

“You don’t have a soul. You are a soul. You have a body.”

George MacDonald - Annals of a Quiet Neighborhood - 1892

Is The Soul Real? A Neurosurgeon (Michael Egnor) Explores The Evidence (2025 Dallas Conference on Science & Faith)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41bIJ7hYbLs>

“It is because we, (as souls), have a faculty of (an immaterial) mind that we are capable of having concepts, thoughts, beliefs,,, things like that.”,,,

– J.P. Moreland – Is the Soul Immortal?

<https://youtu.be/QzbdT0GxAdk?t=209>

Looking for Consciousness in All the Wrong Places

[Michael Egnor](#) - March 9, 2025

Excerpt: **But the higher human ability to think abstractly — to reason and will freely — are *not physical abilities and do not come from the brain***. Penfield showed that higher abstract thought could not be evoked from the brain by electrical stimulation. Sperry, Sergent, and Pinto showed that after split-brain surgery, patients have the ability to compare two images presented to different brain hemispheres even though no part of the brain could “see” both images. Libet showed that free will in making simple choices like deciding to push a button is real. Researchers in the emerging science of near death experiences have shown clearly that at least some of these experiences are real — that is, people can have awareness after [complete cessation](#) of brain function.,

Reductionism is nonsense, and “consciousness” is not nestled in clusters of neurons.,, This classical Christian view of man is confirmed by the best modern neuroscience.”

<https://evolutionnews.org/2025/03/looking-for-consciousness-in-all-the-wrong-places/>

Head Truth

The huge case for thinking minds do not come from brains

September 17, 2023

Excerpt: The authors of the new study made the most elaborate efforts to “slice and dice” the data, trying to find some correlation between brain states of their 23,000 subjects and psychological states of those subjects.

Since they tried 700 different models, we are reminded of the old adage “keep torturing the data sufficiently, and it will confess to anything.” But in this case there was no confession. **The authors of the new study were unable to find any real correlation between brain states and mental states.** A section of their paper referring to brain imaging (such as fMRI scans) is entitled “Psychological characteristics are poorly predicted by imaging.”

The authors found that they could predict age and sex well from brain imaging data, and also handedness (whether one is right-handed or left-handed). But it was a totally different story for psychological characteristics. We read this: “The addition of any neuroimaging, whether structural or functional, generally offered no material benefit” in being able to predict a psychological characteristic. The authors state this: “Our analysis shows that whereas constitutional characteristics—age, sex, and weight—are highly predictable from neuroimaging,

psychology, chronic illness, and serological characteristics are not."

You could fairly summarize the results by saying this: brains don't look any different when someone is moody, miserable, irritable, sensitive, fed-up, nervous, anxious, tense, worrying, lonely or guilty. The result of the authors is consistent with the claim that the brain is not the source of the human mind.

<https://headtruth.blogspot.com/2023/09/analysis-of-23000-brain-scans-finds.html>

<https://headtruth.blogspot.com>

"Clearly, neurons were the cells that made things happen: Through electrical and chemical signaling, they materialize our thoughts, feelings and actions."

–Yasemin Saplakoglu, a staff writer covering biology for *Quanta Magazine*

<https://www.quantamagazine.org/in-the-guts-second-brain-key-agents-of-health-emerge-20231121/>

In the 18th century, Pierre Cabanis claimed that "The brain secretes thought as the liver secretes bile." Today countless neuroscientists make similar claims that the mind is the brain, or the mind is the functioning brain, or the mind arises from the functioning brain. Fairly typical is this quote from neuroscientist Vilayanur S. Ramachandran "Even though it is common knowledge, it never ceases to amaze me that all the richness of our mental life – all our feelings, our emotions, our thoughts, our ambitions, our love lives, our religious sentiments and even what each of us regards as his or her own intimate private self – is simply the activities of these little specks of jelly in our heads, in our brains. There is nothing else."

Nov. 2022 - "If naturalism is true, then our thoughts are not real in themselves; they are only random physical states of the molecules which make up the neurons of our brains. With such an assumption, we could not think. Our thoughts would only be interactions following the laws of nature, unguided by anything higher than the forces between atoms."

– Chesterton

Besides our thoughts becoming unreal, a 'person' who is capable of having thoughts also becomes unreal, and/or illusory, under atheistic naturalism,

In short, we cannot hold ourselves to be 'real persons' with 'real thoughts' unless we first hold ourselves to be 'souls' with 'immaterial minds',

<https://uncommondescent.com/mind/the-thought-that-stops-thought/#comment-770675>

The Iron Triangle by Vince Ellison - John C Wright - January 14, 2020

Excerpt: **Men have souls.**

Once one accepts that premise, one must accept the conclusions that follow from it: creatures with souls are not evolved from slime, since spirit, being simple and eternal, cannot be brought into being by matter, which is compound, subject to change and decay, nor brought into being by any blind natural process; therefore, instead, spirit must be created in a divine image, with the faculties of reason and conscience and creativity.

Living spirits like man hence are responsible each man for his own action, hence by right are

worthy of the fruits each man of his own labor. Since this right comes not from the state, it should not in justice be abrogated by the state, for the right to property is sacrosanct, and, by the same logic, so too are all rights to life and liberty and to the freedom of the conscience. Nor can a created being overstep the authority created into him by his creator, that is, Man cannot play God; which means he cannot slay innocent children in the womb nor murder the sick and elderly and useless gobblers of bread, nor breed men like dogsbreeders breeding dogs, nor commit suicide oneself, not even the slow suicide of addiction to self-destructive substances and ideas.

If man is created by divinity, it is not in his choice to demean and trample the image of God in himself nor his neighbor: modesty, honesty, humility, patience, prudence and temperance become sacrosanct.

Even such seemingly unrelated matters, such as the low dirt of modern speech, the crass ugliness of modern art, the vainglorious ignorance of modern schooling, become offenses against this divine image seen in man.

The flimsy excuses used by the Left to commit murder and suicide, to ruin art and vulgarize speech, to rob and loot and riot, are all struck at one blow from their wormy and dank fingers, leaving them unarmed, once it is known that men have souls.

If men have souls, what does skin hue matter?

<http://www.scifiwright.com/2020/01/the-iron-triangle-by-vince-ellison/>

January 2020 - as to:

“Men have souls

Once one accepts that premise, one must accept the conclusions that follow from it: creatures with souls are not evolved from slime, since spirit, being simple and eternal, cannot be brought into being by matter, which is compound, subject to change and decay, nor brought into being by any blind natural process; therefore, instead, spirit must be created in a divine image, with the faculties of reason and conscience and creativity.”

Darwinian Materialists, of course, explicitly reject that premise and hold that we are purely material beings.

So in order to counter the false premise of Darwinian materialists that we are purely material beings, and to support the physical reality of the soul, I will appeal to scientific evidence.

<https://uncommondescent.com/philosophy/thoughts-on-the-soul/#comment-691440>

Are atheists neuronal illusions? Is the Human Mind material or immaterial? (April 2018)

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/progressives-eating-their-own/#comment-656813>

How to Ignore Reality: with (Atheist) Sean Carroll & Joe Rogan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfuqjWUpD6g>

Theoretical physicist, Sean Carroll gives his thoughts on free will, moral responsibility, design,

meaning, and death. In all cases his advice seems to be, ignore what is really really really obvious, and affirm naturalism.

To further drive the point home that the entire concept of 'personhood' will forever be beyond the scope of reductive materialistic explanations, it is good to remember Gödel's incompleteness theorems.,,, (April 2018)

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/aw-faceboook-quit-blaming-ai-for-your-goofs-and-shady-practices/#comment-656536>

Evidence to that effect

Theists, besides having the overwhelming subjective experience of being a real person every waking moment of their lives, also have compelling scientific evidence to support the fact that they really are 'persons' and are not just merely 'neuronal illusions': - Sept. 2016

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/rabbi-moshe-maverick-on-atheists-grasp-of-reality/#comment-616876>

At the 18:00 minute mark to about the 22:15 minute mark of the following video, an interesting experiment on the sleeping brain is highlighted in which it is demonstrated that there is a fairly profound difference in the way the brain 'shares information' between different parts of the brain in its sleeping state compared to how the brain 'shares information' in its waking state. i.e. In the sleeping state, the brain shares much less information with different parts of the brain than the brain does during our waking state. - Sept. 2016

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/physics/physicists-on-a-hunt-for-site-of-consciousness/#comment-616612>

Pindi claims:

"me and my chemicals are the same thing."

That claim is logically, and scientifically, false. (Sept. 2016)

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/evolution/miserable-creatures/#comment-617116>

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/evolution/miserable-creatures/#comment-617259>

Molecular Biology - 19th Century Materialism meets 21st Century Quantum Mechanics – video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCs3WXHqOv8>

Scientific (physical) evidence that we do indeed have an eternal soul - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2P45ObI4IQ>

<https://www.facebook.com/philip.cunningham.73/videos/vb.100000088262100/1116313858381546/?type=2&theater>

Many Studies on the Reality and the Uniqueness of the Human mind:

"We regard promissory materialism as superstition without a rational foundation. The more we discover about the brain, the more clearly we distinguish between the brain events and the mental phenomena, and the more wonderful both the brain events and mental phenomena become. Promissory materialism is simply a religious belief held by dogmatic materialists who often confuse their religion with their science."

- John C. Eccles, The Wonder of Being Human: Our Brain and Our Mind - 1984 - won a Nobel Prize in 1963 for his work on synapses

<http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2568511-wonder-of-being-human-our-brain-and-our-mind>

For example, in direct contradiction to the atheistic claim that our thoughts are merely the result of whatever prior state our material brain happens to be in, 'Brain Plasticity', the ability to alter the structure of the brain from a person's focused intention, has now been established by Jeffrey Schwartz, as well as among other researchers.

