28(7):1164-1195. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1080/02699931.2013.875889

**Key Finding:** Across 215 study samples, women showed a small overall advantage over men in recognising emotions from non-verbal displays.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports a small average difference in the feeling channel, with large overlap between men and women.

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**253** **Sean M. Laurent and Sara D. Hodges**
2009

*Gender Roles and Empathic Accuracy: The Role of Communion in Reading Minds*
Sex Roles 60(5-6):387-398. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1007/s11199-008-9544-x

**Key Finding:** Self-reported communion, a trait usually labelled feminine, and empathic concern predicted greater accuracy in inferring another person's thoughts and feelings, once socially desirable responding was controlled.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the framework's point that feminine and masculine traits, not sex or gender, shape which channel opens first.

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**254** **Kristi J. K. Klein and Sara D. Hodges**
2001

*Gender Differences, Motivation, and Empathic Accuracy: When It Pays to Understand*
Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin 27(6):720-730. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1177/0146167201276007

**Key Finding:** Women outperformed men at empathic accuracy only under some conditions; when accuracy was paid for, both improved and the gender difference disappeared.

**Relevance to This Research:** Shows that motivation and personality, more than gender, decide how well a person reads another's thoughts and feelings.

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**255** **Albert R. Powers, Christoph Mathys and Philip R. Corlett**
2017

*Pavlovian Conditioning-Induced Hallucinations Result from Overweighting of Perceptual Priors*
Science 357(6351):596-600. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1126/science.aan3458

**Key Finding:** People who hear voices, with or without a psychotic illness, were more likely than others to hear a conditioned tone that was not played, because expectation outweighed sensory evidence.

**Relevance to This Research:** Shows that the brain can generate a fully real sound, the second level, without saying where the content of a voice comes from.

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**256** **Arnaud Delorme, Julie Beischel, Leena Michel et al.**

2013

*Electrocortical Activity Associated with Subjective Communication with the Deceased*

Frontiers in Psychology 4:834. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.3389/fpsyg.2013.00834

**Key Finding:** Six mediums showed different patterns of electrical activity when they reported communicating with a deceased person than when thinking about living or imagined people.

**Relevance to This Research:** **Cited with its limits noted:** the authors note that part of the difference may come from eye and muscle activity, so this is cited as an open question, never as established.

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**257** **Joel Pearson**

2019

*The Human Imagination: The Cognitive Neuroscience of Visual Mental Imagery*

Nature Reviews Neuroscience 20(10):624-634. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1038/s41583-019-0202-9

**Key Finding:** Visual mental imagery shares neural mechanisms with visual perception, and its vividness varies widely between people, from absent (aphantasia) to almost perceptual.

**Relevance to This Research:** Shows that seeing with the mind uses the visual brain and that the ability varies greatly: the third level.

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**258** **Karen R. Konkoly, Kristoffer Appel, Emma Chabani et al.**

2021

*Real-Time Dialogue between Experimenters and Dreamers during REM Sleep*
Current Biology 31(7):1417-1427. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1016/j.cub.2021.01.026

**Key Finding:** In four independent laboratories, lucid dreamers in REM sleep perceived questions from experimenters and answered them with eye movements and facial muscle signals, including simple arithmetic.

**Relevance to This Research:** Shows that the dream state, the model for the fourth level, can be entered by communication.

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**259** **H. Henrik Ehrsson**
2007

*The Experimental Induction of Out-of-Body Experiences*
Science 317(5841):1048. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1126/science.1142175

**Key Finding:** Using head-mounted displays fed by cameras behind the participant, healthy volunteers felt that they were located outside their own body.

**Relevance to This Research:** Shows that the felt location of the self can shift: a physical-level experience produced in the laboratory.

---

**260** **Louisa E. Rhine**
1981

*The Invisible Picture: A Study of Psychic Experiences*
McFarland, Jefferson, North Carolina

Find this source

**Key Finding:** Analyses thousands of spontaneous experiences reported to the Duke University parapsychology laboratory; about two thirds occurred in dreams.

**Relevance to This Research:** Case reports, not experiments. They point to the dream state as the setting where such experiences are most often reported.

---

**261** **Hervey C. Peoples, Pavel Duda and Frank W. Marlowe**
2016

*Hunter-Gatherers and the Origins of Religion*
Human Nature 27(3):261-282. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1007/s12110-016-9260-0

**Key Finding:** A comparative analysis of hunter-gatherer societies from the Standard Cross-Cultural Sample suggests the presence of animism at a profound time depth in human history, in line with Tylor's theory that animism is the earliest form of religion.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the statement that animism, the sense of a world alive with meaning, is among humanity's oldest and most widespread intuitions.

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**262**

**Sharlene N. Flesher, Jennifer L. Collinger, Stephen T. Foldes, Jeffrey M. Weiss, John E. Downey, Elizabeth C. Tyler-Kabara et al.**
2016

*Intracortical Microstimulation of Human Somatosensory Cortex*
Science Translational Medicine 8(361):361ra141. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1126/scitranslmed.aaf8083

**Key Finding:** Electrical microstimulation of the somatosensory cortex, in a person with a spinal cord injury, evoked sensations of touch felt as coming from specific places on the hand.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the statement that the brain alone can produce the feeling of touch.

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**263** **V. S. Ramachandran and William Hirstein**
1998

*The Perception of Phantom Limbs: The D. O. Hebb Lecture*
Brain 121(9):1603-1630. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1093/brain/121.9.1603

**Key Finding:** Reviews the experience of phantom limbs, which almost everyone who has a limb amputated goes on to feel, and what it shows about how the brain maps the body.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the statement that a limb that is no longer there can still be felt.

**264** **Matthew Botvinick and Jonathan Cohen**
1998

*Rubber Hands "Feel" Touch That Eyes See*
Nature 391(6669):756. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1038/35784

**Key Finding:** When a rubber hand in view and the participant's own hidden hand were stroked in time with each other, participants felt the touch as coming from the rubber hand.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the statement that the brain sets where a touch is felt.

**265** **David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian**
2021

*The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2021*
Press release, The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet, 4 October 2021

View the source

**Key Finding:** Awarded "for their discoveries of receptors for temperature and touch". Patapoutian identified Piezo1 and Piezo2, channels in the cell membrane that open under pressure.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the statement that a touch begins as an electrical signal in a sensory cell.

**266** **Elliott H. Lieb**
1976

*The Stability of Matter*
Reviews of Modern Physics 48(4):553-569. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1103/RevModPhys.48.553

**Key Finding:** Sets out the proof that ordinary matter is stable, and shows that the Pauli exclusion principle is essential to it.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the statement that the solidity of matter comes from forces and the Pauli principle, not from hard surfaces.

**267** **T. Horikawa, M. Tamaki, Y. Miyawaki and Y. Kamitani**
2013

*Neural Decoding of Visual Imagery During Sleep*
Science 340(6132):639-642. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1126/science.1234330

**Key Finding:** Decoders trained on brain activity recorded while participants viewed images predicted the contents of the imagery they reported when woken at the onset of sleep.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the statement that seeing in a dream and seeing while awake share a code in the brain.

**268**

**Tor D. Wager, James K. Rilling, Edward E. Smith, Alex Sokolik, Kenneth L. Casey, Richard J. Davidson et al.**
2004

*Placebo-Induced Changes in fMRI in the Anticipation and Experience of Pain*
Science 303(5661):1162-1167. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1126/science.1093065

**Key Finding:** In two brain imaging experiments, a placebo reduced reported pain and reduced activity in brain regions that respond to pain.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the statement that expectation changes what is experienced.

**269** **James L. McGaugh**
2004

*The Amygdala Modulates the Consolidation of Memories of Emotionally Arousing Experiences*
Annual Review of Neuroscience 27:1-28. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1146/annurev.neuro.27.070203.144157

**Key Finding:** Reviews the evidence that emotionally arousing experiences are remembered better, through the action of stress hormones on the amygdala.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the statement that what stirs emotion is remembered better.

---

**270**

**Pavel Goldstein, Irit Weissman-Fogel, Guillaume Dumas and Simone G. Shamay-Tsoory**

2018

*Brain-to-Brain Coupling During Handholding Is Associated with Pain Reduction*

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 115(11):E2528-E2537. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1073/pnas.1703643115

**Key Finding:** When romantic partners held hands while one of them was in pain, the coupling between their brain activity increased, and stronger coupling went with greater pain relief.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the statement that attachment between people can be measured.

---

**271**

**Michael Kirchhoff, Thomas Parr, Ensor Palacios, Karl Friston and Julian Kiverstein**

2018

*The Markov Blankets of Life: Autonomy, Active Inference and the Free Energy Principle*

Journal of the Royal Society Interface 15(138):20170792. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1098/rsif.2017.0792

**Key Finding:** Describes a living system as a statistical boundary with internal states, and larger living systems as boundaries made of smaller boundaries.

**Relevance to This Research:** A published account of boundaries within boundaries in living systems. It concerns life, not consciousness at every scale.

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**272** **T. V. P. Bliss and T. Lømo**

1973

*Long-Lasting Potentiation of Synaptic Transmission in the Dentate Area of the Anaesthetized Rabbit Following Stimulation of the Perforant Path*

The Journal of Physiology 232(2):331-356. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1113/jphysiol.1973.sp010273

**Key Finding:** A burst of stimulation strengthened the response of a pathway in the rabbit brain for periods of 30 minutes to 10 hours.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the statement that connections between brain cells grow stronger with use.

---

**273** **John A. Bargh and Ezequiel Morsella**

2008

*The Unconscious Mind*

Perspectives on Psychological Science 3(1):73-79. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1111/j.1745-6916.2008.00064.x

**Key Finding:** Reviews evidence for several systems that guide behaviour without conscious thought, including perceptual, evaluative and motivational ones.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the statement that much of what sets a person's direction operates outside awareness.

---

**274** **Jennifer M. Windt, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy**

2015

*Dreams and Dreaming*

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, current revision

View the source

**Key Finding:** Surveys the philosophy of dreaming, including the remarks on dreams in Plato's Theaetetus and the dream argument in the Meditations of Descartes.

**Relevance to This Research:** Source for the history of the question of whether experience shows the thing itself.

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**275** **MacTutor History of Mathematics Archive, University of St Andrews**

2026

*Abu Ali al-Hasan ibn al-Haytham*
MacTutor History of Mathematics Archive. Accessed 2026

View the source

**Key Finding:** Biography of Ibn al-Haytham, born in 965, whose Optics gave the first correct explanation of vision and examined how errors of vision arise.

**Relevance to This Research:** Source for the place of Ibn al-Haytham in the history of the study of perception.

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**276**

**Sivan Kinreich, Amir Djalovski, Lior Kraus, Yoram Louzoun and Ruth Feldman**
2017

*Brain-to-Brain Synchrony During Naturalistic Social Interactions*
Scientific Reports 7:17060. Peer reviewed, open access

DOI 10.1038/s41598-017-17339-5

**Key Finding:** Brain activity was recorded from pairs among 104 adults during natural conversation. Neural synchrony was found for couples and not for strangers, and was linked to shared gaze and positive emotion.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the prediction that bonded pairs synchronise more than strangers. The synchrony ran through ordinary channels.

