

Creativity
Perplexity
Abstractions
Assumptions
Disambiguation
Cognitive dissonance
An inverted world-view

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"Sell your cleverness and purchase bewilderment" ~ Rumi

"Try looking at it a different way" ~ "James and the Giant Peach"

"Imagination is more important than knowledge" ~ Einstein (paraphrased)

"Change the way you look at things, and the things you look at will change" ~ anon

~and~

Mathematics seems to endow one with something like a new sense.

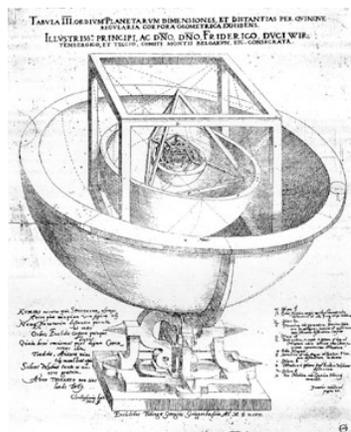
~Charles Darwin

~but~

"Ignorance of chemistry might allow one to imagine water that is not actually H₂O."

~Blackmore, page 150 (paraphrasing Dennett)

~and then, of course, there was *phlogiston*, and~



Kepler's *divinely inspired* geometric model of the five platonic solids and orbits of the planets

Evolution of Consciousness -OR- Conscious Manifestation?

Natural selection might have favored intelligence, a sense of humor, charm – seductive, bonding or trust inducing elements of consciousness that may make one more likely to successfully reproduce (the ‘Peacock Mind in the Economist 12/05).

The human cerebral cortex has more receptors for *pleasure* than any other material in the universe (Candace Pert, PhD.)

The word **evolution** is defined as non-cyclic change over time.

Blackmore’s algorithm “If you have **variation**, **selection**, **heredity**, you *must* get evolution” physicalist “**Mindless Design**” of consciousness assumes:

Biological life as *caused by* evolution

Consciousness (if it exists at all) as *caused by* biological functions

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/physicalism/>

The **3** theories of the evolution of consciousness discussed in Blackmore’s “Consciousness, an Introduction” address evolution as *change*, and “why there might be somethinK rather than nothinK,” but not the more basic underlying question of “why is there *something* rather than *nothing*” in the universe (ultimate causation). Consider a fourth...

4. Let’s call it the **Conscious Manifestation Correlation Theory**

Evidence of evolution as *correlation* to, but *not necessarily cause of* consciousness

Is it *okay* to think “progressively” (as in teleologically)?

Fetal development- process of cell differentiation

Piaget’s developmental psychology theory- differentiation of “self”

Cultural history- nested wholes, each stage transcends and includes:

Oral/Mythic, Literate/Romantic, Philosophic/Objective, Ironic/Quantum...

Evolution as creative expression/exploration

HEGEL- *A traditional “metaphysical” interpretation:*

...identity in difference, mind externalizes itself in various forms and objects that stand outside of it or opposed to it, and mind, through recognizing itself in them, is “with itself” in these external manifestations, so that they are at one and the same time mind and other-than-mind. This notion of identity in difference, which is intimately bound up with Hegel’s conception of contradiction and negation, is a principal feature differentiating Hegel’s thought from that of other philosophers.

...the developing self-conscious and self-actualization of the cosmos-God itself.

Excerpted from <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/hegel/#2.1>

Excerpted from Wikipedia: *...the mind of God becoming actual only via the minds of his creatures, who serve as its vehicle.*

Donna’s flight of fancy: “**Witness Production Program**”

Differentiation Otherness, uniqueness, boundaries in order to “know thyself”

Evolution Non-cyclic change over time, differentiation with replication, is it goal directed? or an exploration?

Eros in ancient Greece: *the love of god*, now *sexual love or desire*, in psychoanalytic theory: the trinity of drives for “*self preservation-pleasure- procreation*”

Genes/DNA as *eternal* yet changing/mutating *life*?

Humor the fun-da-mental stuff of the universe? ☺

Ironic understanding tolerance of uncertainty. Egan's term from "The Educated Mind"

Life Force consciousness expressing in the world

Logos often translated *word*, root of the word *logic* - "In the beginning was the [Logos], and the [Logos] was with God, and the [Logos] was God." Adapted from John 1:1-2, KJV

Mathematics Universal symbolic language, logical arguments, abstractions/generalizations, an outgrowth of language/thinking, or *primordial/elemental*?

Mutation change in DNA, miscopy as mistake? or the mechanism of open-mindedness, creativity, optional realities? Differentiate in order to answer the question who am I- "compared to what?" Create observed and observer, witness

Memes cultural replicants, *eternal* yet changing/mutating *life*?