The Case for the Soul - InspiringPhilosophy - (4:03 minute mark, Brain Plasticity including Schwartz's work) - Oct. 2014 - video

The Mind is able to modify the brain (brain plasticity). Moreover, Idealism explains all anomalous evidence of personality changes due to brain injury, whereas physicalism cannot explain the mind.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBsl_ay8K70

Jeffrey Schwartz: You Are More than Your Brain - Science Uprising Extra Content

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFIOSQNuXuY&list=PLR8eQzfCOiS1OmYcqy_yQSpje4p7rAE7-&index=9

Michael Egnor Shows You're Not A Meat Robot (Science Uprising EP2)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQo6SWjwQIk&list=PLR8eQzfCOiS1OmYcqy_yQSpje4p7rAE7-&index=10

Brains in context in the neurolaw debate: the examples of free will and "dangerous" brains. - Schleim - 2012

Excerpt: By analyzing frequently quoted examples for the unconscious determinants of behavior and antisocial personality changes caused by brain lesions in a wider psychological and social context, the paper argues for a cautious middle position: Evidence for an impending normative "neuro-revolution" is scarce

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22289293>

The Public Dangers of "Dangerous Brains" - 2014 Heymans Talk - Dr. S. Schleim

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdsUQj284x8>

In the video, Dr. Stephan Schleim mentions the infamous case of Phineas Gage and then Dr. Schleim notes some modern day counter examples to Phineas Gage that contradict the widespread belief in 'dangerous', i.e. psychopathic, brains.

What Dr. Schleim did not mention in the video is that the widely cited case of Phineas Gage, i.e. brain damage leading to psychopathy, is now known to be wildly exaggerated folklore.

What the textbooks don't tell you about Phineas Gage

- June 30, 2015

Excerpt: It's a remarkable, mythical tale with lashings of gore – no wonder it's a favorite of psychology students the world over. I'm talking about Phineas Gage, the nineteenth century railway worker who somehow survived the passing of a three-foot long tamping iron through the front of his brain and out the top of his head. What happened to him next?

If you turn to many of the leading introductory psychology textbooks (American ones, at least), you'll find the wrong answer, or a misleading account. Richard Griggs, Emeritus Professor of Psychology at the University of Florida, has just analyzed the content of 23 contemporary textbooks (either released or updated within the last couple of years), and he finds most of them contain distortions, omissions and inaccuracies.

It needn't be so. Thanks to painstaking historical analysis of primary sources (by Malcolm Macmillan and Matthew Lena) – much of it published between 2000 and 2010 – and the discovery during the same time period of new photographic evidence of post-accident Gage (see image, right), it is now believed that Gage made a remarkable recovery from his terrible injuries. He ultimately emigrated to Chile where he worked as a horse-coach driver, controlling six horses at once and dealing politely with non-English speaking passengers. The latest simulations of his injury help explain his rehabilitation – it's thought the iron rod passed through his left frontal lobe only, leaving his right lobe fully intact.

Yet, the textbooks mostly tell a different story. Of the 21 that cover Gage, only 4 mention the years he worked in Chile. Only three detail his mental recovery. Fourteen of the books tell you about the first research that attempted to identify the extent of his brain injuries, but just four of the books give you the results from the most technically advanced effort, published in 2004, that first suggested his brain damage was limited to the left frontal lobe (watch video). Only 9 of the books feature either of the two photos to have emerged of Gage in recent times.

So the textbooks mostly won't tell you about Gage's rehabilitation, or provide you with the latest evidence on his injuries. Instead, you might hear how he never worked again and became a vagrant, or that he became a circus freak for the rest of his life, showing off the holes in his head. "The most egregious error," says Griggs, "seems to be that Gage survived for 20 years with the tamping iron embedded in his head!" .,,,

<https://www.bps.org.uk/research-digest/what-textbooks-dont-tell-you-about-phineas-gage>

Phineas Gage

Exaggeration and distortion of mental changes

Excerpt: Macmillan's analysis of scientific and popular accounts of Gage found that they almost always distort and exaggerate his behavioral changes well beyond anything described by anyone who had direct contact with him,,,

Other behaviors ascribed to the post-accident Gage that are either unsupported by, or in contradiction to, the known facts include:

mistreatment of wife and children (though Gage actually had neither);[60]
inappropriate sexual behavior, promiscuity, or impaired sexuality;[61]
lack of forethought, concern for the future, or capacity for embarrassment;[62]
parading his self-misery, and vainglory in showing his wounds;[62]
"gambling" himself into "emotional and reputational ... bankruptcy";[63]
irresponsibility, untrustworthiness,[64] aggressiveness, violence;[65]
vagrancy, begging,[66] drifting,[67] drinking;[68]
lying,[69] brawling,[70] bullying;[71]
psychopathy,[72][63] inability to make ethical decisions;[73]
loss of all respect for social conventions;[73]
acting like an "idiot"[73] or a "lout";[54]
living as a "layabout"[74] or a "boorish mess";[75]
"[alienating] almost everyone who had ever cared about him";[76]
dying "due to a debauch".[77]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phineas_Gage#Exaggeration_and_distortion_of_mental_changes

The Case for the Soul: Refuting Physicalist Objections - video

Computers vs. Qualia, Libet and 'Free won't', Split Brain (unified attention of brain despite split hemispheres, as well, visual and motion information is shared between the two hemispheres despite the hemispheres being split),

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GB5TNrtu9Pk>

Determinism vs Free Will - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwPER4m2axI>

Paper:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1A0aqDE77rwyRQPHxzcG-nZi4HeYECwXwgoPfrVk3ecY/edit>

Philip Cunningham on determinism vs free will - video - November 25, 2017

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/philip-cunningham-on-determinism-vs-free-will/>

Split brain does NOT lead to split consciousness - January 30, 2017

A new research study contradicts the established view that so-called split-brain patients have a split consciousness. Instead, the researchers behind the study, led by UvA psychologist Yair Pinto, have found strong evidence showing that despite being characterised by little to no communication between the right and left brain hemispheres, split brain does not cause two independent conscious perceivers in one brain.,,,

Split brain is a lay term to describe the result of a corpus callosotomy, a surgical procedure first performed in the 1940s to alleviate severe epilepsy among patients. During this procedure, the corpus callosum, a bundle of neural fibres connecting the left and right cerebral hemispheres, is severed to prevent the spread of epileptic activity between the two brain halves. While mostly

successful in relieving epilepsy, the procedure also virtually eliminates all communication between the cerebral hemispheres, thereby resulting in a 'split brain'.

This condition was made famous by the work of Nobel laureate Roger Sperry and Michael Gazzaniga. In their canonical work, Sperry and Gazzaniga discovered that split-brain patients can only respond to stimuli in the right visual field with their right hand and vice versa. This was taken as evidence that severing the corpus callosum causes each hemisphere to gain its own consciousness.

For their study, Sperry and his fellow researchers conducted a series of tests on two patients who had undergone a full callosotomy. In one of the tests, the patients were placed in front of a screen and shown various objects displayed in several locations. The patients were then asked to confirm whether an object appeared and to indicate its location. In another test, they had to correctly name the object they had seen, a notorious difficulty among split-brain patients...

To the researchers' surprise, the patients were able to respond to stimuli throughout the entire visual field with all the response types: left hand, right hand and verbally. Sperry: 'The patients could accurately indicate whether an object was present in the left visual field and pinpoint its location, even when they responded with the right hand or verbally. This despite the fact that their cerebral hemispheres can hardly communicate with each other and do so at perhaps 1 bit per second, which is less than a normal conversation. I was so surprised that I decided to repeat the experiments several more times with all types of control.'

According to Sperry, the results present clear evidence for unity of consciousness in split-brain patients. 'The established view of split-brain patients implies that physical connections transmitting massive amounts of information are indispensable for unified consciousness, i.e. one conscious agent in one brain. Our findings, however, reveal that although the two hemispheres are completely insulated from each other, the brain as a whole is still able to produce only one conscious agent. This directly contradicts current orthodoxy and highlights the complexity of unified consciousness.'

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/split-brain-does-not-lead-to-split-consciousness/>

InspiringPhilosophy has a few new videos up:

The Case for the Soul (Near-Death Experiences) - video (Quantum Entangled consciousness and conservation of quantum information discussed at 9:00 minute mark)

<https://youtu.be/rIBO0Y9GJhk?t=536>

The Case for the Soul: Quantum Biology - (7:25 minute mark - The Mind is able to modify the brain - Brain Plasticity, and Mindfulness control of DNA expression)

https://youtu.be/6_xEraQWvgM?t=446

Moreover, as alluded to in the preceding video, and completely contrary to materialistic thought, mind has been now also been shown to be able to reach all the way down and have pronounced, 'epigenetic', effects on the gene expression of our bodies:

Scientists Finally Show How Your Thoughts Can Cause Specific Molecular Changes To Your Genes, - December 10, 2013

Excerpt: **“To the best of our knowledge, this is the first paper that shows rapid alterations in gene expression within subjects associated with mindfulness meditation practice,” says study author Richard J. Davidson, founder of the Center for Investigating Healthy Minds and the William James and Vilas Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.**

“Most interestingly, the changes were observed in genes that are the current targets of anti-inflammatory and analgesic drugs,” says Perla Kaliman, first author of the article and a researcher at the Institute of Biomedical Research of Barcelona, Spain (IIBB-CSIC-IDIBAPS), where the molecular analyses were conducted.,,,

the researchers say, there was no difference in the tested genes between the two groups of people at the start of the study. The observed effects were seen only in the meditators following mindfulness practice. In addition, several other DNA-modifying genes showed no differences between groups, suggesting that the mindfulness practice specifically affected certain regulatory pathways.

<http://www.tunedbody.com/scientists-finally-show-thoughts-can-cause-specific-molecular-changes-genes/>

Then there is also the well documented placebo effect in which a person's beliefs have pronounced physiological effects on their body

How Your Thoughts Change Your Brain, Cells and Genes - Mar 24, 2017

Excerpt: **Studies have shown that thoughts alone can improve vision, fitness, and strength. The placebo effect, as observed with fake operations and sham drugs, for example, works because of the power of thought. Expectancies and learned associations have been shown to change brain chemistry and circuitry which results in real physiological and cognitive outcomes, such as less fatigue, lower immune system reaction, elevated hormone levels, and reduced anxiety.**

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/debbie-hampton/how-your-thoughts-change-your-brain-cells-and-genes_b_9516176.html

placebo effect; plural noun: placebo effects

a beneficial effect, produced by a placebo drug or treatment, that cannot be attributed to the properties of the placebo itself, and must therefore be due to the patient's belief in that treatment.