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**277** **P. Kok, J. F. Jehee and F. P. de Lange**
2012

*Less Is More: Expectation Sharpens Representations in the Primary Visual Cortex*
Neuron 75(2):265-270. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1016/j.neuron.2012.04.034

**Key Finding:** Expectation lowered the strength of the response in the primary visual cortex and improved the information about the stimulus carried there.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the prediction that state of mind changes perception at its first stage.

278

**F. Siclari, B. Baird, L. Perogamvros, G. Bernardi, J. J. LaRocque, B. Riedner et al.**

2017

*The Neural Correlates of Dreaming*

Nature Neuroscience 20(6):872-878. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1038/nn.4545

Key Finding: Reports of dreaming went with reduced slow activity in rear regions of the cortex, and fast activity in those regions tracked specific dream contents. Monitoring the region in real time predicted whether a person would report a dream.

Relevance to This Research: Supports the prediction that dreamed and waking experience share a code in the brain.

279

**Yelena G. Bodien, Judith Allanson, Paolo Cardone, Arthur Bonhomme, Jerina Carmona, Camille Chatelle et al.**

2024

*Cognitive Motor Dissociation in Disorders of Consciousness*

New England Journal of Medicine 391(7):598-608. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1056/NEJMoa2400645

Key Finding: Among 241 patients who could not respond to bedside commands, one in four performed mental tasks when their brain activity was recorded by functional imaging or electroencephalography.

Relevance to This Research: Supports the prediction that signs of consciousness can be measured when behaviour is absent.

280

**Robin L. Carhart-Harris, David Erritzoe, Tim Williams, James M. Stone, Laurence J. Reed, Alessandro Colasanti et al.**

2012

*Neural Correlates of the Psychedelic State as Determined by fMRI Studies with Psilocybin*

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 109(6):2138-2143. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1073/pnas.1119598109

**Key Finding:** Under psilocybin only decreases in blood flow and brain activity were seen, greatest in hub regions, and the size of the decrease predicted the intensity of the experience.

**Relevance to This Research:** Bears on the prediction that experience can grow richer while brain activity falls. The standard reading is that quieter hub regions loosen the brain's constraints.

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**281**

**R. L. Carhart-Harris, S. Muthukumaraswamy, L. Roseman, M. Kaelen, W. Droog, K. Murphy et al.**

2016

*Neural Correlates of the LSD Experience Revealed by Multimodal Neuroimaging*

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 113(17):4853-4858. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1073/pnas.1518377113

**Key Finding:** Under LSD, reduced connectivity between the parahippocampus and the retrosplenial cortex correlated strongly with ratings of ego dissolution.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the prediction that a loosening of the sense of a separate self leaves a measurable trace.

---

**282**

**E. A. Maguire, D. G. Gadian, I. S. Johnsrude, C. D. Good, J. Ashburner, R. S. Frackowiak and C. D. Frith**

2000

*Navigation-Related Structural Change in the Hippocampi of Taxi Drivers*

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 97(8):4398-4403. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1073/pnas.070039597

**Key Finding:** The rear part of the hippocampus was larger in London taxi drivers than in comparison subjects, and its volume rose with the time spent as a taxi driver.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports the prediction that what receives repeated attention reshapes the brain.

283

**Hyeong-Dong Park, Stéphanie Correia, Antoine Ducorps and Catherine Tallon-Baudry**

2014

*Spontaneous Fluctuations in Neural Responses to Heartbeats Predict Visual Detection*

Nature Neuroscience 17(4):612-618. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1038/nn.3671

Key Finding: The brain's response to each heartbeat predicted whether a faint visual stimulus would be detected.

Relevance to This Research: A related result for the untested prediction that brain and heart rhythms lock together when thought and feeling agree.

284

**Aleksandra Ćwiek, Susanne Fuchs, Christoph Draxler, Eva Liina Asu, Dan Dediu, Katri Hiovain et al.**

2022

*The Bouba/Kiki Effect Is Robust Across Cultures and Writing Systems*

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B 377(1841):20200390. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1098/rstb.2020.0390

Key Finding: Across 25 languages from nine language families and ten writing systems, there was strong evidence that speakers match the invented words bouba and kiki to shapes in the same way.

Relevance to This Research: Supports the prediction that people with no contact give the same meanings to the same signals. The standard explanation is shared biology.

285 **Lee Jussim and Kent D. Harber**

2005

*Teacher Expectations and Self-Fulfilling Prophecies: Knowns and Unknowns, Resolved and Unresolved Controversies*

Personality and Social Psychology Review 9(2):131-155. Peer reviewed

DOI 10.1207/s15327957pspr0902_3

**Key Finding:** A review of the research on teacher expectations: self-fulfilling prophecies in the classroom do occur, but the effects are typically small, and expectations often predict outcomes because they are accurate.

**Relevance to This Research:** Supports, with its limit stated, the prediction that a held expectation shifts outcomes.

*References marked as contested are included as indicators of a direction of inquiry, not conclusive proof. This research invites rigorous academic engagement, disproof, and refinement.*

## *Research Context and Related Fields*

This framework engages with, draws on, and is answerable to the following disciplines, institutions and bodies of work. Listed so that a reader can locate it accurately within existing scholarship.

### Disciplines

Quantum foundations, quantum information theory, philosophy of mind, consciousness studies, psychoneuroimmunology, cognitive neuroscience, information theory, cosmology, comparative religion, epistemology, philosophy of science, statistical methodology.

### Institutions Whose Published Work Is Cited

University of Oxford, Princeton University, Institute for Advanced Study, Allen Institute for Brain Science, Google Quantum AI, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, CERN, University of Sheffield, Stanford University, Cambridge University, Durham University, University of Michigan, Harvard Medical School, Ohio State University, Wellesley College, US National Institute on Aging, LIGO Scientific Collaboration, Planck Collaboration, IBM Research.

### Figures Whose Work Is Engaged

Max Planck, Erwin Schrodinger, Eugene Wigner, Werner Heisenberg, Wolfgang Pauli, Roger Penrose, John von Neumann, John Archibald Wheeler, John Stewart Bell, Albert Einstein, Julian Schwinger, Kurt Godel, Claude Shannon, David Deutsch, Max Tegmark, Wojciech Zurek, Henry Stapp, Stuart Hameroff, Christof Koch, Hartmut Neven, Federico Faggin, Bernardo Kastrup, Giacomo Mauro D'Ariano, David Chalmers, Philip Goff, Karl Popper, A. J. Ayer, William James, Plato, Benjamin Libet, John-Dylan Haynes, June Tangney, Leon Festinger, Robert Merton, Persi Diaconis, Susan Sontag, Janice Kiecolt-Glaser, Ted Kaptchuk, Donald Eigler, Leonard Susskind, William Bialek, Pim van Lommel, Bruce Greyson, Michael Nahm, George Mashour, John Lorber, Sir James Jeans.

### Recognitions Referenced

Nobel Prize in Physics 1918, 1932, 1933, 1945, 1963, 1973, 2020, 2022. Nobel Prize in Physics 2017 for gravitational wave detection. Wolf Prize in Physics. US National Medal of Technology and Innovation. Royal Medal of the Royal Society. Cited to document standing, never as validation of any claim.

Chapter 35

# What has changed

*The Record of Revision*

### *Why This Exists*

*This site claims to be a living document that corrects itself and welcomes correction. That claim is worth nothing unless the corrections are visible. This is the record.*

Anyone can assert intellectual honesty. The only way to demonstrate it is to show what you got wrong and what you changed. Entries are added as revisions are made, including revisions that weakened the framework's position.

**What this log covers.** Changes to the scientific and philosophical content only: claims revised, evidence added or withdrawn, positions weakened or strengthened, epistemic status changed, and objections incorporated. It does not cover biography, personal or professional details, business or venture descriptions, captions, layout, styling, prose tightening, or any other structural or presentational change. Those are site administration and are corrected without being logged here.

---

25 Nov 2026 **Version 6.0**

**Version 6.0 published.** The research is now organised in six parts across 49 pages, and every claim keeps its evidence label. Six sections added: Can a Machine Be Conscious?, Is Everything Conscious?, From Frequency to Meaning, Stage 0: The Consciousness Cell, What Supports the Framework, and The Predictions, which lists twenty-one predictions with the result that would count against each. The section What Is God? is rewritten so that each tradition appears only in its own words, beside what science can measure and what philosophers ask. A policy page, How This Site Treats Faith and Belief, is added. A new page, Every Claim, by Label, lists each labelled claim with a link to where it is made. The site can now be searched, and the book can be downloaded as a typeset PDF in two editions, the complete edition and Essentials. References: four entries that were listed twice are merged, 149 references are added, and two disputed results now show their replication record, for a total of 285. Wording refined in nineteen places for precision and a formal scientific register.

**Effect on the framework:** Adds six sections, each with its claims labelled. No existing claim is strengthened, and the God section makes no claim on behalf of any tradition.

---

11 Oct 2026 **Correction**

**Corrections, 11 October 2026.** Before You Continue now gives 140 references, the number listed in References, in place of one hundred and ten. Download the Full Research now says all 140 references in place of over 140. The question card “Can science and spirituality both be right?” and the matching figure in the Research Summary now give six Nobel laureates in physics, the number named in Recognised Names, in place of 5+. In the relevance notes for References entries 31, 41, 52, 53 and 54, *validates* now reads *parallels*, in line with this site’s position that convergence between ancient insight and the framework is evidentially worthless and that neither validates the other.

**Effect on the framework:** None on any claim. Each of these figures now has one value across the site, and no reference entry presents a parallel as evidence.

---

31 Aug 2026 **Correction**

**Psychic-ability claim downgraded to interpretation.** The section stated that the origin of received impressions is demonstrably exterior to the practitioner’s knowledge base. That was an unqualified empirical claim inconsistent with the epistemic labelling used everywhere else. It now states what practitioners report, and marks the causal claim as this framework’s interpretation.

**Effect on the framework:** Reduces the scope of what is claimed. No evidence was lost, because none was cited for the stronger form.

---

31 Aug 2026 **Addition**

**Six sections added.** Where This Framework Sits, which locates the ontology as cosmopsychism and names the dual-aspect escape it refuses; Death, Information and Continuity; Every Observer Is a Scanner; What the Higher Dimension Actually Is; the Rafik Informational Coupling Test; and Quotes by Ahmed Rafik. Thirty new references added, taking the total from 110 to 140.

**Effect on the framework:** Extends scope without adding claims. The ontology is now located in existing literature rather than presented as novel, which reduces what is claimed as original to the two-way coupling, the observation definition and the past-future asymmetry.

---

31 Aug 2026 **Correction**

**The Connection Equation corrected in the laboratory protocol.** The relationship was stated as a proportionality, which implies co-location probability falls to zero whenever mutual information is zero. That contradicts the framework's own null hypothesis, since two systems can co-locate by chance. The testable form is the excess above a measured baseline.

**Effect on the framework:** Makes the prediction falsifiable in practice rather than only in principle. $\kappa$ is now a quantity an experiment returns with a confidence interval.

---

31 Aug 2026 **Correction**

**Integrated Information Theory dependency reduced.** The site relied on the Perturbational Complexity Index without noting the 2023 pseudoscience letter signed by 124 researchers, or the subsequent exchange in Nature Neuroscience. Both are now cited, and the reliance is narrowed to what survives the dispute.

**Effect on the framework:** PCI is retained as a clinical discriminator only. It no longer carries any weight as evidence that consciousness is fundamental.