Natural Selection organism needs to survive long enough to successfully reproduce, do not need to be perfect/true (think of your parents, or dating in general- love nor reproduction require objective perfection)

Necker cube a visual joke, seeing two interpretations of the same data

Tao the ultimate reality in which all things are located or happen, the universal energy that makes and maintains everything that exists

Unity holistic, networked system, the parts in the whole, and the whole in the parts

Might Conscious Realism accommodate any of those 4 theories?

Consider the likelihood of random mutation and natural selection producing a *Truth detection device*, over and above a *good enough to get dinner & sex* survival system. Is truthful depiction necessary for survival? Apparently not. Are random forces sufficient to guarantee this result? Perhaps, but can we be sure humans possess this equipment? When did it reach this threshold- are we there yet? Though it SEEMS to us that we can know the actual nature of our environment, it is unlikely that we have randomly evolved the necessary and sufficient equipment, and how could we be sure? (an interpretation of Dr. Hoffman's species specific MUI as it relates to evolution).

Can we, through technologies, improve our lot? Would our minds interpret accurate data in a veridical way? Can we know anything for sure? How?

For further exploration:

Stanford "Quantum Consciousness" - <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/qt-consciousness/#B>

"What the #\$%@! Do We Know?" movie:

<http://www.whatthebleep.com/?Referer=WhattheBLEEPDoWeKnow.mov.ie>

Ken Wilber - <http://www.kenwilber.com/>

Candace Pert, PhD. - <http://www.candacepert.com/>

Book "Information and Meaning in Evolutionary Processes":

<http://www.cup.cam.ac.uk/uk/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=0521815142&ss=exc>

interesting paper on "Internal Realism":

<http://www.trinity.edu/cbrown/papers/internalrealism.html>

Function(s) of consciousness -OR- consciousness as a function?

What role does consciousness play (not what's its purpose)

The word "Mind" comes from "minding the store" attending/attention

But aren't we (at least somewhat) *conscious* even when we aren't paying attention?

Language and Art

Arbitrary symbols defined by convention

Do we think because we manipulate symbols, or do we manipulate symbols because we think?

The urge to explain (make up likely stories?)

From myths to hypothesis

Abstractions: Archetypes, shared memes, common denominators, Platonic Ideals?

Cause and effect

We can lie and manipulate to get what we want

Subjective Perspective

The view from a particular point within time & space

Does our available equipment give us access to Truth?

sensory perception, empirical observations (eyes, microscopes...)

set of intellectual tools: reason, creativity, imagination

Is Math the product of these? Or something primal?

A portal for prayer, meditation, will, reason, imagination, intuition, *math*?

Consciousness as a mathematical function/relation?

Human consciousness as *the relationship* by which, or *the interface* where, energy/matter is manifest?

Various languages, math is universal

Geometry and arithmetic have been found to be innate

1/19/06 Reuters: Amazonian hunter-gatherers lack written language, speak

Munduruku which has few words dedicated to arithmetical, geometrical, or spatial concepts, although a variety of metaphors are spontaneously used. Their intuitive understanding of geometrical concepts and maps provides evidence that core geometrical knowledge, like basic arithmetic, is a universal constituent of the human mind, researchers concluded.

Consciousness as "probabilistic inductive inference" function? Accessed via intuition?

Could math be a fundamental aspect of conscious reality?

-The science of mathematics presents the most brilliant example of how pure reason may successfully enlarge its domain without the aid of experience. ~Emmanuel Kant

<http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html#k>

For further exploration:

Quantum mechanics primer

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basics_of_quantum_mechanics

Tiller Foundation

<http://tillerfoundation.com/books.htm#ConActs>

Essay by David Peat on the nature of math

<http://www.f davidpeat.com/bibliography/essays/math.htm>

Animal Consciousness

Is your cat living in a parallel universe?

Does she have a sense of humor?

Does she wonder “why?” Does she already know?

Instinct vs. Intuition

There seems to be a biological hierarchy, but what are the categories?

Are all life forms variations on a theme?

Differentiation and unity?

Are all creatures conscious co-creators?

What is uniquely human?

Humor, abstraction, math

Free will?

Choice (**variation** and **selection**?) of behaviors and memes,

Cultural transmission (social intercourse) (**heredity/replication**?)

The next step- from *genetic evolution* to “*memetic volition*?”

How, then, shall we live?

What (who?) do you feel comfortable eating?

Plants, crustaceans, fish, reptiles, birds/eggs, mammals/milk?

Are you comfortable with factory farming?

Vertebrates have “pleasure” receptors; boney fish have “anxiety” receptors...

Consider others as self, and self as an expression of Universal Truth in *ALL* that we do?

New world view, new priorities?

Live mindfully, in harmony with nature?

Contribution vs. Achievement?

What of dogma, “either-or” thinking, and judgment?

Re-think our materialistic capitalistic “consumercide” path?

and... *maybe* we should all become math majors?