Placebos can produce some objective physiological changes, such as changes in heart rate, blood pressure, and chemical activity in the brain, in cases involving pain, depression, anxiety, fatigue

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Placebo>

Human mind: Knowingly taking fake pills actually eases pain - October 17, 2016

Excerpt: Taking a pill in the context of a patient-clinician relationship — even if you know it's a placebo — is a ritual that changes symptoms,,,

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/neuroscience/human-mind-knowingly-taking-fake-pills-actually-eases-pain/>

As to trying to provide actual scientific evidence for their belief that they have no free will, but are just 'mindless automatons, atheists will often invoke the experiments of Benjamin Libet from 1983. Yet Libet himself was a strong defender of free will:

Do Benjamin Libet's Experiments Show that Free Will Is an Illusion? - Michael Egnor - January 15, 2014

Excerpt: Materialists often invoke the experiments of Benjamin Libet when they deny free will.,,, (Yet) Libet himself was a strong defender of free will, and he interpreted his own experiments as validating free will. He noted that his subjects often vetoed the unconscious "decision" after the readiness potential appeared.

,,,"The role of conscious free will would be, then, not to initiate a voluntary act, but rather to control whether the act takes place. We may view the unconscious initiatives for voluntary actions as 'bubbling up' in the brain. The conscious-will then selects which of these initiatives may go forward to an action or which ones to veto and abort, with no act appearing." - Libet
Libet even observed that his experimental confirmation of free will accorded with the traditional religious understanding of free will:,,,

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2014/01/do_benjamin_lib081171.html

Moreover, despite the widespread false belief that Libet himself supported a 'deterministic brain', the experimental work of Libet, that materialists have often invoked to falsely support their belief in a 'deterministic brain', has now been reexamined in finer experimental detail and found to be contrary to their deterministic claims:

Do we have free will? Researchers test mechanisms involved in decision-making - January 4, 2016

Excerpt: Back (in the 1980s), the American researcher Benjamin Libet studied the nature of cerebral processes of study participants during conscious decision-making. He demonstrated that conscious decisions were initiated by unconscious brain processes, and that a wave of brain activity referred to as a 'readiness potential' could be recorded even before the subject had made a conscious decision.

,, Until now, the existence of such preparatory brain processes has been regarded as evidence of 'determinism', according to which free will is nothing but an illusion, meaning our decisions are initiated by unconscious brain processes, and not by our 'conscious self'. ,,,

Using state-of-the-art measurement techniques, the researchers tested whether people are able to stop planned movements once the readiness potential for a movement has been triggered.

"The aim of our research was to find out whether the presence of early brain waves means that

further decision-making is automatic and not under conscious control, or whether the person can still cancel the decision, i.e. use a 'veto'," explains Prof. Haynes. ,,,
"A person's decisions are not at the mercy of unconscious and early brain waves. They are able to actively intervene in the decision-making process and interrupt a movement," says Prof. Haynes. "Previously people have used the preparatory brain signals to argue against free will. Our study now shows that the freedom is much less limited than previously thought."
<http://m.medicalxpress.com/news/2016-01-free-mechanisms-involved-decision-making.html>

Determinism vs Free Will - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwPER4m2axI>

Paper:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1A0aqDE77rwyRQPHxzcG-nZi4HeYECwXwgoPfrVk3ecY/edit>

Philip Cunningham on determinism vs free will - video - November 25, 2017

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/philip-cunningham-on-determinism-vs-free-will/>

Moreover, since agent causality is true and therefore must be gotten into the scheme somehow, the atheist ends up falsely attributing agent causality where it ought not be attributed. Specifically, the atheist ends up attributing agent causality to inanimate objects in both physics and in biology.

Rupert Sheldrake on The Science Delusion at TED Talk - Feb. 2016

Excerpt: "to say that a stone falls to earth because it's obeying a law, makes it a man and even a citizen"

- CS Lewis

<http://singjupost.com/ruPERT-sheldrake-on-the-science-delusion-at-ted-talk-full-transcript/>

A Professor's Journey out of Nihilism: Why I am not an Atheist - University of Wyoming - J. Budziszewski

Excerpt page12: "There were two great holes in the argument about the irrelevance of God. The first is that in order to attack free will, I supposed that I understood cause and effect; I supposed causation to be less mysterious than volition.,,,

,,, To call the equations of gravity "laws" and speak of the apple as "obeying" them is to speak as though, like the traffic laws, the "laws" of gravity are addressed to rational agents capable of conforming their wills to the command. This is cheating, because it makes mechanical causality (the more opaque of the two phenomena) seem like volition (the less). In my own way of thinking the cheating was even graver, because I attacked the less opaque in the name of the more.

The other hole in my reasoning was cruder. If my imprisonment in a blind causality made my reasoning so unreliable that I couldn't trust my beliefs, then by the same token I shouldn't have trusted my beliefs about imprisonment in a blind causality. But in that case I had no business denying free will in the first place."

<http://www.undergroundthomist.org/sites/default/files/WhyIAmNotAnAtheist.pdf>

A Professor's Journey out of Nihilism: Why I am not an Atheist - 2012 lecture

University of Wyoming J. Budziszewski – above quote taken at the 34:30 minute mark

<https://soundcloud.com/thomisticinstitute/atheism-to-catholicism-a-professors-journey-out-of-nihilism-prof-j-budziszewski>

Though bad in physics, this problem of falsely attributing agent causality where it ought not be attributed, is particularly acute in biology,,,

The 'Mental Cell': Let's Loosen Up Biological Thinking! - Stephen L. Talbott - September 9, 2014

Excerpt: Many biologists are content to dismiss the problem with hand-waving: "When we wield the language of agency, we are speaking metaphorically, and we could just as well, if less conveniently, abandon the metaphors".

Yet no scientist or philosopher has shown how this shift of language could be effected. And the fact of the matter is just obvious: the biologist who is not investigating how the organism achieves something in a well-directed way is not yet doing biology, as opposed to physics or chemistry. Is this in turn just hand-waving? Let the reader inclined to think so take up a challenge: pose a single topic for biological research, doing so in language that avoids all implication of agency, cognition, and purposiveness¹.

One reason this cannot be done is clear enough: molecular biology — the discipline that was finally going to reduce life unreservedly to mindless mechanism — is now posing its own severe challenges. In this era of Big Data, the message from every side concerns previously unimagined complexity, incessant cross-talk and intertwining pathways, wildly unexpected genomic performances, dynamic conformational changes involving proteins and their cooperative or antagonistic binding partners, pervasive multifunctionality, intricately directed behavior somehow arising from the interaction of countless players in interpenetrating networks, and opposite effects by the same molecules in slightly different contexts. The picture at the molecular level begins to look as lively and organic — and thoughtful — as life itself.

http://natureinstitute.org/txt/st/org/comm/ar/2014/mental_cell_23.htm

Life, Purpose, Mind: Where the Machine Metaphor Fails - Ann Gauger - June 2011

Excerpt: I'm a working biologist, on bacterial regulation (transcription and translation and protein stability) through signalling molecules, ,, I can confirm the following points as realities: we lack adequate conceptual categories for what we are seeing in the biological world; with many additional genomes sequenced annually, we have much more data than we know what to do with (and making sense of it has become the current challenge); cells are staggeringly chock full of sophisticated technologies, which are exquisitely integrated; life is not dominated by a single technology, but rather a composite of many; and yet life is more than the sum of its parts; in our work, we biologists use words that imply intentionality, functionality, strategy, and design in biology--we simply cannot avoid them.

Furthermore, I suggest that to maintain that all of biology is solely a product of selection and genetic decay and time requires a metaphysical conviction that isn't troubled by the evidence. Alternatively, it could be the view of someone who is unfamiliar with the evidence, for one

reason or another. But for those who will consider the evidence that is so obvious throughout biology, I suggest it's high time we moved on.

- Matthew

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2011/06/life_purpose_mind_where_the_ma046991.html#comment-8858161

Of concluding note, if we rightly let the Agent causality of God 'back' into the picture of modern physics, as the Christian founders of modern science originally envisioned, (Isaac Newton, Michael Faraday, James Clerk Maxwell, and Max Planck, to name a few), then an empirically backed reconciliation between Quantum Mechanics and General Relativity, in other words, the 'Theory of Everything', readily pops out for us in Christ's resurrection from the dead. Specifically, we have evidence, from the Shroud of Turin, that both Gravity and Quantum Mechanics were dealt with in Christ's resurrection from the dead:

Gödel, Infinity, and Jesus Christ as the Theory of Everything - video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1Jw5Y686j_Y

paper:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MnjZgfG35RjfcO27iFKevX5idKT5vCRD1gOagLe7ZRY/edit>

Colossians 1:15-20

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Atheistic Materialism: Illusions of free will within an illusion of mind

https://docs.google.com/document/d/19M1c_Vxye4imjw_vGL0_-l3uHOIkQyyWwJPsz1Ys90g/edit

Higher Dimensional Special Relativity, Near Death Experiences, Biophotons, and the Quantum Soul

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XGuV7FWwaDag4T5glstQWjsQNtWHKw3T9qLF14fUHHo/edit>

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/darwinism/1-dawkins-wants-to-land-porn-on-muslim-world-2-dawkins-yawnfest-has-just-got-to-stop/#comment-545518>

Special Relativity, Near Death Experiences, Biophotons, Quantum Soul

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/stephen-hawking-says-intelligent-design-of>

[-the-universe-is-highly-probable/#comment-553712](#)

How Strong is the Quantum Evidence for a Transcendent Soul?