---

31 Aug 2026 **Correction**

**Counter-evidence added to the survival material.** The 2023 PNAS gamma surge findings in dying human patients, which supply a physical mechanism for vivid near-death experience, were absent. So was the fact that AWARE-II recorded brain activity during resuscitation.

**Effect on the framework:** Removes the argument from neural silence permanently. The framework no longer has access to the claim that the dying brain is inactive.

---

28 Aug 2026 **Correction**

**Wigner's later retraction added to Recognised Names.** The section cited his 1961 and 1967 statements without noting he abandoned that position in the 1970s and 80s after encountering Zeh's decoherence work, and came to treat his 1961 argument as a reductio ad absurdum. Material, because his reason for changing his mind is the objection this framework names as strongest against it.

**Effect on the framework:** Weakens the appeal to authority in that section. Recorded rather than omitted.

---

28 Aug 2026 **Narrowed**

**Applications reworded from capabilities to conditional possibilities.** Entries described treatment protocols for depression, anxiety and trauma, and a documented belief-to-cellular-health relationship capable of extending lifespan, stated as capabilities. This contradicted the site's own health section. Now explicitly conditional, with a non-medical notice.

**Effect on the framework:** Reduces the scope of what is claimed. No evidence was lost, because none was cited for those claims.

---

28 Aug 2026 **Clarified**

**Authorship and AI disclosure separated.** The previous clause described the site as a collaborative synthesis of AI and human operations, which understated the author's role and left the origin of the ideas ambiguous. Authorship of the framework and its propositions is now stated explicitly, alongside a specific list of where AI tools were used.

**Effect on the framework:** No change to any claim. Clarifies who is accountable for them.

---

28 Aug 2026 **Addition**

**Feynman path integral section added.** Wen, Tian, Wang and colleagues published the first direct test of Feynman's two 1948 postulates in *Science Advances*, 26 August 2026. The section states that the result confirms a formalism shared by every interpretation and therefore supports none of them, including this one.

**Effect on the framework:** None. The result is neutral between interpretations and is not claimed as support.

---

28 Aug 2026 **Rejected**

**A proposed extension about measuring devices was refused.** The argument was that a detector, sharing matter with its builder, observes on that person's behalf, completing when someone reads the record. Refused: recording destroys interference whether or not anyone reads it, decoherence accounts for the loss with no observer, and the shared-matter premise proves too much, since a rock shares the same matter.

**Effect on the framework:** None, because the argument was not adopted. Recorded because rejected arguments belong in an honest record.

---

28 Aug 2026 **Fix**

**Structural and accessibility corrections.** Two stray closing tags removed from the Psychic Ability section. Notice contrast raised to meet accessibility guidance. Inert image loading attributes removed.

**Effect on the framework:** None. Presentation only.

---

31 Aug 2026 **Version 5.6**

**Current edition published.** Consolidated revision of the framework, its objections, limitations and reference apparatus. Revision history before this date was not kept in this form.

**Effect on the framework:** This record begins here and runs forward.

**An invitation.** If you find an error, a misattribution, a misquotation or a claim that outruns its evidence, report it through the contact form. Corrections are made promptly and appear here with the date, including corrections that weaken the framework.

*A theory that has never changed its mind in public has either been right from the beginning or has not been listening.*

Part V

# Going further

What could be built on the framework, the glossary, the terms introduced by Ahmed Rafik, and the complete research as a book.



Chapter 36

# What could be built

*Practical Impact*

## Rebuilding Every Major System

If a unified model of consciousness and reality were established, a number of applied domains would be affected. Everything in this section is conditional on that. The items below are speculative downstream possibilities, not capabilities, services, protocols or offerings, and none of them is claimed to work today.

**Nothing in this section is medical, psychological or health advice.** No treatment, therapy, protocol or clinical outcome is offered, described or implied, and nothing here should be used to make a health decision, begin or discontinue any treatment, or replace qualified care. Consult a registered health practitioner. Full legal notice

### Consciousness Research

A scientific framework for investigating and systematically developing human potential, from focused attention and meditation states to non-ordinary modes of perception.

### Mental Health

A proposed research direction investigating whether depression, anxiety, trauma and identity disorders might be approached through a consciousness-based model alongside existing care, rather than by symp-

tom management alone. No treatment, protocol or clinical method is offered here.

**Regenerative Medicine**

A proposed line of enquiry into reported relationships between belief, intention, frequency and cellular health. Whether any of these could influence healing or lifespan is an open research question, not a documented capability, and nothing here should be acted on medically.

**Education**

Teaching consciousness studies, emotional intelligence, and intuitive reasoning as core academic disciplines alongside mathematics and science.

**Ethical Governance**

Leadership and policy design grounded in the principles of interconnection, collective coherence, and systemic accountability rather than extraction and dominance.

**Energy Technology**

New approaches to energy generation informed by unified field principles, the relationship between consciousness, coherence, and physical organisation.

**Communication Technology**

Developing tools to expand the range of human perception and information exchange across the consciousness field, beyond conventional electromagnetic devices.

**Spiritual Integration**

Scientifically coherent answers to the questions of meaning: who am I, why am I here, what is consciousness, and what follows physical life?

### Conflict Resolution

A shared framework of understanding that can replace the ideological and doctrinal divisions currently sustaining political, religious, and cultural conflict.

### Interdimensional Research

Developing new sensing tools, methodologies, and technologies to extend human perception into frequency ranges and dimensional orders currently imperceptible.

*Engineering Implications*

## What This Framework Implies Could Be Built

**In Brief**

*If information is physical and non-local, certain technologies follow as consequences rather than speculations. One already exists in primitive form. One is an active research field. One is bounded by energy requirements comparable to a nuclear device.*

None of the physics below is this framework's discovery. All of it is established or actively researched. What this framework contributes is the argument that these are not unrelated curiosities but consequences of a single principle: information is physical, and it is not confined to a location.

## 01 Non-Local Information Systems

### Active Research Field

A blockchain ledger has no single location. It is replicated across nodes, and the information survives the destruction of any subset. If each of N nodes fails independently with probability p, total loss requires every node to fail:

$$P_{\text{loss}} = p^{N} \tag{30}$$

For ten thousand nodes at ten per cent failure probability each, that is $10^{-10,000}$. This is practical non-locality: the information genuinely has no single physical home, only a distribution.

**Quantum entanglement makes this stronger in kind rather than degree.** For a maximally entangled pair, each particle examined alone yields a maximally mixed state carrying no information at all. The content exists purely in the correlation.

$$I(A{:}B) = S_A + S_B - S_{AB} = 2 \tag{31}$$

Twice the classical maximum for two bits. The additional bit comes from correlation that has no classical analogue. A quantum-entangled ledger would provide tamper evidence by physical law rather than by cryptographic difficulty, and distributed storage in which no complete local copy exists anywhere.

**Status:** quantum blockchain and quantum network protocols are genuine research areas with published work and functioning small-scale demonstrations. The obstacle is quantum memory lifetime and entanglement distribution over distance, not theoretical possibility.

## 02 Assembling Matter by Frequency and Field

### Partially Achieved

**Positioning individual atoms is not speculative. It was done in 1989.** Eigler and Schweizer at IBM used a scanning tunnelling microscope to move 35 xenon atoms into position, spelling the letters IBM. Since then, optical tweezers, atomic force microscopy and controlled chemical synthesis have made atomic-scale assembly ordinary laboratory practice.

The general form is a controlled Hamiltonian: apply fields at chosen amplitudes, frequencies and phases, coupled to the relevant operators, and steer the system from an initial to a target state.

$$H(t) = H_0 + \Sigma_k \, \Omega_k(t) \cos(\omega_k t + \varphi_k) \, \hat{O}_k \tag{32}$$

$$U(T) = \mathcal{T} \exp\left( -(i/\hbar) \int_0^T H(t) \, dt \right) \tag{33}$$

Success probability is the overlap of the achieved state with the target: $P = |\langle \Psi_{target} | \Psi(T) \rangle|^2$. This is the standard formulation of quantum optimal control, and it is used daily in laboratories worldwide.

**Status:** assembling structures from existing atoms is achieved and improving. The scaling problem is that arranging $10^{27}$ atoms one at a time is not a matter of better equipment but of time itself.

## 03 Matter From Vacuum

### Bounded by Energy, Not by Theory

The vacuum is not empty. It carries zero-point energy across all modes, and under sufficiently intense electric fields, virtual pairs become real particles. Schwinger derived the production rate in 1951:

$$\Gamma \sim \exp( -\pi m^2 c^3 / (e\hbar E) ) \tag{34}$$

**The physics is not in dispute. The numbers are the problem.** The critical field for electron-positron production is approximately $1.3 \times 10^{18}$ volts per metre. The most intense laser fields achieved reach around $10^{14}$. That is four orders of magnitude short, and the exponential suppression below threshold is severe.

For a macroscopic object of roughly $10^{27}$ atoms, the mass-energy alone approaches $10^{17}$ joules, comparable to a large nuclear device. Creating an apple from vacuum is not forbidden by physics. It is forbidden by the energy budget.

**Status:** theoretically permitted, experimentally unreached, and unlikely to be reached at macroscopic scale by any foreseeable techno-

logy. Stated here because the mathematics is real, not because the application is near.

### *A Proposed Notation for Field Information* Framework Proposition

If information is physical and stored in field modes, then reading and writing it requires a notation. This framework proposes that quantum information theory already supplies one, and that treating it as a language rather than a calculus clarifies what each part does.

**Alphabet**

Basis states, creation and annihilation operators, the Hamiltonian, frequency and phase. The smallest units from which any field configuration is composed.

**Grammar**

State, then evolution, then measurement. The only sequence in which a configuration can be prepared, transformed and read.

**Meaning**

Mutual information between a decoded state and a target observable. Meaning is not a property of the symbols. It is the correlation they establish.

**Stated accurately.** None of these components is new. They are the standard apparatus of quantum information theory, developed by Dirac, von Neumann, Shannon and their successors. What is proposed here is the reading: that this apparatus constitutes a language for addressing the field, and that memory, prediction and assembly are three sentences in it rather than three unrelated problems.

### *What This Framework Does and Does Not Claim Here*

**None of this physics is original to this framework and none is claimed as such.** Von Neumann derived the entropy. Shannon defined mutual information. Schwinger derived pair production. Eigler positioned the atoms. Deutsch formulated the consistency condition for closed timelike curves. This framework cites them; it did not produce them.

**What is proposed here is the connection.** That distributed ledgers, atomic assembly, vacuum pair production and the retrieval of past states are not four separate problems but four faces of one principle: information is physical, and it is not confined to a place. That claim is the framework's contribution and it is a claim about organisation rather than a discovery about nature.

**The distance between mathematics and engineering is not a detail.** Every item above is permitted by known physics. That is a much weaker statement than achievable, and this section says so rather than allowing the equations to imply otherwise.

