

CONSCIOUSNESS, VOLITION, AND THE SELF

Evan Harris Walker two basic postulate:

- 1. Consciousness is real and nonphysical.**
- 2. Physical reality is connected to consciousness by mean of a single physically fundamental quantity. (There is a connect between consciousness and brain neurological processes but the neurological processes are not consciousness)**

HOW DO WE DEFINE CONSCIOUSNESS?

Consciousness as being conscious, i.e., awake

Consciousness as being aware

Consciousness as “mind”

Consciousness is the subjective experience of reality

QUALIA

Ramachandram: “The three laws of qualia”

First Feature: You cannot change your mind about what you are experiencing: The perception is irrevocable

Second Feature: Sensations that are qualia-laden afford the luxury of choice

Third Feature: The mental representation of the perception must exist long enough for you to do something with it. Some mental operation.

Edmund Husserl

That each person’s conscious states distinctively refer to objects in the world (including the self) and fill in actual sensations with extra information such as seeing an entire image of yourself in a mirror although part is not reflected or seeing yourself as you image you appear.

Conscious perceptions are in flux, a blend of past experiences, current experience, and a sense of what is coming up.

Dan Lloyd

Gilbert Ryle: “Ghosts in the machine”

Volition: “the act of willing - prepared to acknowledge.”

Free Will

**Isaac Newton
Determinism
Classic Physics**

The world is real and consists of discrete objects.

Reality is not what determinists insist that it is.

Quantum physics

“It used to be said that the Newtonian universe evolved like clockwork. Once the initial conditions were given—the position and momenta of all the particles—the future was completely determined. But if you could never precisely determine these initial conditions, as. . . the uncertainty principle [of quantum physics] said, then you were liberated from this deterministic straitjacket.”

Jeremy Berstein 2009

**Copenhagen interpretation
Collapsed vector state**

Free will would said to exist when an outcome occurs that cannot be predicted when all external and internal factors have been factored in that together would predict an specific

action. What is left would be attributed to error variance would be a product of free will.