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/a-robust-defense-of-intelligent-design-in-a-liberal-catholic-mag/#comment-547773>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yHsXAZl4Tw2xOW2lpsUE4os70Ot22eXBOZ6qauoJfZQ/edit>

That the soul is separable from the temporal body is a question that is no longer confined to philosophical discussion but is a position that has empirical support

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZJUjfAQUP8IxnZOS1wLCIH9XSR642GCdPZIL5wWrOzY/edit>

“The neural circuits in our brain manage the beautifully coordinated and smoothly appropriate behavior of our body. They also produce the entrancing introspective illusion that thoughts really are about stuff in the world. This powerful illusion has been with humanity since language kicked in, as we’ll see. It is the source of at least two other profound myths: that we have purposes that give our actions and lives meaning and that there is a person “in there” steering the body, so to speak. To see why we make these mistakes and why it’s so hard to avoid them, we need to understand the source of the illusion that thoughts are about stuff.”

[A.Rosenberg, The Atheist’s Guide to Reality, Ch.9]

If ‘you’ hold you are merely your body without a soul of what real consequence or purpose is anything?

The supposed evidence for human evolution is far weaker than many people seem to realize:

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/christians-should-be-eradicated/#comment-545788>

(Biophotons) That the soul is separable from the temporal body is a question that is no longer confined to philosophical discussion but is a question that empirical science can now also address.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZJUjfAQUP8IxnZOS1wLCIH9XSR642GCdPZIL5wWrOzY/edit>

Alva Noë | Talks at Google

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=af3Vq-C1ck8>

Alva Noë visits Google's San Francisco, CA office to discuss his book "Out of Our Heads: Why You Are Not Your Brain, and Other Lessons from the Biology of Consciousness." This event took place on April 16, 2009,

Alva Noë is a philosopher at the University of California, Berkeley, where he writes and teaches about perception, consciousness and art.

Meet The Healthy, Functioning Man Who Survived With Almost No Brain - October 7, 2015 | by Aamna Mohdin

<http://www.iflscience.com/brain/man-tiny-brain-lived-normal-life>

The insurmountable problem of 'form/shape' for neo-Darwinian explanations has now been demonstrated by a few different methods. (May 2015)

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/a-succinct-case-for-intelligent-design/#comment-563822>

june 2015

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/schopenhauers-cycle-completed-july-1-2015/#comment-570759>

Evidence that the Mind is not the Brain:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/15oyK3PIUILewPmxGZreNHd1gZrTTIZ68Gf9LURNTquY/edit>

Do Perceptions Happen in Your Brain? - Michael Egnor - December 1, 2015

Excerpt: **The sensory experiments of Benjamin Libet, a neuroscientist at U.C. San Francisco in the mid 20th century, demonstrated that a subject perceives a sensory stimulus on the skin at the moment the skin is touched, before the stimulus reaches the brain and before full deliberative consciousness occurs. Libet was flabbergasted by this result and hypothesized that "the subjective timing of the experience is (automatically) referred backwards in time."**

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2015/12/do_perceptions101261.html

I hold that, rather than 'backwards in time causation', this is evidence for quantum coherence in the human body.

Leading Scientists Say Consciousness Cannot Die It Goes Back To The Universe - Oct 19 2017
- Spiritual

Excerpt: "Let's say the heart stops beating. The blood stops flowing. The microtubules lose their quantum state. But the **quantum information**, which is in the microtubules, **isn't destroyed. It can't be destroyed.** It just distributes and dissipates to the universe at large. If a patient is resuscitated, revived, this quantum information can go back into the microtubules and the patient says, "I had a near death experience. I saw a white light. I saw a tunnel. I saw my dead relatives.,," Now if they're not revived and the patient dies, then **it's possible that this quantum information can exist outside the body. Perhaps indefinitely as a soul.**"

- Stuart Hameroff - Quantum Entangled Consciousness - Life After Death - video (5:00 minute mark)

<https://www.disclose.tv/leading-scientists-say-consciousness-cannot-die-it-goes-back-to-the-universe-315604>

LIFE AFTER DEATH: Shock claim of evidence showing consciousness may continue as a SOUL

THE human conscious lives on after death, scientists have sensationally claimed. By Sean Martin - Sun, Nov 6, 2016

Excerpt: Sir Roger states if a person temporarily dies, this quantum information is released from the microtubules and into the universe.

However, if they are resuscitated the quantum information is channeled back into the microtubules and that is what sparks a near death experience.

Sir Roger added: "If they're not revived, and the patient dies, it's possible that this quantum information can exist outside the body, perhaps indefinitely, as a soul."

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/science/728897/LIFE-AFTER-DEATH-consciousness-continue-SOUL>

What Penrose and Hameroff are referring to is the fact that in quantum mechanics it is quantum information that is primarily conserved, and not necessarily energy and matter that are primarily conserved, as energy and matter are primarily conserved in classical mechanics: (November 2016)

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/philosopher-of-science-roger-penrose-thinks-soul-may-survive-death/#comment-620372>

A few notes as to consciousness and brain.

Penrose/Hameroff's infamous Orch-Or model for quantum consciousness,

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/69608/#comment-564558>

Down the Quantum Rabbit Hole - March 2018

Excerpt: A funny thing happened on Hameroff's trip through the weedy fields of scientific derision: Data appeared.,,,

,,, two scientists working independently of one another, yet both openly inspired by Hameroff, are taking microtubule research to a whole new level.

... Bandyopadhyay found something very different when he applied specific charges of alternating current. Resistance levels jumped by a factor of 1 billion. The microtubule was acting something like a semiconductor, one of the most important developments in electronics.

Jack Tuszynski, a biophysicist at the University of Alberta, is a longtime Hameroff collaborator who creates cancer drugs. His latest findings suggest microtubules have interesting conductive properties, but indicate they could also be what are called "memristors." The memristor is the much sought-after fourth element in an electrical circuit, first theorized by Leon Chua, an electrical engineer at the University of California, Berkeley.,,,

The race is on to build memristor chips at a cost scalable to consumer computers, and for good reason: Memristors require perhaps 1 percent of the energy of a standard chip. And while standard computer chips are limited to the binary code of 0s and 1s, memristors deal in fractional units of information — a development considered key in building computers that behave like the human brain.

Tuszynski wasn't familiar with memristors until he met Chua at a 2015 conference in India. "I think microtubules are memristors," Chua told him, revealing a longstanding interest in Hameroff's work. Chua was particularly struck, he says, when he once heard Hameroff point out that microtubules are ubiquitous in nature, while neurons are not. This insight — really, a simple statement of fact — struck Chua as crucial. "All of these biological systems engage in a kind of information processing," he says. "So how do they do it?"

He thought Hameroff had found the answer in microtubules.,,,

To test the memristor theory, Tuszynski's team filled a dish with microtubules, tubulin proteins and a buffer solution, then added electricity. Over the course of many weeks, he found a fascinating result. The more he replaced the buffer solution with more microtubules, the better the conductance.

"The conductance increased by two- or threefold with the increased presence of microtubules," says Tuszynski, suggesting the microtubules were better at conducting energy than the buffer solution.

Further, he found the signature memristor effect: When he reversed the flow of electricity, as in an alternating current, the efficiency of the conductance increased, as if the microtubule had remembered the current that previously passed through it.

Tuszynski's lab published a paper last summer on the conductive properties of microtubules in Nature Scientific Reports, and it is preparing a paper on microtubules as memristors. If these results hold up, it could support Hameroff's case.

<http://discovermagazine.com/bonus/quantum>

Dec. 2019 The interesting thing about these long range correlations in the brain, long range correlations that differentiate a sleeping brain from a brain that is awake, is that the long range correlations are found to be, for all intents and purposes, 'instantaneous'

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/weve-talked-about-near-death-experiences-what-about-visions-of-hell/#comment-689343>

The Puzzling Role Of Biophotons In The Brain - Dec. 17, 2010

Excerpt: It's certainly true that electrical activity in the brain is synchronised over distances that cannot be easily explained. Electrical signals travel too slowly to do this job, so something else must be at work.,,,

,,, It's a big jump to assume that photons do this job.

<http://www.technologyreview.com/view/422069/the-puzzling-role-of-biophotons-in-the-brain/>

,,, zero time lag neuronal synchrony despite long conduction delays - 2008

Excerpt: Multielectrode recordings have revealed zero time lag synchronization among remote cerebral cortical areas. However, the axonal conduction delays among such distant regions can

amount to several tens of milliseconds. It is still unclear which mechanism is giving rise to isochronous discharge of widely distributed neurons, despite such latencies,,, Remarkably, synchrony of neuronal activity is not limited to short-range interactions within a cortical patch. Interareal synchronization across cortical regions including interhemispheric areas has been observed in several tasks (7, 9, 11–14).,,,

Beyond its functional relevance, the zero time lag synchrony among such distant neuronal ensembles must be established by mechanisms that are able to compensate for the delays involved in the neuronal communication.

Latencies in conducting nerve impulses down axonal processes can amount to delays of several tens of milliseconds between the generation of a spike in a presynaptic cell and the elicitation of a postsynaptic potential (16). The question is how, despite such temporal delays, the reciprocal interactions between two brain regions can lead to the associated neural populations to fire in unison (i.e. zero time lag).,,,

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2575223/>

Long Range Entanglement in the Brain - Stuart Hameroff - video (1:55 minute mark)

<https://youtu.be/uo9CtOuogqA?t=113>

The following paper appeals to a 'non-local', (i.e. beyond space and time), cause to try to explain the synchronization in neural circuits,,,

Nonlocal mechanism for cluster synchronization in neural circuits – 2011

Excerpt: The findings,,, call for reexamining sources of correlated activity in cortex,,,

<http://arxiv.org/abs/1103.3634>

Moreover, when we sleep the 'long range' non-local, beyond space and time, coherence displayed by the waking brain disappears.

At about the 16:30 minute mark of the following video, an interesting experiment on the sleeping brain is highlighted in which it is demonstrated that there is a fairly profound difference in the way the brain 'shares information' between different parts of the brain in its sleeping state compared to how the brain 'shares information' in its waking state. i.e. In the sleeping state, the brain shares much less information with different parts of the brain than the brain does during our waking state.