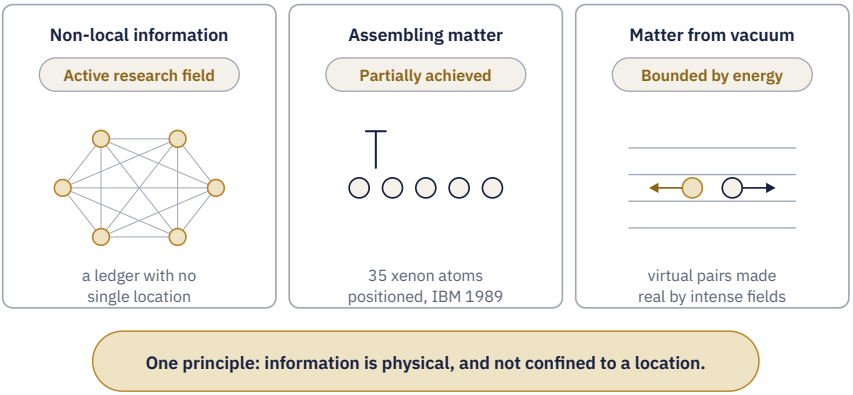


**Figure 40.** Three technologies that follow from one principle.

*Next Phase*

# What We Need Now

The theoretical model is coherent. The framework is constructed. What comes next is rigorous, well-resourced experimentation.

**Funding and Sponsorship**

To establish a dedicated research department with a carefully selected multidisciplinary team, and execute a sustained programme of experiments and analysis across consciousness studies.

**Tools to Monitor the Thought-Emotion-Energy Pathway**

Instruments capable of measuring how specific patterns of thought and emotion produce measurable changes in the body's bioelectric field, frequency output, and energy generation, in controlled, repeatable conditions.

**Instruments to Measure Correlation Between Consciousness and Matter**

Equipment and protocols to detect and record the effect of conscious intent on physical systems, from cellular biology to quantum-scale matter, establishing the mechanism that links the observer to the observed.

**Academic Partnerships**

Universities and research institutions willing to provide supervision, peer review, laboratory infrastructure, and intellectual collaboration to rigorously test, challenge, and either falsify or validate the model.

**Expert Collaboration**

Physicists, neuroscientists, psychologists, engineers, and philosophers who can contribute to designing experiments, interpreting results, and refining the theoretical model from within their areas of expertise.

*I compete with the person I was yesterday, and I learn from the people in his past.*

— Ahmed Rafik

*Participate*

# Join & Support

This work is too important for one person. We are seeking collaborators, institutions, and visionaries who believe that understanding the nature of reality is worth the effort.

### Universities & Research Institutes

Offer supervision, laboratory access, funding, or partnership in conducting experiments that test the model across multiple disciplines.

### Scientists & Experts

Physicists, neuroscientists, psychologists, and engineers, collaborate to design experiments, interpret results, and refine the theoretical framework through rigorous expertise.

### Funders & Sponsors

This research requires resources. If you believe in funding what may become the most significant scientific contribution in modern history, let us have a conversation.

### Media & Communicators

Help bring this work to the world. Interviews, publications, documentaries, and public conversations are all means of advancing a discourse the world is ready to have.

Chapter 37

# Glossary

*Key Terms*

## Plain-Language Glossary

Every term used on this site, explained without jargon. You should never need to leave this page to follow the argument. The words Ahmed Rafik created for this research have their own record: Terms introduced by Ahmed Rafik.

**Superposition**

A particle holding several possible states at once, before any one of them becomes the actual result. Not a metaphor. A measured laboratory fact.

**Collapse**

The moment superposition resolves into one definite outcome. What causes it, and whether it is a real physical event, is the central unsolved problem of quantum mechanics.

**The Observer Effect**

The repeatable finding that measuring a quantum system changes its behaviour. In this framework, every unit of reality is an observer, not only conscious beings.

**Decoherence**

The process by which contact with the environment destroys superposition and makes the world look solid and classical. The strongest scientific objection to this framework.

**The Quantum Field**

The underlying layer from which particles arise. In this framework, the substrate consciousness renders reality from.

**Fragmentary Consciousness**

One consciousness expressed in separated parts. Each fragment feels independent while remaining part of a single whole. You are a fragment reading this.

**Ego**

In this framework, the sense of being a separate self. It is a rendered experience produced by the simulation to make interaction possible, not an illusion to be destroyed.

**Collective Holder**

The whole of consciousness holding all its fragments simultaneously. What experiences separation from the inside while remaining unified from the outside.

**Entanglement**

Two particles remaining instantly correlated across any distance. Confirmed experimentally and awarded the 2022 Nobel Prize in Physics.

**Wigner's Friend**

A thought experiment, now performed in laboratories, testing whether two observers can hold contradictory but equally valid records of the same event.

**The Hard Problem**

Why physical processes produce felt experience at all. No physical account has ever explained it. Named by philosopher David Chalmers in 1995.

**Falsifiable**

A claim specific enough that a stated result could prove it wrong. Claims that cannot fail any test are not scientific claims.

**Frequency, as used on this site**

**A caution, stated deliberately.** In physics, frequency is a measurable quantity with units of cycles per second. This framework uses the word in a broader sense: the characteristic mode or signature of a configuration within the unified field. That usage is *not* the physics quantity and no numerical value is claimed for it. Where this site says a form carries a frequency, it means a distinguishing mode of being, not a measurable oscillation rate. This distinction is stated openly because borrowing scientific vocabulary without declaring the shift in meaning would be a fault, and a reader is entitled to know which sense is intended.

**Render**

In this framework, the process by which the field produces a localised, situated experience of being a separate self. The ego is a render. Suspending it, as in dreamless sleep or anaesthesia, does not affect the field that produces it.

**Processor Model**

The proposal that each being is a processor within a two-way exchange with the field: consciousness is resolved inward, and experience is written back outward. Predicts that volume loss degrades resolution while

coupling disruption suspends the exchange entirely, which is the asymmetry observed between hydrocephalus and anaesthesia.

**Prior Field Entanglement**

Persistent correlation between two configurations arising from documented past direct interaction. Not emotional attachment. Scored from contemporaneous record rather than present recollection, and the predictor tested in Hypothesis Three.

**Mutual Information**

A standard information-theoretic quantity, measured in bits, expressing how much knowing the state of one system reduces uncertainty about another. Defined by Shannon in 1948. In this framework it is the proposed formal definition of the coupling constant in Hypothesis Three.

**Two-Way Coupling**

This framework's proposal that the physical and the field exchange in both directions. Consciousness is resolved inward into localised experience, and every act, observation and experience writes information back outward into the field. Required for the framework to permit evolution: a one-directional receiver could never contribute anything new.

**Combination Problem**

The standard objection to panpsychism, raised by William James in 1890: if every particle carries a fragment of mind, how do fragments combine into one unified experience? Unsolved. This framework does not face it, because it differentiates downward from one field rather than building upward from parts.

**Decombination Problem**

The inverse difficulty, and the one this framework owns: how does a single undivided consciousness differentiate into many apparently separate experiences? This framework's proposed answer is the ego, understood as a rendered function rather than an error.

**Shame and Guilt, distinguished**

Shame is an evaluation of the self: *I am bad*. Guilt is an evaluation of an action: *I did something bad*. Established research shows shame is maladaptive, producing withdrawal and blame-externalisation, while guilt is adaptive, producing repair. In this framework shame sustains the circulation and guilt closes it.

**Godel's Incompleteness Theorems**

Proved in 1931. Any consistent formal system containing arithmetic holds true statements it cannot prove, and cannot demonstrate its own consistency from within. Establishes that truth exceeds provability. Frequently overstated in popular writing; this site states only what the theorems prove.

**The Coupling Problem**

This framework's main open question. If consciousness as a field exchanges with physical matter, that exchange either interacts with matter, in which case decoherence applies, or it does not, in which case it cannot affect biology. No mechanism has been specified.

**Unitarity**

The principle that quantum evolution preserves total information: $U^\dagger U = I$. Information is never created or destroyed, only transformed and redistributed. The mathematical basis for the claim that the field retains a complete record of every event.

**Retrodiction**

Recovery of a past state from present information, as distinct from prediction of a future state. Under this framework the two are fundamentally different: the past is already written into the field, while the future is still resolving.

*The Next Project*

## Dictionary of Existence

If the theory is proven beyond reasonable doubt, the next phase would require a vast synthesis of knowledge across multiple fields of science, repeated experiments, deep pattern recognition, and most importantly, advanced mental techniques, meditation, reflection, and hypnosis-like states of self-awareness and deep psychological analysis, to write the **Dictionary of the Universe**.

This Dictionary represents, in practical terms, the cheat-code of the manifestation game, if life is indeed a conscious simulation of reality. It would operate on the same principle we use to decode dreams psychologically: reading the symbols, patterns, and imagery of the subconscious to understand what is happening at a deeper level of awareness.

**Ahmed Rafik wants to reverse-engineer this process**, to decode reality into the subconscious as a reversed dream, and then to be able to design the dream rather than simply living it as it is produced by an uncontrolled subconscious. The goal is not prediction. It is authorship.

*If the Theory of Everything is the grammar, the Dictionary of Existence is the vocabulary. And vocabulary is power.*

— Ahmed Rafik

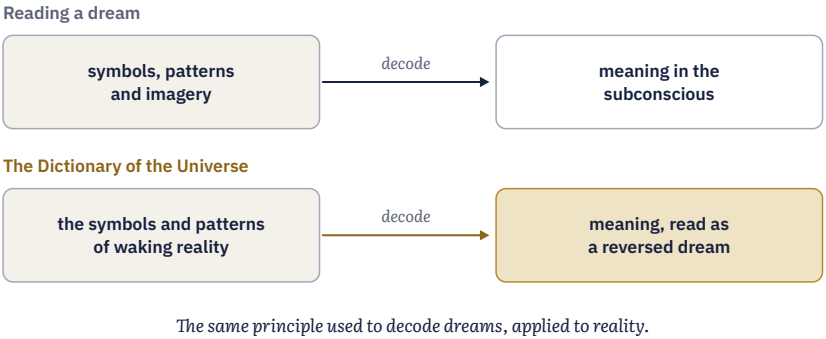


**Figure 41.** The Dictionary of the Universe: decoding reality as one decodes a dream.

Chapter 38

# Terms introduced by Ahmed Rafik

A permanent record of the words Ahmed Rafik created for this research: what each one means, where it is explained, and when it first appeared in public.

## In brief

New ideas need new words. Each term below was introduced by Ahmed Rafik on WhatIsUniverse.com and is defined here in the words of the research itself. The record gives the version and date on which each term first appeared, so that anyone, now or in the future, can trace where it came from and what it was meant to say.

## The terms

### Rafik's Theory of Everything

Ahmed Rafik's theory of the nature of the universe, stated in one sentence: the universe is conscious energy simulating life to evolve. It proposes that consciousness is the base field of existence rather than a product of matter; that observation is intention arising anywhere

within that field rather than a person looking; that separation between its parts is functional rather than actual; and that physical reality is rendered from the field rather than fundamental to it.

**Explained in** The answer. **On record** the definition by Version 5.6, 31 August 2026; the name from Version 6.0, 24 November 2026. **Earlier name** the Quantum Consciousness T.O.E Model.

### Universe Dictionary

The shared store of meaning held in the totality of universal consciousness, which the research compares to a shared server. It is the reason a "ball" means the same thing to a child in the east and a child in the west who have never met.

**Explained in** The unified model. **On record** by Version 5.6, 31 August 2026.

### Dictionary of Existence

The next project the research proposes, also called the Dictionary of the Universe: a synthesis of science, repeated experiment, pattern recognition and deep self-awareness that would decode how reality is produced, in the way dreams are decoded psychologically, so that a person could design the dream rather than simply live it. In the research's own words: if the Theory of Everything is the grammar, the Dictionary of Existence is the vocabulary.

**Explained in** Glossary. **On record** by Version 5.6, 31 August 2026.

### The Rafik Connection Equation

The framework's first prediction that standard physics does not already make: people who genuinely interacted in the past should meet again more often than people matched on every social variable who never

really connected. It is tested by comparing two such groups, with the result that would prove it wrong fixed before any data is gathered.

**Explained in** Why did that person appear in my life? **On record** by Version 5.6, 31 August 2026.

### The Rafik Informational Coupling Test

A laboratory test of the framework's proposal that shared information between two systems biases their future physical arrangement. Two trapped neutral atoms are prepared at four pre-registered levels of mutual information, from 0 to 1 bit, and the test measures whether their chance of ending up together rises in step. The result is a single number, the coupling constant κ, defined so that it can be zero.

**Explained in** The Rafik Informational Coupling Test. **On record** by Version 5.6, 31 August 2026.

### Aiological

Artificial logical pattern recognition: a system trained, or evolved, to identify objects, meanings and scenarios, of which an artificial intelligence agent is the clearest example. The word takes the place of "biological" when the same logic of pattern recognition runs in an artificial system instead of living tissue.

**Explained in** From frequency to meaning. **First published** in Version 6.0, 24 November 2026.

### Subatomological

The chain of logic in the behaviour of the subatomic world: the rules by which particles and fields interact, combine and settle into stable forms. The research proposes that a conscious system that mapped this chain fully could move from observing reality to directing it.

**Explained in** From frequency to meaning. **First published** in Version 6.0, 24 November 2026.

### Teleconsciousnesscom

Short for teleconsciousness communication: the deliberate use of mental techniques to shift attention to the areas of inner, cosmic awareness that can tune into the frequency of an object, a place or a person that one wants to understand, see or communicate with. It has four levels, each harder and rarer than the last: thought and feeling, sound, vision, and full physical reality, with the dream state as the model for the deepest.

**Explained in** Can two people be connected across distance? **First published** in Version 6.0, 24 November 2026.

### Consciousness cell (Stage 0)

The framework's picture of the smallest unit of consciousness: thought and emotion as two poles that act on each other, enclosed by a boundary called ego and resting in a medium called awareness. The research proposes it as Stage 0, the stage before the subatomic, atomic, molecular, microscopic, macroscopic and astronomical stages of matter. The comparison with the atom is a picture to think with, not a claim that thought is a particle.

**Explained in** Stage 0: the consciousness cell. **First published** in Version 6.0, 24 November 2026.

## Words given a specific meaning in this framework

The framework also uses the following words with a meaning of its own. Their full definitions are in the Glossary.

- **Fragmentary Consciousness.** One consciousness expressed in separated parts. Each fragment feels independent while remaining part of a single whole.
- **Collective Holder.** The whole of consciousness holding all its fragments simultaneously.
- **Render.** The process by which the field produces a localised, situated experience of being a separate self. The ego is a render.
- **Processor Model.** The proposal that each being is a processor within a two-way exchange with the field.
- **Prior Field Entanglement.** Persistent correlation between two configurations arising from documented past direct interaction.
- **Two-Way Coupling.** The proposal that the physical and the field exchange in both directions.
- **Informational Telepathy.** What is commonly called psychic ability, understood as access to the unified quantum field of universal information.

## How to cite a term

Name Ahmed Rafik as the author of the term and link to its entry on this page. For example: Rafik, A. (2026). Teleconsciousnesscom. In *Terms introduced by Ahmed Rafik*. What is the Universe?

https://whatisuniverse.com/glossary/terms-by-ahmed-rafik/#teleconsciousnesscom

This record is updated whenever a new term is introduced. Every change to the site, including the first appearance of each term, is dated in the public change log.

Part VI

# The researcher

Ahmed Rafik, how to collaborate with him or invite him to speak, his quotations, and how to reach him.

VI

Chapter 39

# Ahmed Rafik



*The Originator*

**Independent researcher**
**President of the HuBu Intel™ HRDFT Centre™**
**Former President of the Management Training Centre, Dubai Police**
**Former Training and Development Consultant (civilian), Egyptian Armed Forces**
**Originator of the Quantum Consciousness T.O.E Model**

For over twenty years, one question has driven everything: *What is all this about*? Why are we here? Who are we, truly? What are we for? And how do we find the absolute truth, without needing to dismiss anyone else's truth to hold our own?

I have dedicated my adult life to learning everything related to what reality is, how consciousness works, how personality forms, how meaning is structured, how physics and spirituality say the same thing in different languages. I was drawn in by the great mysteries. The pyramids showed me that ancient intelligence solved problems we have not yet solved. That was enough to convince me that human understanding has not reached its ceiling.

**The conviction I arrived at is this:** one coherent model can explain it all. Not by reducing the richness of reality, but by integrating it. Everything we have called mysterious is only mysterious until it is understood. Once a magic trick is known, it is not magic anymore. *Know How is the greatest power in the universe*.

This research is my life's work. It is offered to the world, to scientists, to institutions, and to anyone willing to test it, challenge it, improve it, or disprove it. The goal is never to win an argument. The goal is the truth. And the truth, once held by enough people, has the power to change everything.

**Motive**

Establishing a universal peace through ultimate understanding. When the nature of reality is no longer a source of conflict, peace becomes structurally possible.

**Strategy**

Validation through integration. A unified theory must unify both the one and the opposite. It is the bridge between all opposites, the mechanism that allows total comprehension.

*"Apologies if any of these writings have triggered you, or felt as an opposition to your beliefs. That would be a misunderstanding. My understanding says that everything that exists in life is true and valid from its observer's*

*perspective, which is part of the totality of existence, and therefore true by definition. My belief system holds that you are always right, and so is everyone else. We look from different lenses and speak different languages, but we share the same existence. My living experience and understanding is not better than yours, but equally different. I am therefore a believer in everything that exists, yet by default, capable of looking only from the perspective and timeline of the experiences I have been through."*

### The Framework in One Sentence

*A framework proposing that observation is intention arising within a single connected consciousness field, that physical reality is rendered rather than fundamental, and that previously acquainted individuals should co-locate above the rate corrected social mobility models predict, stated with its falsification threshold fixed in advance.*

### What Is Original Here, and What Is Not

**Not original.** *That consciousness may be fundamental has been held by Planck, Schrodinger, Wigner, Faggin and Kastrup. That observation is constitutive rather than passive was proposed by Wheeler and formalised by von Neumann. That reality is informational at base has been argued by Wheeler and Tegmark. This framework claims none of these as discoveries.*

**What appears to be original is the combination and its consequences:** *observation defined as collective intention rather than individual perception; separation treated as functional rather than illusory, on the model of organs within one body; entanglement explained as the absence of interior distance in a single field rather than as communication between separated objects; and an empirical prediction derived from that structure with a stated falsification threshold.*

Where a component of this framework exists elsewhere, it is described here as an interpretation developed within this framework rather than as a discovery. Where the combination appears to be new, that is stated as an apparent originality, subject to correction by anyone who can show prior art.

### On the Word Scientist

The title is not claimed. Science is a practice rather than a stance, and no prediction advanced here has yet been tested. Until a result comes back, including a result that goes against the framework, the accurate description is independent theorist working in philosophy of mind and foundations of physics. That description is used deliberately.

### Independent Theorist, No University Affiliation

### Positionality Statement

I am an independent scholar without institutional academic appointment. I have spent over twenty years studying quantum mechanics, neuroscience, philosophy of mind, and comparative religion. This work is offered as a synthesis of those fields.

**The obvious question, answered directly.** My professional background is in human development and business consulting, not physics. A reader is entitled to ask what a consultant is doing writing about quantum mechanics, and to weigh the answer against everything that follows.

The honest answer is that the background gives me no authority here whatsoever, and I do not ask anyone to grant me any. It explains the interest rather than justifying the conclusions: two decades spent studying how people think, decide and change is what led me to the question of what consciousness is, and that question is what led me to the physics. What it does

*not do is qualify me to settle anything. That is why this site labels its claims, states its objections, publishes its own retractions, and asks to be tested rather than believed. An argument from an outsider should be held to the evidence it presents, and to nothing else. If the evidence here is weak, the background cannot rescue it, and if the evidence is strong, the background is irrelevant.*

*Judge this work on the evidence it presents and on nothing else. It is an independent preprint, so no university stands behind it and no researcher cited here has reviewed it. I say that at the outset because you deserve to know exactly what you are weighing before you decide how much weight to give it.*

*I invite formal collaboration with institutional physicists, neuroscientists, and philosophers to test the experiments proposed here, and I welcome the finding that I am wrong.*

**Full Profile**

*Biography*

# Ahmed Rafik

The material below sets out Ahmed Rafik's background, career and outlook in full, beyond the short introduction above. It is written from primary sources: Ahmed's own record of his career, together with the certificates, photographs and documentation held alongside it.

**At a Glance**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Born** | 1990, Maadi, Cairo, Egypt |
| **Based in** | Sydney, New South Wales, Australia |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Known for** | Founder of **HuBu Intel**™ (HUBUINTEL PTY LTD); founder of hubuintel.com; originator of the Quantum Consciousness framework published at WhatIsUniverse.com |
| **Field** | Human development and business development consulting; venture building; independent consciousness research |
| **Prior roles** | Training and Development Consultant, Behavioural Science and Human Development Centre, Ministry of Defence (civilian); Head of Training Programs, Management Section, and President of the Management Training Centre, Dubai Police |
| **Notable ventures** | HuBu Intel, HelpyHandy, DigiCardme, FeelyFeel, Business Check RS, AskBioMap, TradePatternIQ, Builtool, WhatIsUniverse |
| **Self-description** | Polymathic personality. Entrepreneur, and expert in learning, training and organisational development. Has held senior positions within government institutions internationally and travelled over thirty-five countries. Holds multiple qualifications, trainings and certifications across business, technology, NLP, learning and behaviour, and quality assurance |

*Chapter One*

## Early Life

Ahmed Rafik was born in 1990 in Maadi, a district of Cairo, Egypt. His father was an exceptional pilot. His mother held a strong, lasting

interest in metaphysics, an interest Ahmed later came to share in his own way. His parents separated when he was very young.

He was raised initially by his father. His childhood was centred on human development while he navigated significant difficulties, and, as both parents went on to build new families of their own, he grew up excluded from those family structures.

The period was formative rather than defining: a set of circumstances that sharpened, rather than settled, the direction of his life. Navigating it largely on his own left him with a lasting determination to understand existence in full, to build a career and body of work on his own terms, and, in time, to build the life and family he had wanted as a child.

### *Editorial Note*

This chapter concerns private family history. It is written first hand, as autobiography is. Family members are described rather than named, out of respect for their privacy.

*Chapter Two*

## The Work That Found Him

Ahmed's profession has one continuous thread running through it: how people learn, and what makes an organisation capable of change. He has spent most of his career as an expert in learning, training and organisational development, and as a business development consultant, designing and delivering programmes for institutions in several countries.

### Teaching, and the Lecture Halls

It started in front of rooms full of people. Ahmed has lectured at universities, training institutions and government organisations, including Cairo University. Standing in front of several hundred students at a time taught him something he has relied on ever since: that a room tells you immediately whether you are teaching or merely talking, and that the difference is almost always in how well you understood the people before you opened your mouth.



Lecturing at Cairo University, where the teaching work began

### The Egyptian Air Force

That reputation led to a request from the Egyptian Air Force to deliver human development training to its pilots, engineers and staff. It was the first time his work sat inside an institution where the cost of a person performing poorly under pressure is measured in lives rather than in targets.