Through The Wormhole s02e01 Is There Life After Death – video (16:30 minute mark)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XhrDrqmXE4>

Of note, the preceding video, after you sign up, can be watched in much better quality at this following site (season 2 episode 1)

<https://www.sciencechannel.com/tv-shows/through-the-wormhole/>

Researchers: Deep sleep short-circuits brain's grid of connectivity - September 29, 2005

Excerpt: Tononi and his team observed the disconnect when brief, magnetically generated pulses of electricity were directed to specific regions of the brain. The pulses stimulated an electrochemical response from the targeted cells, which, when the subject was awake, rippled across the brain, traveling along networks of nerve fibers to different cerebral destinations. But when the subject was in deep sleep, the same response was quickly extinguished and did not travel beyond the stimulated cells.

When consciousness fades, according to Tononi, "the brain breaks down into little islands that can't talk to one another."

<https://news.wisc.edu/researchers-deep-sleep-short-circuits-brains-grid-of-connectivity/>

Study targets 'fingerprint' of human consciousness - OCTOBER 11, 2019

Excerpt: "Remarkably, we saw very similar results in the two groups of participants scanned on opposite sides of the Atlantic. **Specifically, loss of consciousness—whether due to propofol anaesthesia or brain injury—was accompanied by reduced functional diversity and integrative capacity in similar brain networks, which may represent a neurobiological marker or 'brain fingerprint' for consciousness,**" Owen said.

Put simply, functional diversity and integrative capacity are properties of the brain that reveal how much information is being exchanged and integrated between different brain regions.

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-10-fingerprint-human-consciousness.html>

Penrose/Hameroff's infamous Orch-Or model for quantum consciousness has preliminary confirmation from the first direct test for it. In a **fascinating new study, the chemical anesthetic 1-azidoanthracene was administered to tadpoles and found to work by disrupting microtubules in the nervous system. A second chemical which repaired the microtubules was found to restore consciousness.**

Direct modulation of microtubule stability contributes to anthracene general anesthesia. - 2013

Excerpt: Recently, we identified 1-aminoanthracene as a fluorescent general anesthetic. To investigate the mechanism of action, a photoactive analogue, 1-azidoanthracene, was synthesized. Administration of 1-azidoanthracene to albino stage 40-47 tadpoles was found to immobilize animals upon near-UV irradiation of the forebrain region. The immobilization was often reversible, but it was characterized by a longer duration consistent with covalent attachment of the ligand to functionally important targets.,,,

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23484901>

Of related interest:

Tadpoles Wake From Anesthesia With A Flash of Light - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtBwiyscZWE>

And further confirmation here:

New Study Favors Quantum Mind - Quantum coherence in brain protein resembles plant photosynthesis - 18-Sep-2014

Excerpt: **Photosynthesis, the ubiquitous and essential mechanism by which plants produce food from sunlight, has been shown since 2006 to routinely utilize quantum coherence (quantum coherent superposition) at warm temperatures.,,,**

Back in the brain, microtubules are components of the cytoskeleton inside neurons, cylindrical lattice polymers of the protein ‘tubulin’.,,, now it appears quantum mechanisms eerily similar to those in photosynthesis may operate in tubulins within microtubules.

In an article published September 17,, a team of scientists,, used computer simulation and theoretical quantum biophysics to analyze quantum coherence among tryptophan pi resonance rings in tubulin, the component protein in microtubules.,,,

(They) mapped locations of the tryptophan pi electron resonance clouds in tubulin, and found them analogous to (the quantum coherent superposition of) chromophores in photosynthesis proteins.,,,

Along with recent evidence for coherent megahertz vibrations in microtubules, and that anesthetics act to erase consciousness via microtubules, quantum brain biology will become increasingly important.,,

http://www.newswise.com/articles/new-study-favors-quantum-mind#.VBusnOKcVcM.google_plusone_share

On consciousness, Tegmark gets one thing right, says Rob Sheldon - January 19, 2014

Excerpt: **Orch OR was harshly criticized from its inception, as the brain was considered too “warm, wet, and noisy” for seemingly delicate quantum processes.. However, evidence has now shown warm quantum coherence in plant photosynthesis, bird brain navigation, our sense of smell, and brain microtubules. The recent discovery of warm temperature quantum vibrations in microtubules inside brain neurons by the research group led by Anirban Bandyopadhyay, PhD, at the National Institute of Material Sciences in Tsukuba, Japan (and now at MIT), corroborates the pair’s theory and suggests that EEG rhythms also derive from deeper level microtubule vibrations. In addition, work from the laboratory of Roderick G. Eckenhoff, MD, at the University of Pennsylvania, suggests that anesthesia, which selectively erases consciousness while sparing non-conscious brain activities, acts via microtubules in brain neurons.,,,**

Tegmark’s “states of matter” thing, is just a comparison of thermal energy to binding energy of matter. It is a local phenomenon, and by itself, has no information content. It is what produces frost-flowers on the window, but cannot produce the words “Go back to bed, its too cold.”

Penrose, on the other hand, is saying that the QM wavefunction of a microtubule is bigger than its atoms, so that it becomes some sort of larger QM object, connecting one cell to another, perhaps one half of the brain to other, or even one person to another. This coherent QM wavefunction can then carry information in ways that electro-magnetism

and atoms cannot, so that there is a global coherence to the universe that violates materialism, that violates atomism, that violates Darwinism.

Well why can't we call that a "state of matter"? Because it precisely is the opposite of matter. That's really what QM means — particles acting as waves, discrete objects acting as one, coherent globalism over discrete individualism. And what does this coherence mean? It means you are part of a bigger picture, you are a cog in a machine, you are part of a design.

I'm not even sure if Penrose would admit to that.

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/on-consciousness-tegmark-gets-one-thing-right-says-rob-sheldon/>

Quantum Cognition and Brain Microtubules - Hameroff - video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mm6Mt9BoZ_M

Here Dr. Hameroff suggests microtubule quantum vibrations can provide a coherent answer to EEG "beat frequencies".

Discovery of quantum vibrations in 'microtubules' corroborates theory of consciousness – Thursday, January 16, 2014

Excerpt: **An important new facet of the theory is introduced. Microtubule quantum vibrations (e.g. in megahertz) appear to interfere and produce much slower EEG "beat frequencies." Despite a century of clinical use, the underlying origins of EEG rhythms have remained a mystery.**

<http://esciencenews.com/articles/2014/01/16/discovery.quantum.vibrations.microtubules.corroborates.theory.consciousness>

Consciousness Depends on Tubulin Vibrations Inside Neurons, Anesthesia Study Suggests – 5-Sep-2017

Excerpt: **The results provide a marked improvement to the Meyer-Overton correlation by discriminating anesthetics from non-anesthetics, and suggest that anesthetics block consciousness by altering terahertz oscillations in tubulin.,,,**

Senior co-author Jack Tuszynski said:

"Scientific luminaries from Erwin Schrödinger to Sir Roger Penrose have proposed that consciousness requires quantum coherent processes, but skeptics have asserted such processes would suffer 'decoherence' in the 'warm, wet and noisy' biological milieu. Our study supports growing evidence that non-polar, pi resonance regions in microtubules and other biomolecules maintain these coherent states, and that a 'quantum underground' pervades the brain's neurons."

<https://www.newswise.com/articles/consciousness-depends-on-tubulin-vibrations-inside-neurons-anesthesia-study-suggests>

Nov. 2022 - Of related note to quantum entanglement in the brain, Stuart Hameroff received fairly strong support for his hypothesis that quantum mechanics was at play in the microtubules

of the brain,

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/at-big-think-brain-experiment-suggests-that-consciousness-relies-on-quantum-entanglement/#comment-770826>

It is important to note that EEGs are a 'summation of the synchronous activity' of the brain cells:

Electroencephalography

Excerpt: **EEG measures voltage fluctuations resulting from ionic current flows within the neurons of the brain.,,, EEG activity,, always reflects the summation of the synchronous activity of thousands or millions of neurons that have similar spatial orientation,,**

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electroencephalography#Source_of_EEG_activity

That's pretty good as far as it goes in showing the entire brain is 'mysteriously synchronized', but as to 'connecting one cell to another, perhaps one half of the brain to other' it is a bit weak. So to go further, in this following video Hameroff speaks about the two hemispheres of the brain being 'quantumly' connected:

Quantum Entangled Consciousness (Permanence of Quantum Information) - Life After Death - Stuart Hameroff - video

<https://vimeo.com/39982578>

The only direct evidence I could find to back up Hameroff's claim (and my search was far from exhaustive) for quantum entanglement between the hemispheres of the brain was here, but the entanglement was only up to 10 millimeters and was not across the hemispheres:

Brain 'entanglement' could explain memories – January 2010

Excerpt: **In both cases, the researchers noticed that the voltage of the electrical signal in groups of neurons separated by up to 10 millimetres sometimes rose and fell with exactly the same rhythm. These patterns of activity, dubbed "coherence potentials", often started in one set of neurons, only to be mimicked or "cloned" by others milliseconds later. They were also much more complicated than the simple phase-locked oscillations and always matched each other in amplitude as well as in frequency. (Perfect clones) "The precision with which these new sites pick up on the activity of the initiating group is quite astounding – they are perfect clones," says Plen**

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/mind/mind-quantum-mechanics-provides-clues-to-human-thinking/comment-page-1/#comment-399098>

The only indirect evidence I could find for Hameroff's claim for both hemispheres are 'quantumly' correlated (and again my search was not exhaustive) was here:

"Wolf Singer Director of the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research (Frankfurt) has found evidence of simultaneous oscillations in separate areas of the cortex, accurately synchronized in phase as well as frequency. He suggests that the oscillations are synchronized from some common source, but the actual source has never been located."