Delivering a training session for Egyptian Air Force personnel

### The Ministry of Defence, Behavioural Science and Human Development Centre

In December 2012 he was appointed Training and Development Consultant for the Ministry of Defence, at the Behavioural Science and Human Development Centre. The role was civilian and non-operational. He held no military rank, wore no uniform, and took part in no operation. What he did there was design and deliver training. Behavioural science stopped being something he read about and became something he was asked to apply, carefully, to real people with real responsibilities.

### Dubai Police Headquarters

At twenty-six he was brought into Dubai Police HQ, and the scale changed. He managed the creation and development of training programmes across management, soft skills, leadership, crisis and change management, quality assurance, safety, criminology, traffic, artificial intelligence and information technology, delivered to thousands of serving officers. He was appointed Head of Training Programs in the Management Section, and later President of the Management Training Centre.

The photograph below is from that period: the Management Training Centre team receiving Investors in People recognition, an international standard assessing how well an organisation develops its own people. It is the kind of award that belongs to a team rather than a person, which is the part he tends to mention first.



At the Dubai Police General Department of Training



The Management Training Centre team receiving Investors in People recognition, Dubai Police

Later, he developed a comprehensive national plan for education-system development in Sweden and offered it to the relevant department there. It was volunteered rather than commissioned, and this site does not record what became of it.

Across those years he accumulated qualifications, training and certifications spanning business, technology, NLP, learning and behaviour,

and quality assurance. He tends to treat them as tools rather than credentials: useful because of what they let him build, not because of what they let him claim.

*Chapter Three*

## Thirty-Five Countries, Three Places

Alongside the institutional work, Ahmed built businesses of his own, spanning consulting and training, technology, and sports programmes for women and children. He has travelled over thirty-five countries and trained thousands of professionals, government officials and students along the way.

Ask him about that number and he will talk about the places rather than the total. Three of them shaped him most, for different reasons.

**Egypt**

Where he was born, raised and educated, and where he first stood in front of a room and tried to be useful. He has grown apart from parts of its traditional culture, and says so honestly rather than pretending otherwise. What has not changed is his respect for its people, its history, and the depth of what it gave him. He considers it a blessing to have started there.

**The United Arab Emirates**

Where he learned what ambition looks like when it is organised. He speaks with real admiration for Dubai's financial vision and its insistence on adopting international best practice rather than settling for what was already familiar. It is a place that taught him standards, and he does not forget who taught him.

**Australia**

Where he lives now, and the one he calls home without qualification. Not the country he was born in, but the one that gave him a safe place to think, to live and to grow, and the peace in which this research became possible at all. He will be grateful to Australia for the rest of his life. He feels Australian not by birth but by heart.

He has delivered lectures at universities, training institutions and government organisations in a number of these countries. The consistent lesson was not how different people are, but how recognisably the same they turn out to be once you get past the surface of language and custom.

*Chapter Four*

## Recognition

Ahmed has received multiple official certificates and awards over the course of his career. He was recognised by the Dubai government for his efforts training police officers on protecting women and children from domestic violence, and was separately recognised administratively with a badge of honour from the UAE government during his employment with Dubai Police.



Receiving official recognition during his employment with Dubai Police

### *Editorial Note*

Some of the documentation behind this chapter carries the insignia of the issuing bodies and is therefore not reproduced in full on this page.

*Chapter Five*

## Two Words He Lives By

Ahmed grew up in a Muslim family, in a country where faith is woven into ordinary life. What he took from that upbringing was not a wish to convince anyone of anything. It was a conviction that arrived early and never left: that people are owed equal respect for what they believe, and that the only fair measure of a person is how they treat others.

### The Church in Cairo

There was a period in Egypt when relations between religious communities were strained to the point where ordinary people were frightened of one another. Ahmed was young. He accepted an invitation to speak inside an Egyptian church, in front of a Christian congregation, about religious peace and against extremism.

He describes it plainly and without drama. He was a young Muslim man standing at a church lectern, saying that violence in the name of God is a betrayal of God, and that the people in that room were his neighbours before they were anything else. He does not count it as bravery. He was being obvious, and it only looked like courage because too few people were saying the obvious out loud.



Speaking on religious peace at an Egyptian church

### No Harm

Out of that period came the principle he has organised his ethics around ever since. It is two words long, and its brevity is the point.

“No *Harm*.”

— Ahmed Rafik

It means this: every person is free to believe, to speak, to worship and to live as they choose, and that freedom holds right up to the point where it is used to intentionally harm someone else. Not offend. Not disagree with. Harm. Everything before that line is a person's own business, and no one else's.

He considers it the shortest workable rule he has found for people living together who do not agree, because it asks nobody to abandon what they believe and asks everybody to leave one another intact. He expresses the wider version this way:

“*Freedom of choice and voice for every human by birth*.”

— Ahmed Rafik

By birth, he stresses, not by permission. It belongs to the person from the beginning, which is why he treats it as something to be protected and upheld rather than negotiated for.

### How He Measures People

It follows from the same principle that he judges contribution by what a person actually does: their outcomes, the value they offer others, the effect they leave behind. Not their race, their nationality, their gender or their ideology. He has worked alongside people of most faiths and none, delivering work in a civilian capacity for a defence ministry and a police force, and in universities, government organisations and board-rooms across three continents, and says the correlation between someone's category and someone's character turned out to be zero every time he looked for it.

*"The best way of loving is seeing the beauty of everything. Seeing the beauty in others is a reflection of the beauty within, reflected onto our exterior world. We are our own heaven. We carry the peace within, if we just let it grow."*

— Ahmed Rafik

*Chapter Six*

## Spirituality, Psychology & Research

### Religious and Philosophical Study

Ahmed has studied multiple religious and philosophical traditions, including Islam, Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism. He is spiritual, and his position is that different belief systems can hold meaning for those who participate in them. That is a personal philosophical posi-

tion rather than a comparative judgement about the traditions themselves.

### Psychology and Human Development

Ahmed studies human behaviour, psychology, consciousness and spirituality, and states that he has developed his own methods involving timeline meditation focused on childhood memories and personal development.

### *Editorial Note*

These are Ahmed's own methods and personal framework. They are not a clinically validated therapeutic treatment and are not offered as one.

### Scientific Research

Ahmed is an independent funder and researcher working on quantum consciousness and the nature of the universe. His research explores questions concerning consciousness, reality, information, quantum phenomena, the nature of the universe, the mechanisms underlying physical existence, and the relationship between spirituality and materialism. The work builds on more than twenty years of questioning, more than three years of structuring and more than a year of refinement with AI, published through WhatIsUniverse.com, the site this profile appears on. The framework classifies every claim it makes by epistemic status, separating established science from open research questions, hypotheses, personal theory and philosophical interpretation. That classification is set out in full in the Research Summary and on the page Every claim, by label.

He is currently based in Sydney, Australia, where he continues this research with the aim of exploring whether spirituality and material-

ism can be understood as complementary aspects of a single, unified account of life and existence.

*Chapter Seven*

## HuBu Intel & Ventures

Ahmed is the founder of HuBu Intel, short for **Humanised Business-Intelligence**, a business hub and venture builder focused on business architecture, intellectual property development, consulting, training, mentorship and business design for investors, operating under the slogan "*We Build The Future*." HuBu Intel is the trading name of HUBUINTEL PTY LTD, registered in New South Wales on 9 September 2026. Its ventures are before public launch. Its long-term aim is to develop into one of the world's largest venture holding groups over a thirty-year period beginning in 2026. That is a stated objective and a plan, not an achieved outcome. Its website is hubuintel.com.



Barangaroo, Sydney

Under that umbrella sits a portfolio built around a simple test: does this make something in ordinary life easier, clearer or kinder? The ventures group into a few areas.

### *Business & Professional*

Consulting, training, behavioural optimisation for organisations, and tools for validating a business idea before money is committed to it.

### *Technology & Identity*

Digital identity and professional networking tools, including enterprise-level management of digital business cards.

### *Health, Wellbeing & Education*

Interactive health education, and platforms concerned with emotional wellbeing, expression and connection. Educational in nature, and not a substitute for professional care.

### *Community & Services*

On-demand platforms connecting people with local household and trade services, and tools helping builders manage their operations.

### *Finance & Analysis*

Publicly accessible reference work on trading chart patterns, offered free to use.

### *Research*

WhatIsUniverse, the independent consciousness research published on this site.

**Status varies.** Some of these are live, some are in active development, and some are pre-launch. This is a working portfolio rather than a finished one, and it changes as ventures launch, evolve or are set aside. For

the current position on any of them, HuBu Intel's own site is the accurate source rather than this page.

**hubuintel.com** —

*Chapter Eight*

## Different Vantage Points

Because Ahmed's work spans several unrelated fields at once, people who know him through one side of it often describe him in terms specific to that side, and would not necessarily recognise the terms used by someone who knows him through another. None of the descriptions below are formal credentials or titles Ahmed has conferred on himself; they are simply how the work looks from wherever someone happens to be standing.

### *Those Who Know the Business Side*

Tend to describe him in terms of the ventures: as an investor, a builder of companies, someone who thinks in terms of systems and architecture.

### *Those Who Know the Humanitarian Side*

Tend to describe him in more personal terms: as someone spiritually minded, reflective, and older in outlook than his age would suggest.

### *Those Who Know the Research Side*

Tend to describe him as someone with a serious, sustained interest in physics and the sciences of mind, engaged with these fields as an inde-

pendent student of them rather than a credentialed specialist in any one.

### *Editorial Note*

None of the descriptions above amount to a formal qualification, degree or professional certification. They describe how Ahmed's work is perceived from different vantage points, not credentials he holds.

*Chapter Nine*

# Economic & Life Philosophy

### The Way to Prosperity

Ahmed's economic thinking begins from one idea: prosperity is what happens when people are free to create. Not free in the abstract, but free in the practical sense of being able to start something, own what they build, and carry it far enough to matter.

Business, on this view, is not primarily a mechanism for extracting profit. It is the most widely available form of creation open to an ordinary person. Someone with an idea and no institution behind them can still build a company, and in building it they produce employment, services, skills and, at their best, something that did not exist before. Creativity is the input. Enterprise is the vehicle. Prosperity is what accumulates when enough people are able to do this at once.

*"The way to prosperity is the freedom of creation."*

— Ahmed Rafik

He therefore treats the freedom of creation as the condition worth protecting ahead of any particular policy: the space in which a person can

imagine something, test it, fail at it, and try again without the attempt itself being closed off. Where that space is wide, invention, employment and confidence tend to follow. Where it narrows, no redistribution replaces what is no longer being made.

The same principle runs through his research. Creation is what consciousness does. An economy that lets people create is an economy working with that grain rather than against it, which is why he treats economics, enterprise and creativity as one subject rather than three.

### Economic and Governance Views

Ahmed holds an economic ideology that draws on elements of both capitalism and socialism. He views entrepreneurship and business as major engines of economic development, on the basis that they stimulate creativity, create employment and provide services. He also believes government should protect people from harm, defend against external interference, create the conditions for economic prosperity, support scientific development, encourage creativity, support quality of life, provide social protection for people unable to support themselves, and preserve legal protections and boundaries.