James J. Hurtak, Ph.D.

and here:

Unexplained communication between brain hemispheres without corpus callosum – October 21, 2011

Excerpt: Neuroscientists at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) have made a puzzling finding: people born without a corpus callosum (which links the two hemispheres of the brain) — a condition called agenesis of the corpus callosum, or AgCC — still show remarkably normal communication across the gap between the two halves of their brains.,,,

Neuroscientists baffled:

“This was a real surprise,” says Tyszka. “We expected to see a lot less coupling between the left and right brain in this group — after all, they are missing about 200 million connections that would normally be there. How do they manage to have normal communication between the left and right sides of the brain without the corpus callosum?”

<http://www.kurzweilai.net/unexplained-communication-between-brain-hemispheres-without-corp-us-callosum>

Here is a paper that much more strongly supports Hameroff's contention:

,,, zero time lag neuronal synchrony despite long conduction delays - 2008

Excerpt: Multielectrode recordings have revealed zero time lag synchronization among remote cerebral cortical areas. However, the axonal conduction delays among such distant regions can amount to several tens of milliseconds. It is still unclear which mechanism is giving rise to isochronous discharge of widely distributed neurons, despite such latencies.,,,

Remarkably, synchrony of neuronal activity is not limited to short-range interactions within a cortical patch. Interareal synchronization across cortical regions including interhemispheric areas has been observed in several tasks (7, 9, 11–14).,,,

Beyond its functional relevance, the zero time lag synchrony among such distant neuronal ensembles must be established by mechanisms that are able to compensate for the delays involved in the neuronal communication.

Latencies in conducting nerve impulses down axonal processes can amount to delays of several tens of milliseconds between the generation of a spike in a presynaptic cell and the elicitation of a postsynaptic potential (16). The question is how, despite such temporal delays, the reciprocal interactions between two brain regions can lead to the associated neural populations to fire in unison (i.e. zero time lag).,,,

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2575223/>

Moreover, the following study found that, despite missing the corpus callosum, the two hemispheres of the brain can still communicate with each other.

Bridging the Gap – October 19, 2011

Like a bridge that spans a river to connect two major metropolises, the corpus callosum is the main conduit for information flowing between the left and right hemispheres of our brains. Now, neuroscientists at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) have found that people who are born without that link—a condition called agenesis of the corpus callosum, or AgCC—still show remarkably normal communication across the gap between the two halves of their brains.

<https://www.caltech.edu/about/news/bridging-gap-1732>

July 2021

Quantum Consciousness

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/at-mind-matters-news-neurosurgeon-michael-e-gnor-takes-on-philosopher-david-papineau-round-1/#comment-733743>

The following paper appeals to a 'non-local', (i.e. beyond space and time), cause to try to explain the zero lag synchronization in remote neural circuits,,,

Nonlocal mechanism for cluster synchronization in neural circuits – 2011

Excerpt: The findings,,, call for reexamining sources of correlated activity in cortex,,,

<http://arxiv.org/abs/1103.3634>

And although, I do enjoy very much the feisty way Hameroff has defended his, and Penrose's, Orch-OR model against materialists/atheists,,

Stuart Hameroff defends Orch-OR theory at TSC 2010 – Pt 1 of 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAVQjMf2fEQ>

Part 2 of 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ed9nZXrOaMk>

Being the skunk at an atheist convention – Hameroff – 2006

Excerpt: In November 2006 I was invited to a meeting at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California called ***"Beyond Belief"***. Other speakers and attendees were predominantly atheists, and harshly critical of the notion of spirituality. They included Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, Patricia Churchland, Steven Weinberg (the least venal), Neil deGrasse Tyson and others who collectively vilified creationists and religious warriors. But the speakers also ragged on the notion of any purpose or meaning to existence, heaped ridicule on the very possibility of a God-like entity (and those who believed in such an entity), declared that scientists and philosophers should set society's moral and ethical standards, and called for a billion dollar public relations campaign to convince the public God does not exist.

Near the end of the first day came my turn to speak. I began by saying that the conference to that point had been like the Spanish Inquisition in reverse - the scientists were burning the believers. And while I had no particular interest in organized religion, I did believe there could be a scientific account for spirituality. After pointing out faulty assumptions in conventional brain models for consciousness and summarizing the Penrose-Hameroff theory, I laid out my plausibility argument for scientific, secular spirituality, suggesting cosmic connections and

influence in our conscious thoughts occurred via quantum interactions in microtubules. I closed with a slide of the DNA molecule which emphasized it's internal core where quantum effects rule, suggesting a Penrose non-computable influence in genetic mutations and evolution (aimed at Dawkins in the form of a quantum-based intelligent design). At the end a few people clapped loudly, but most sat in steely silence.,,,

<http://quantum.webhost.uits.arizona.edu/prod/content/being-skunk-atheist-convention>

„Of note on Hameroff's model, although I very much enjoyed the feisty, “Galileo”, way in which Stuart Hameroff defended his model against the “atheists’ inquisition”, I hold that Hameroff's model falls short of finding complete agreement with quantum mechanics, and thus I find his model falls short of truly explaining consciousness. The primary reason why I think Hameroff model falls short of finding complete agreement with quantum theory is primarily because of his pantheistic metaphysical view of reality. A metaphysical view of reality in which consciousness, for him, is somehow, if I read him right, co-terminus with the space-time of material reality at the Planck scale. Something he calls ‘proto-consciousness’ at the fine (Planck) scale. Yet, the instantaneous actions of Quantum mechanics have no use for any space-time postulate! Thus, his postulation of ‘proto-consciousness’ at the Planck scale falls short of fully accounting for the origin of consciousness in humans.

Discovery of quantum vibrations in ‘microtubules’ corroborates theory of consciousness –
Thursday, January 16, 2014

Excerpt: Did consciousness evolve from complex computations among brain neurons, as most scientists assert? Or has consciousness, in some sense, been here all along, as spiritual approaches maintain?” ask Hameroff and Penrose in the current review. “This opens a potential Pandora’s Box, but our theory accommodates both these views, suggesting consciousness derives from quantum vibrations in microtubules, protein polymers inside brain neurons, which both govern neuronal and synaptic function, and connect brain processes to self-organizing processes in the fine scale, ‘proto-conscious’ quantum structure of reality.”

<http://esciencenews.com/articles/2014/01/16/discovery.quantum.vibrations.microtubules.corroborates.theory.consciousness>

But contrary to Hameroff's Pantheistic metaphysics in which consciousness is a part of material reality (and things pull themselves up by their own bootstraps and magically ‘self-organize’), the fact of the matter is that several lines of evidence from quantum mechanics now indicate what we have intuitively known all along. Mainly, the ‘intuitive fact’ that consciousness demands a perspective that stands completely outside the material order, even outside the fine (Planck) structure of the universe. Although there are many ‘non-local’, beyond space and time, lines of evidence from quantum mechanics that back this ‘intuitive’ fact up, the most compelling line of evidence from quantum mechanics is the violation of Leggett's Inequality (falsification of Realism), which was discussed previously in this paper. And then, of course, there is the small problem for Hameroff, and all other Pantheists, of coherently explaining the origin of the entire universe in the first place.

Also of interest is the problem that Max Tegmark is running into in trying to mathematically model consciousness and information 'locally', i.e. within space-time:

Why Physicists Are Saying Consciousness Is A State Of Matter, Like a Solid, A Liquid Or A Gas
- Jan 16, 2014

Excerpt: **Tegmark points out that any information stored in a special network known as a Hopfield neural net automatically has this error-correcting facility. However, he calculates that a Hopfield net about the size of the human brain with 10^{11} neurons, can only store 37 bits of integrated information.**

"This leaves us with an integration paradox: why does the information content of our conscious experience appear to be vastly larger than 37 bits?" asks Tegmark.

That's a question that many scientists might end up pondering in detail. For Tegmark, this paradox suggests that his mathematical formulation of consciousness is missing a vital ingredient. "This strongly implies that the integration principle must be supplemented by at least one additional principle," he says. Suggestions please in the comments section!

<https://medium.com/the-physics-arxiv-blog/5e7ed624986d>

Non-Local Quantum Entanglement establishes empirical evidence for the transcendent soul
<http://www.uncommondescent.com/neuroscience/why-materialist-neuroscience-must-necessarily-remain-a-pseudo-discipline/#comment-463942>

A few comments on 'non-local' epigenetic information implicated in 3-D spatial organization of Body Plans:

https://docs.google.com/document/pub?id=1iNy78O6ZpU8wpFlgkLi85TvhC9mSqzUSE_jzbksOHY

Here are several more scriptures on man's 'eternal soul' at this following site:

Bible Reference Notes: "Hell and the Eternal Soul."

<http://defendingcontending.com/2008/04/04/bible-reference-notes-hell-and-the-eternal-soul/>

Further notes:

The Unbearable Wholeness of Beings - Steve Talbott

Excerpt: **Virtually the same collection of molecules exists in the canine cells during the moments immediately before and after death. But after the fateful transition no one will any longer think of genes as being regulated, nor will anyone refer to normal or proper chromosome functioning. No molecules will be said to guide other molecules to specific targets, and no molecules will be carrying signals, which is just as well because there will be no structures recognizing signals. Code, information, and communication, in their biological sense, will have disappeared from the scientist's vocabulary.**

„**Rather than becoming progressively disordered in their mutual relations (as indeed happens after death, when the whole dissolves into separate fragments), the processes hold together in a larger unity.**

<http://www.thenewatlantis.com/publications/the-unbearable-wholeness-of-beings>

The 'Fourth Dimension' Of Living Systems

https://docs.google.com/document/pub?id=1Gs_qvIM8-7bFwI9rZUB9vS6SZg LH17eOZdT4UbPoy0Y

Interestingly, it appears that the 'fragile quantum states' of quantum coherence within in proteins and DNA are lost fairly quickly in biological systems upon death;

Being the skunk at an atheist convention - Stuart Hameroff

Excerpt: **When metabolic requirements for quantum coherence in brain microtubules are lost (e.g. death, near-death), quantum information pertaining to that individual may persist and remain entangled in Planck scale geometry.**

<http://www.quantumconsciousness.org/skunk.htm>

And yet the quantum information that is lost from the body upon death is now shown to be conserved. i.e. Quantum information cannot be destroyed!