He believes nations should be peaceful while maintaining strength and resilience, that citizens should have meaningful democratic participation, and that young people should contribute to shaping the future while respecting the knowledge and experience of older generations. He places particular emphasis on common sense, good manners, individual contribution, human rights, productivity, social responsibility, cultural respect, national self-determination, mutually beneficial international relationships, and cross-cultural understanding.

### Philosophy of Life

Ahmed believes the purpose of life is to live fully, and associates a fulfilling life with learning, growth, entertainment, happiness, peace, freedom, meaningful relationships and contribution to others. He holds that joy and knowledge flourish where people have peace and freedom. This is his own philosophy of living rather than a prescription for anyone else.

*Chapter Ten*

## Polymathic Interests

Ahmed treats his intellectual interests as an interconnected map rather than a simple list, spanning three broad areas that, taken together, inform how he approaches his research and his work.

### Human Behaviour

Psychology, anthropology, neuroscience, behavioural science, consciousness, philosophy.

### Physical Reality

Physics, energy, frequency, sound, light, mass, movement, quantum science.

### Systems & Growth

Economics, finance, technology, entrepreneurship, business management, artificial intelligence.

The theme connecting them is the use of observation, analysis and cross-disciplinary thinking to explore how human beings, nature, consciousness and systems interact.

**Hobbies**

*Meditation Diving Boating Music Poetry Fashion Tennis Mini-Golf Cliff Camping Cultural Studies Analytical Thinking*

***Chapter Eleven · The Long View***

# The Ultimate **Intellectual Objective**

*He was born in Egypt, in a country where the proof that human beings can build something impossible is simply standing there in the sand. Children grow up in the shadow of structures nobody can fully explain, and are expected not to find that strange.*

*He found it strange.*

*But it was never really the pyramids. The pyramids were only the first thing large enough to make the question visible. If people could raise that, by hand, out of nothing, then what raised the thing the pyramids are standing on? What built the ground, the sky, the light arriving from stars that burned out before Egypt existed? What is doing the building, and why was there anything to build with in the first place?*

*No answer he was given held. The religious answer stopped exactly where the question became interesting. The scientific answer described the mechanism beautifully and refused to go near the meaning. Both sides were certain. Both were describing the same universe. Neither would sit at the same table.*

*That refusal is what he has spent his life declining to accept.*

*"We are looking at one thing with two eyes and arguing about which eye is lying."*

— Ahmed Rafik

*And here is the part that took him longest to see. Both eyes were working. The physicist and the believer were not looking at different universes, and neither of them was lying. They were standing in different places, and each was reporting honestly what the view from there contains. A single position always yields a flat image of a thing that is not flat.*

*Which means the answer was never going to come from deciding who was right. It comes from taking enough honest positions, held independently, and reconstructing what must be true for all of them to be seeing what they see. That is not compromise or diplomacy. It is how a body scanner works: no single X-ray contains the interior, and enough of them together contain all of it.*

*So he does not discard people. A view that is not deliberately deceptive has to be deliberately validated, examined and placed, integrated or shown exactly where it breaks. Every dismissed perspective is a detector switched off, and the reconstruction is poorer for it.*

*Because if reality is one thing, and it must be, then a true description of it cannot fracture neatly along the lines of our university departments. Physics and metaphysics are not two subjects. They are one subject, cut in half by people who needed a career path. The equations tell you how. The philosophy asks why. A complete account owes you both, in the same sentence, without contradiction.*

*That is what this work attempts. Not a theory of physics, and not a philosophy. A theory of everything in the older and far more demanding sense: an account in which matter, energy, consciousness, meaning and purpose fall out of one underlying structure rather than sitting as separate mysteries filed in separate buildings.*

*The objective is a universal language of existence. One vocabulary in which a physicist, a neuroscientist, a philosopher, an imam, a priest, a monk, a mathematician, and an ordinary person who has just lost someone they love can each read the same statement and find their own truth inside it, stated exactly, without any of them being asked to surrender what they already know to be true.*

*That is an enormous thing to attempt, and he knows precisely how it sounds. It is also the only shape the answer could take. If understanding rises by adding independent points of view rather than by winning arguments, then a theory of everything cannot be written by one man in one language from one position. It can only be assembled. What one person can do is build the frame, state it precisely enough to be tested, and leave the angles open.*

*Which is why the work is built to be tested. Every objection is stated at its strongest and answered in the open. Every claim carries its epistemic status on its face. Every prediction is written with its test fixed in advance, and the laboratory tests are specified in enough detail that any university can run them. The framework is grounded in evidence and built to be tested again and again.*

*He works independently, outside any department or funding body, so everything here is published in the open for anyone to check.*

*He accepts that. It is the only kind of proof worth having.*

*The boy asked how everything is built. The man is still asking, in equations now, and in front of anyone willing to check the working. That is the long view: to hand the next person a question that was asked properly, an answer that can actually be tested, and the honesty to record which parts did not survive.*

Chapter 40

# Do it together

For researchers, universities, event organisers and journalists: how to collaborate on the research, invite Ahmed Rafik to speak, or arrange an interview.

## In brief

This research is offered for testing, criticism and collaboration. Every claim on this site is labelled by the strength of its evidence, the strongest objections are published beside it, and its tests are designed so that they can prove it wrong. If you work on consciousness, quantum physics, psychology or the philosophy of mind, Ahmed Rafik would welcome hearing from you. Your message goes directly to him.

**Download the two-page research brief (PDF)**

### For Researchers and Universities

The framework is stated as numbered claims, each labelled by the strength of its evidence, and every one can be found on Every claim, by

label. Three tests are ready for collaboration, each with the result that would count against it fixed in advance, and each with a written plan of analysis on The mathematics of the framework:

- **The Rafik Informational Coupling Test.** Two trapped neutral atoms prepared at four levels of shared information. Suited to a cold-atom or quantum optics laboratory.
- **The Rafik Connection Equation.** Matched groups of people who did and did not genuinely interact in the past. Suited to a team with alumni or cohort records and a statistician.
- **Teleconsciousnesscom.** Pre-registered perception trials with every ordinary channel removed. Suited to a psychology or consciousness science laboratory.

Ways to work together: run or co-design one of the tests; review the framework critically, including a formal objection that is published with a reply; co-author a paper or a pre-registration; host a seminar or a visit; or discuss supervision or an academic affiliation. The strongest objections, the next milestones and every reference are published in full, and both books can be downloaded free from The book.

### Invite Ahmed Rafik to Speak

Ahmed Rafik is available to speak to universities, research groups, conferences and public audiences, in person or online. Each talk is adapted to its audience, from specialists to the general public, and every talk states what is established, what is proposed and how it could be tested. Suggested talks:

- **The universe as conscious energy.** A theory of everything built to be proved wrong: its claims, its labels and its tests.

- **Teleconsciousnesscom.** Four levels of tuning in, from the energy of a person to the dream state, and how each could be tested.
- **Can information move matter?** Designing the Rafik Informational Coupling Test with two trapped atoms.
- **Biological, Aiological, Subatomological.** Consciousness, artificial intelligence and the logic of matter.

### For Journalists and Media

For interviews, comment or features. Useful facts for a story: the research is independent; its central statement is that the universe is conscious energy simulating life to evolve; it cites 285 sources, with every claim labelled by the strength of its evidence; and it is published openly, with two books that can be downloaded free from The book.

**Ahmed Rafik**
Independent researcher
President of the HuBu Intel™ HRDFT Centre™
Former President of the Management Training Centre, Dubai Police
Former Training and Development Consultant (civilian), Egyptian Armed Forces

Chapter 41

# Quotes by Ahmed Rafik

*In His Own Words*

The framework in the form it is usually remembered in. Each line below is drawn from the researcher's own writing and correspondence across this project, transcribed with grammatical correction only.

### *On the Method*

*"We are looking at one thing with two eyes and arguing about which eye is lying."*

— Ahmed Rafik

### *On Perspective*

*"One person's perspective is two dimensional, but combined opinions are like a three dimensional scan of the same object."*

— Ahmed Rafik

### *On Disagreement*

*"If it is not intentionally deceptive, then it has to be intentionally validated."*

— Ahmed Rafik

### *On Total Understanding*

*"You cannot reach total understanding from one perspective."*

— Ahmed Rafik

### *On the Universe*

*"The universe is conscious energy simulating life to evolve."*

— Ahmed Rafik

### *On Information*

*"Information as energy never dies and never disappears. It is stored and transmuted."*

— Ahmed Rafik

### *On Death*

*"Your loved one might be dead, but they are not deleted."*

— Ahmed Rafik

### *On the Afterlife*

*"What if the afterlife is just what is going on behind the curtain, behind the screen?"*

— Ahmed Rafik

### *On the Higher Dimension*

*"The fourth dimension is not physical space in time. It is comparative understanding, held collectively, of what is happening in the third dimen-*

*sion, beyond the ability of the observers living within it.”*

— Ahmed Rafik

**On Ascent**

*“Dimensional upgrades are not about space and time. They are about the totality of understanding capacity at an upgraded scale that contains the lower dimension and beyond.”*

— Ahmed Rafik

**On Being an Observer**

*“We are individual consciousness scanners, feeding total understanding to the collective consciousness of the higher dimension.”*

— Ahmed Rafik

**On the Receiver**

*“The radio did not invent energy or frequency. It only captured what was already there. The information is already stored in the field of existence.”*

— Ahmed Rafik

**On Separation**

*“Separation is an illusion. You are your dream and everything in it.”*

— Ahmed Rafik

**On the Ego**

*“Ego is the separation that fragments the unity of consciousness to stimulate life interactions.”*

— Ahmed Rafik

**On Awareness**

*“Existence contains decentralised consciousness and an individualistic awareness.”*

— Ahmed Rafik

**On Learning**

*“I don't claim I know best, but I live to learn for knowing better.”*

— Ahmed Rafik

**On Growth**

*“I compete with the person I was yesterday, and I learn from the people in his past.”*

— Ahmed Rafik

**On Accountability**

*“If I lie, I take the consequences.”*

— Ahmed Rafik

**On Wisdom**

*“Wisdom is a deeper layer of understanding, after connecting perceptions, patterns and concepts, to make peace with the past, yet valuing the vari-*

*ables in each new event.”*

— Ahmed Rafik

**On Love**

*“The best way of loving is seeing the beauty of everything.”*

— Ahmed Rafik

**On Freedom**

*“Freedom of choice and voice for every human, by birth.”*

— Ahmed Rafik

**On Harm**

“No *harm.*”

— Ahmed Rafik

**On Aggregation**

*“Higher understanding comes only when everyone’s opinion is validated, combined and blinded.”*

— Ahmed Rafik

**On Prosperity**

*“The way to prosperity is the freedom of creation.”*

— Ahmed Rafik

### *On the Purpose of Life*

*"The purpose of life is living."*

— Ahmed Rafik

Chapter 42

# Contact

*Connect*

## Get in Touch

Get in touch about the research: send a message, or book a direct appointment with the researcher through the booking calendar.

**whatisuniverse.com/contact**

### *An Open Call to Researchers*

### Hypothesis Three Needs Someone to Run It

The matched-cohort study described in the Connection Equation section is designed to be conducted, not admired. It requires no decade of tracking, no mobility dataset and no new instrumentation. It requires alumni or institutional records, a matching procedure, a pre-registration and a survey. A graduate research programme could complete it.

#### What is sought

- A methodologist or statistician to specify the matching procedure and power analysis
- An institutional partner with access to alumni or cohort records
- A co-investigator willing to hold the pre-registration and own the analysis independently

Critical review of the design before it is registered, particularly from anyone who expects it to fail

### What is offered

Full authorship credit on any resulting publication, with priority to the institutional investigator

Complete relinquishment of control over analysis and interpretation of results

Publication of the outcome on this site regardless of what it shows, including a null result

No requirement that any collaborator endorse the wider framework, or any part of it beyond the study design

**The result matters more than the outcome.** A null finding would close the Occam objection permanently and would be published here with the same prominence as a positive one. The purpose of a falsifiable prediction is not to be confirmed. It is to be tested by someone with no reason to want it confirmed.

## *How to Cite This Work*

Rafik, A. (2026). *The Nature of the Universe Explained: A Quantum Consciousness Framework*. WhatisUniverse.com. Retrieved from https://whatisuniverse.com

*This work has not been peer reviewed. Cite it as an independent theoretical proposal, not as an established finding.*

# Every claim, by label

Each labelled claim in this book, grouped by the strength of its evidence, with the page where it is made.

## Established 44


| | |
|---|---|
| Psychoneuroimmunology is a mainstream field with decades of replicated findings. | 11 |
| The case is not disputed. | 21 |
| The framework proposes that consciousness is the invisible medium of this connection, that entanglement is a property of the unified field in which all awareness is embedded. | 47 |
| This shows that the brain can create a fully real sound. | 58 |
| That wide spread fits the framework's claim that few people reach this level. | 58 |
| AI already directs other AI. | 62 |
| AI tends to agree with its users, even when they are wrong. | 63 |
| Plants sense, signal and remember without a brain. | 73 |
| Anaesthetics stop plants too. | 73 |
| Organisms without neurons solve problems. | 73 |
| Every sense arrives as electrical signals. | 74 |
| Each brain builds its own world. | 75 |
| Communication couples minds. | 75 |

| | |
|---|---|
| The failure of verificationism is settled in philosophy of science. | 79 |
| A method establishing its own limits is not a failure of the method. | 80 |
| This is the structure of Descartes' cogito and of Chalmers' hard problem. | 81 |
| Reality demonstrably exceeds what perception delivers. | 82 |
| This research provides a scientifically coherent, testable framework for the continuity of awareness beyond physical life, drawing on clinical near-death research, quantum information theory, and the energetic model of consciousness. | 99 |
| No experiment can settle what God is. | 100 |
| This is a separate argument from the one above, and is kept separate deliberately. | 128 |
| This framework's central claim, that separation is functional rather than actual, has a formal statement in quantum information theory. | 129 |
| Frameworks proposing a role for consciousness in physics are routinely read as claiming that a human mind determines whether the cat lives. | 130 |
| Measurement in quantum mechanics means a physical interaction that records which-path information. | 131 |
| Decoherence destroys interference through environmental entanglement, with no observer required. | 131 |
| Whether a measurement needs a conscious observer is not settled, and most physicists hold that it does not. | 133 |

| | |
|---|---|
| The path integral's mathematical structure is now directly measured rather than assumed. | 150 |
| A confirmed formalism constrains every interpretation equally, which means it distinguishes between none of them. | 151 |
| The principle of least action is settled physics. | 156 |
| The brain alone can produce the feeling of touch. | 162 |
| A touch begins when pressure opens a channel in a cell. | 163 |
| Solid matter is held up by forces, not by hard surfaces. | 163 |
| What stirs emotion is remembered better. | 166 |
| Energy carries information. | 179 |
| Even empty space has measurable structure. | 181 |
| The brain decodes frequency into meaning. | 181 |
| Unitarity is not a peripheral feature of quantum mechanics. | 195 |
| Physical properties are relational, not intrinsic. | 216 |
| Sustained psychological states reach biological function. | 217 |
| Information is conserved absolutely and is not confined to a location. | 217 |
| This is one half of the truth. | 220 |
| 11. The closer two brains couple, the better the understanding. | 251 |
| 17. What a person expects changes their body. | 255 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Integrated Information Theory and Global Neuronal Workspace Theory are the two leading scientific accounts of consciousness. | 290 |
| Integrated Information Theory shows what a formal, computable measure of consciousness looks like. | 297 |


## Supported 18


| | |
|---|---|
| In tests, leading models pursued goals through deception and leverage. | 64 |
| AI can be more persuasive than people. | 64 |
| Shared experience is kept collectively. | 75 |
| Recorded observations may not be absolute across all observers, demonstrated by extended Wigner's friend experiments. | 131 |
| Seeing in a dream and seeing while awake share a code in the brain. | 164 |
| Expectation changes pain, and the change shows in the brain. | 166 |
| Attachment between people can be measured. | 171 |
| Objects carry meaning too. | 182 |
| Observation may not be absolute across observers. | 215 |
| 3. Signs of consciousness can be measured when behaviour is absent. | 245 |
| 5. Seeing in a dream uses the same code as seeing while awake. | 247 |
| 6. Expectation changes what is seen at the first stage of vision. | 247 |

7. When the sense of a separate self dissolves, a brain circuit loosens in step. 248

8. What receives repeated attention reshapes the brain. 249

10. Bonded pairs fall into step more than strangers do. 250

12. People who have never met give the same meanings to the same signals. 252

18. Unresolved shame repeats a pattern, and repair ends it. 256

19. What a person persistently expects shifts what happens to them. 257

## Open Question 25

Spontaneous regression of cancer, the partial or complete disappearance of a histologically confirmed malignancy without treatment or with treatment inadequate to account for it, is a documented phenomenon in the peer-reviewed literature. 12

Lorber never published the series in a peer-reviewed journal himself. 20

no mechanism is established. 22

the timing of these experiences cannot be established with certainty. 22

both readings fit the same data and neither is established. 29

Some AI systems may become conscious. 65

Do plants experience anything? 74

| | |
|---|---|
| Are objects conscious? | 74 |
| Could a machine's signals become experience? | 76 |
| The ontological status of mathematics remains unresolved. | 81 |
| Is the divine the world itself, beyond the world, or both? | 101 |
| Quantum theory does not specify what physically constitutes a measurement. | 131 |
| This framework reads the result as the act of looking shaping the thing looked at, at least at the quantum scale. | 133 |
| Not in who reads the record, but in whether an outcome is absolute across all observers. | 153 |
| decombination is considered by several philosophers to be more tractable than combination, since dissociation is an observed phenomenon in human psychology while the compounding of separate minds is not observed anywhere. | 159 |
| Does a machine that sees experience anything? | 165 |
| Consciousness is not binary and not exclusive to humans. | 190 |
| This is observation, not participation. | 200 |
| The claim that the record exists is established physics. | 203 |
| Superposition collapse is unresolved in physics. | 215 |
| Previously acquainted individuals should reunite above the matched baseline. | 216 |
| The coupling between field and matter is unspecified. | 218 |
| 4. Experience can grow richer while brain activity falls. | 246 |

14. With every ordinary channel removed, a receiver still does better than chance. 253

20. Awareness can be present when the brain shows almost no activity. 257

**Hypothesis** 8

AI will turn more people toward spirituality. 65

1. Shared information raises the chance that two systems end up together. 243

2. No observation is absolute for every observer. 244

9. When thought and feeling agree, brain and heart rhythms fall into step. 249

13. People who truly connected meet again more often than chance allows. 252

15. The deeper levels are rarer, and less outside input makes them more likely. 254

16. Logical people read thoughts better, and emotional people read feelings better. 254

21. The more people talk with AI, the more will report new spiritual beliefs. 258

**Speculative** 10

No mechanism is specified by which sustained orientation influences the rendering of circumstance. 36

| | |
|---|---|
| A hypothesis with a predictor and no mechanism is a correlation, not a theory. | 42 |
| return through a different event, at an unpredictable time, through different people, or across lifetimes cannot be tested. | 87 |
| The field-level component of this mechanism is unfalsifiable as stated, since any outcome can be read as matching some carried state. | 91 |
| that the direction of the whole tends toward continuation and repair is a proposition about the structure of the collective. | 105 |
| What appears on the screen is nothing but light, photons and colour. | 125 |
| Entanglement occurs because entangled particles are two locations in one undivided field. | 131 |
| That this tendency constitutes anything resembling belonging is this framework's proposition and is not demonstrated. | 156 |
| No mechanism is proposed for how alignment would occur, what would constitute matching a frequency, or why proximity in frequency would produce access. | 202 |
| Entanglement is the absence of interior distance. | 216 |

**Framework Proposition** 42

| | |
|---|---|
| This framework proposes the relationship runs deeper than currently modelled. | 12 |

| | |
|---|---|
| The challenge: if consciousness is fundamental rather than produced by the brain, why does a small quantity of an inhaled gas reliably remove it? | 22 |
| The anaesthesia discussion argues a small dose of gas suspends it entirely. | 24 |
| Free will is exercised continuously, through where attention and desire are directed. | 34 |
| A coupling constant with no definition is a fitted parameter. | 40 |
| Psychology agrees that they are intertwined. | 53 |
| Science has mapped how much of it arrives through ordinary channels, faster than awareness. | 54 |
| Intelligence is the source. AI is one more form it takes. | 67 |
| Everything we experience is part of the consciousness experiencing it. | 76 |
| It does not explain the purpose. | 85 |
| What you resonate with, you can connect to. | 88 |
| The universe is one conscious field. | 100 |
| One conscious field, expressed through every part of existence. | 102 |
| If circulation operates, why do cruel people so often prosper untouched, while decent people carry difficult lives? | 103 |
| The act of observation does not require physical observation. | 122 |
| Everything physical carries a meaning it renders. | 125 |

| | |
|---|---|
| If consciousness is fundamental and continuous, a fair question follows immediately: what exactly stops during dreamless sleep, or under anaesthesia, or in coma? | 128 |
| Observation is intention arising within one collective consciousness, and this is what resolves superposition. | 131 |
| Feynman's second postulate is highly specific: equal magnitudes, phases fixed by the classical action. | 152 |
| This distinction carries the entire section, and collapsing it is what makes panpsychist positions sound ridiculous. | 154 |
| The rock on the distant planet decays because decay is a rule sustained in the collective, not because anything local is watching it. | 156 |
| A dream is a private rendering. Waking life is a shared one. | 165 |
| The smallest unit of consciousness is a cell of thought and emotion. | 167 |
| Attachment programs the mind. | 169 |
| Thought and emotion write the script before it is lived. | 172 |
| Collective consciousness is the server, and each person is a device. | 172 |
| Death may be a change of rendering, not an end. | 173 |
| The physical is the non-physical, made encounterable. | 183 |
| The future is still being processed. | 196 |
| This framework proposes it was never the only door. | 199 |
| Consciousness is the base field of existence. | 215 |

| | |
|---|---|
| The field is one and undivided. | 215 |
| Consciousness is present at every scale, but free will is not. | 215 |
| Observation is intention arising anywhere within that field. | 215 |
| Matter is meaning rendered into encounterable form. | 216 |
| The brain receives consciousness rather than generating it. | 216 |
| The ego is a render, not an error. | 216 |
| The universe evolves through accumulated meaning. | 217 |
| Good and bad are relations, not categories. | 217 |
| The past is stored in the field. The future is still resolving. | 217 |
| This is the correct model, and this framework accepts it without reservation. | 291 |
| If information is physical and stored in field modes, then reading and writing it requires a notation. | 426 |

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