Quantum no-hiding theorem experimentally confirmed for first time - March 2011

Excerpt: **In the classical world, information can be copied and deleted at will. In the quantum world, however, the conservation of quantum information means that information cannot be created nor destroyed.**

<http://www.physorg.com/news/2011-03-quantum-no-hiding-theorem-experimentally.html>

Quantum no-deleting theorem

Excerpt: **A stronger version of the no-cloning theorem and the no-deleting theorem provide permanence to quantum information. To create a copy one must import the information from some part of the universe and to delete a state one needs to export it to another part of the universe where it will continue to exist.**

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_no-deleting_theorem#Consequence

Does the fact that quantum information, which cannot be created nor destroyed, is found in molecular biology, at such a foundational level and such a massive scale, provide conclusive proof for the 'living soul' of man??? Well, all by itself, maybe not 'conclusive proof' in the strictest sense of the notion, but it certainly makes the question 'Does man have a living soul?' a whole lot more integrated to how the foundation of reality itself is found to be structured! i.e. Makes it far more credible scientifically! It is amazing how well all this fits with the Theistic definition of an 'immortal soul':

I like JP Moreland's definition of a 'life/soul' in the following video:

Is the Soul Immortal? (J.P. Moreland) - video

http://www.disclose.tv/action/viewvideo/143334/Evidence_for_the_Existence_of_the_Soul_JP_Moreland_PhD/

James 2:26

For as the body apart from the spirit is dead,,,

Dr. Moreland gets a little more explicit on the 'soul issue', and how it relates to humans, animals, and even single cell creatures, in this following short 3 minute video:

"I think very primitive animals clearly have faculties of sensation but probably not faculties of thought. Higher animals like a dog would have a faculty of thought in addition to faculties of sensation.,,, I think the human soul will never cease to exist but only because I think God sustains it.,,, but a soul can exist without a (material) body.,,, (A one celled bacteria) is not conscious. But you can explain the interaction of its parts mechanistically. (So) You have to have a whole that is prior to the parts if you have evidence that the parts function and aren't what they are in light of that (prior) whole. (i.e. The very simplest of life have a soul but do not have consciousness)."

JP Moreland - BIOLA emeritus Professor of Theology - Is The Soul Immortal - 1:57 minute mark - video

<http://www.closetotruth.com/series/the-soul-immortal#video-2758>

I agree with his opinion.

Now, the 'scientific' confirmation of the Theistic contention that creatures have prior 'souls' which are not reducible to a material 'parts' basis, is the finding of non-local, beyond space and time, quantum information which is itself not reducible to a material basis, and which is keeping the organism functioning as a 'whole' for its entire life (and not a moment longer).

i.e. 'What holds off that moment of disintegration into parts for exactly a lifetime?'

It is the transcendent functional information, i.e. the soul, that keep the parts cohered as a whole for a lifetime:

"What power holds off that moment — precisely for a lifetime, and not a moment longer?" — picture

<http://cdn-4.spiritscienceandmetaphysics.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/harvardd-2.jpg>

Rabbit decomposition time-lapse (higher resolution)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6sFP_7Vezg

The Unbearable Wholeness of Beings – Stephen L. Talbott

Excerpt: Virtually the same collection of molecules exists in the canine cells during the moments immediately before and after death. But after the fateful transition no one will any longer think of genes as being regulated, nor will anyone refer to normal or proper chromosome functioning. No molecules will be said to guide other molecules to specific targets, and no molecules will be carrying signals, which is just as well because there will be no structures recognizing signals. Code, information, and communication, in their biological sense, will have disappeared from the scientist's vocabulary.

„, the question, rather, is why things don't fall completely apart — as they do, in fact, at the moment of death. What power holds off that moment — precisely for a lifetime, and not a moment longer?

Despite the countless processes going on in the cell, and despite the fact that each process might be expected to “go its own way” according to the myriad factors impinging on it from all directions, the actual result is quite different. Rather than becoming progressively disordered in their mutual relations (as indeed happens after death, when the whole dissolves into separate fragments), the processes hold together in a larger unity.

<http://www.thenewatlantis.com/publications/the-unbearable-wholeness-of-beings>

Biblical Definition of Death as separation

Excerpt: Death means separation between two things:

1. Physical Death

The separation of the body and soul

2. Spiritual Death

The separation of the man from God

3. Hell as the second spiritual separation from God

<http://www.bible.ca/d-death=separation.htm>

“I think death is an illusion. I think death is a really nasty, bad lie. I don't see any truth in the word death at all” –

Pam Reynolds Lowery (1956 – May 22, 2010)

Pam Reynold's comments on seeing here temporal body during her Near Death Experience at the 9:20 mark of the following video

“It (my body) looked like pretty much what it was. As in void of life.”

The NDE of Pam Reynolds – video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNbdUEqDB-k>

Does Quantum Biology Support A Quantum Soul? – Stuart Hameroff – video (notes in description)

<http://vimeo.com/29895068>

Verse and Music:

Matthew 10:28

“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.,.,,”

Case for the Existence of the Soul - JP Moreland, PhD - video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWjkbNkMiMo>

Princeton Philosophy Prof Dr. Hans Halvorson speaks on "Quantum Mechanics and Mind" - video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_UK7Y4NWc0

<http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/~goi/physphil2012.htm?video=hans#talks>

Of note from preceding video: **Introducing quantum information into multiplayer games allows a new type of equilibrium strategy which is not found in traditional (classical) games. The entanglement of player's choices can have the effect of a contract by preventing players from profiting from betrayal.**

The Soul Hypothesis: Investigations into the Existence of the Soul

Chapter 6 is Hans Halvorson's 'The Measure of All Things: Quantum Mechanics and the Soul'

Hans Halvorsen is a philosopher of quantum physics at Princeton University

Description: **Quantum theory's strange conclusions are founded on data obtained by measuring effects in certain experimental situations. But if quantum theory is correct there are no determinate data of the required sort, for the states of the measuring instruments will be superposed and entangled and thus indeterminate. The dualist has a way out of this problem. Superposition is when a physical system is in two apparently inconsistent states at once -- for example, an electron is passing through both the left-hand slit and the right-hand one at the same time. Because of the nature of linear dynamics, this superposition is retained in a device further down the line of this process. If this continued with an observer, he would be aware of inconsistently believing that the electron was in two places at once. But this is not what happens. Observation 'collapses the wave packet' (not a phrase Halvorson generally deploys) and only one determinate state is observed. Now it is often pointed out that measurement collapses the wave packet, but that the measuring device need not be a conscious observer. Halvorson replies to this that a non-conscious measuring device will itself be in an entangled state, but that if a conscious subject observes it, only one of its possible states will be seen, so consciousness is crucial to making reality determinate. (151)**

<http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/24611-the-soul-hypothesis-investigations-into-the-existence-of-the-soul/>

These following studies and videos confirm this 'superior quality' of existence for our souls/minds:

Darwinian Evolution Vs. Consciousness (Soul) - video (notes in description of video)

<http://www.metacafe.com/watch/7913605/>

Alvin Plantinga and the Modal Argument (for the existence of the soul) - video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOTn_wRwDE0

Six reasons why you should believe in non-physical minds - podcast and summary (Law of Identity: 6 properties of mind that are not identical to properties of the brain, thus the mind is not the brain)

<http://winteryknight.wordpress.com/2014/01/30/six-reasons-why-you-should-believe-in-non-physical-minds/>

Here are six properties of the mind that are not properties of the brain. Thus, in keeping with the law of identity, the mind is not same thing as the brain:

The Mind and Materialist Superstition - Six "conditions of mind" that are irreconcilable with materialism: Michael Egnor, professor of neurosurgery at SUNY, Stony Brook

Excerpt: **Intentionality,, Qualia,, Persistence of Self-Identity,, Restricted Access,, Incorrigeability,, Free Will,,**

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2008/11/the_mind_and_materialist_super.html

Do We Have Souls? Lee Strobel interviews Dr. J.P. Moreland - article

<http://verticallivingministries.com/2012/10/05/do-we-have-souls-lee-strobel-interviews-dr-j-p-moreland/>

Science Does Not Understand Our Consciousness of God, but Not for the Reasons We Might Think - Denyse O'Leary - February 14, 2017

Excerpt: Gobekli Tepe in Southeastern Anatolia, Turkey, discovered in 1994. Dated at 11,500 years ago, it seems to have been a massive worship site.,,,

As science writer Charles C. Mann explained in National Geographic, "Gobekli Tepe was like finding that someone had built a 747 in a basement with an X-Acto knife." The find suggests to many that religion, rather than agriculture, built civilization.,,,

it seems as good a place as any to begin a discussion of God consciousness in the human brain.,,,

Giulio Tononi has described the idea that mere matter could generate mind as a mystery "stranger than immaculate conception... an impossibility that defie[s] belief." (Phi, 2012) Nonetheless, he and many others appear resolved to believe and act on that admitted impossibility.,,,

It becomes impossible to talk about God or consciousness of God if we cannot accept that consciousness is an actual but immaterial entity.

Assuming God exists, if consciousness is not an illusion, we may be able to apprehend him more deeply than reason and emotion usually allow. That has been the goal of Christian mystics from the beginning, one for which they proved willing to sacrifice much.

Some neuroscience has been done on mystical states but it is dogged by general hostility to researching the area. [2],,,

One researcher, Andrew Newberg, found from his studies of Franciscan nuns, using SPECT

(single photon emission computed tomography),

“... the mind remembers mystical experience with the same degree of clarity and sense of reality that it bestows upon memories of “real” past events. The same cannot be said of hallucinations, delusions, or dreams. We believe this sense of realness strongly suggests that the accounts of the mystics are not indications of minds in disarray, but are the proper, predictable neurological result of a stable, coherent mind willing itself toward a higher spiritual plane.” [3]

<https://www.hbu.edu/news-and-events/2017/02/14/science-not-understand-consciousness-god-not-reasons-might-think/>

Plato has the Stranger then answer the evolutionary materialist case:

Excerpt: **Cle. Certainly not; the soul as being the source of motion, has been most satisfactorily shown to be the oldest of all things.**

Ath. And is not that motion which is produced in another, by reason of another, but never has any self-moving power at all, being in truth the change of an inanimate body, to be reckoned second, or by any lower number which you may prefer?

Cle. Exactly.

Ath. Then we are right, and speak the most perfect and absolute truth, when we say that the soul is prior to the body, and that the body is second and comes afterwards, and is born to obey the soul, which is the ruler?

http://iose-gen.blogspot.com/2010/06/origins-science-in-society.html#pl_rebut

Plato wins the argument against brain scientists - Oct. 2014

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/neuroscience/plato-wins-the-argument-against-brain-scientists/>

The person of "I" simply is not reducible to brain states (April 2018):

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/progressives-eating-their-own/#comment-656813>

A MAP OF THE SOUL - Michael Egnor - June 29, 2017

Excerpt: Wilder Penfield, an early-twentieth-century neurosurgeon who pioneered seizure surgery, noted that during brain stimulation on awake patients, he was never able to stimulate the mind itself—the sense of “I”—but only fragmented sensations and perceptions and movements and memories. Our core identity cannot be evoked or altered by physical stimulation of the brain.

Relatedly, Penfield observed that spontaneous electrical discharges in the brain cause involuntary sensations and movements and even emotions, but never abstract reasoning or calculation. There are no “calculus” seizures or “moral” seizures, in which patients involuntarily take second derivatives or ponder mercy.

Similar observations emerge from Roger Sperry’s famous studies of patients who had undergone surgery to disconnect the hemispheres of the brain. This was done to prevent seizures. The post-operative patients experienced peculiar perceptual and behavioral changes,

but they retained unity of personal identity—a unified intellect and will. The changes Sperry discovered in his research (for which he won a Nobel Prize) were so subtle as to pass unnoticed in everyday life.

In the past decade, British researcher Adrian Owen has found using fMRI imaging that some patients with such severe brain damage that they are considered to be in a persistent vegetative state are actually capable of sophisticated thought. The “comatose” patients’ brain scans show that, in reply to questions by an examiner, the patients are in fact thinking and imagining.

The woman on the operating table who was talking to me while I removed her frontal lobe had both material and immaterial powers of mind. Our higher brain functions defy precise mapping onto brain tissue, because they are not generated by tissue, as our lower brain functions are. Materialism, the view that matter is all that exists, is the premise of much contemporary thinking about what a human being is. Yet evidence from the laboratory, operating room, and clinical experience points to a less fashionable conclusion: Human beings straddle the material and immaterial realms.

<https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2017/06/a-map-of-the-soul>

The Representation Problem and the Immateriality of the Mind - Michael Egnor - February 5, 2018

Excerpt: The human mind is a composite of material particular thought and immaterial abstract thought. Interestingly, modern neuroscience supports this view. Perception of particulars maps with precision to brain anatomy, but abstract thought is not mapped in the same way. Material powers of the brain are ordinarily necessary for exercise of abstract thought (e.g., you have to be awake to think about justice), but matter is not sufficient for abstract thought.

<https://evolutionnews.org/2018/02/the-representation-problem-and-the-immateriality-of-the-mind/>

If a person were merely the brain, as materialists hold, then if half of a brain were removed then a 'person' should only be 'half the person', or at least somewhat less of a 'person', as they were before. But that is not the case, the 'whole person' stays intact even though the brain suffers severe impairment:

A MAP OF THE SOUL by Michael Egnor - June 29 2017

Excerpt: **I'm a neuroscientist and professor of neurosurgery. The mind-brain question haunts me. Neurosurgeons alter the brain on a daily basis, and what we find doesn't fit the prevailing view that the brain runs the mind as computer hardware runs software. I have scores of patients who are missing large areas of their brains, yet who have quite good minds. I have a patient born with two-thirds of her brain absent. She's a normal junior high kid who loves to play soccer. Another patient, missing a similar amount of brain tissue, is an accomplished musician with a master's degree in English. How can this be? It wasn't until I read Thomas Aquinas that I began to understand.,,, Aquinas taught that our soul's immaterial powers are only facilitated by matter, not caused by it, and the correlation is loose. His insight presaged certain findings of modern neuroscience.,,,**

Our higher brain functions defy precise mapping onto brain tissue, because they are not generated by tissue, as our lower brain functions are.

Materialism, the view that matter is all that exists, is the premise of much contemporary thinking about what a human being is. Yet evidence from the laboratory, operating room, and clinical experience points to a less fashionable conclusion: Human beings straddle the material and immaterial realms.

We can do better science—and medicine—when we recognize that human beings have abilities that transcend reductionist material explanations. In this century of unprecedented advances in brain research, it's remarkable that the deepest insights emerge from an ancient paradigm: Thomas Aquinas's map of the soul.

<https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2017/06/a-map-of-the-soul>

Miracle Of Mind-Brain Recovery Following Hemispherectomies - Dr. Ben Carson - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zBrY77mBNg>

Dr. Gary Mathern - What Can You Do With Half A Brain? - video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrKijBx_hAw

Removing Half of Brain Improves Young Epileptics' Lives: - 1997

Excerpt: **"We are awed by the apparent retention of memory and by the retention of the child's personality and sense of humor,"** Dr. Eileen P. G. Vining,,

Dr. John Freeman, the director of the Johns Hopkins Pediatric Epilepsy Center, said he was dumbfounded at the ability of children to regain speech after losing the half of the brain that is supposedly central to language processing.

"It's fascinating," Dr. Freeman said. "The classic lore is that you can't change language after the age of 2 or 3."

But Dr. Freeman's group has now removed diseased left hemispheres in more than 20 patients, including three 13-year-olds whose ability to speak transferred to the right side of the brain in much the way that Alex's did.,,,

<http://www.nytimes.com/1997/08/19/science/removing-half-of-brain-improves-young-epileptics-lives.html>

In further comment from the neuro-surgeons in the John Hopkins study:

"Despite removal of one hemisphere, the intellect of all but one of the children seems either unchanged or improved. Intellect was only affected in the one child who had remained in a coma, vigil-like state, attributable to perioperative complications."

The Enigma of Memory: Beyond the Brain - 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7seE0pA9om4>

Why Would You Remove Half a Brain? The Outcome of 58 Children After Hemispherectomy—The Johns Hopkins Experience: 1968 to 1996

Excerpt page 167: **Despite removal of one hemisphere, the intellect of all but one of the children seems either unchanged or improved. The improvements are the result of the lessening of the impairments in function from the seizures, and from the decrease or, in most cases, elimination of the anticonvulsants. Intellect was worsened in the one child who has remained in a coma vigil-like state attributable to perioperative complications. Although there have been major concerns about loss of language after left hemispherectomy, all eleven of these children have regained virtually normal language.**
https://www.academia.edu/47374408/Why_Would_You_Remove_Half_a_Brain_The_Outcome_of_58_Children_After_Hemispherectomy_The_Johns_Hopkins_Experience_1968_to_1996

Strange but True: When Half a Brain Is Better than a Whole One - May 2007

Excerpt: **Most Hopkins hemispherectomy patients are five to 10 years old. Neurosurgeons have performed the operation on children as young as three months old. Astonishingly, memory and personality develop normally. ,,,**

Another study found that children that underwent hemispherectomies often improved academically once their seizures stopped. "One was champion bowler of her class, one was chess champion of his state, and others are in college doing very nicely," Freeman says.

Of course, the operation has its downside: "You can walk, run—some dance or skip—but you lose use of the hand opposite of the hemisphere that was removed. You have little function in that arm and vision on that side is lost," Freeman says. Remarkably, few other impacts are seen. ,,,

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=strange-but-true-when-half-brain-better-than-whole>

How Removing Half of Someone's Brain Can Improve Their Life – Oct. 2015

Excerpt: **Next spring, del Peral (who has only half a brain) will graduate from Curry College, where she has made the dean's list every semester since freshman year.**

<http://www.mentalfloss.com/article/70120/how-removing-half-someones-brain-can-improve-their-life>

"CB was an adult with a career in retail management. So what happened afterward?" ,,,

"the finding underlines, the essential unity of the human mind. The brain can be halved but the mind can't."

- Do We Need the Right Half of the Brain? - Aug. 2024

<https://evolutionnews.org/2024/08/do-we-need-the-right-half-of-the-brain/>

The man with the missing brain - 17 Aug 2014

A medical recovery that is baffling science - and giving hope to head injury patients

Excerpt: **Doctors deemed his cognitive function so low it was untestable – that is, an IQ below 50. It was likely, they said, that he would have to rely on others for even the most menial of tasks for the rest of his life.,,,**

When he was sent to her, in October 1995, his IQ had climbed significantly to 89, just a

point below the lower edge of “normal” (between 90 and 110) on the Revised Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale. But when she was finished with him in February 1997 – after three sessions a week, with gaps for the occasional surgery – Lewis had an IQ of more than 151, close to so-called “genius” levels,,,

Lewis is missing a third of his right hemisphere,,,

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/11039266/The-man-with-the-missing-brain.html>

Discrepancy Between Cerebral Structure and Cognitive Functioning: A Review - 2017

Excerpt: **The aforementioned student of mathematics had a global IQ of 130 and a verbal IQ of 140 at the age of 25 (Lorber, 1983), but had “virtually no brain” (Lewin 1980, p. 1232).,,,**

This student belonged to the group of patients that Lorber classified as having “extreme hydrocephalus,” meaning that more than 90% of their cranium appeared to be filled with cerebrospinal fluid (Lorber, 1983).,,,

Apart from the above-mentioned student of mathematics, he described a woman with an extreme degree of hydrocephalus showing “virtually no cerebral mantle” who had an IQ of 118, a girl aged 5 who had an IQ of 123 despite extreme hydrocephalus, a 7-year-old boy with gross hydrocephalus and an IQ of 128, another young adult with gross hydrocephalus and a verbal IQ of 144, and a nurse and an English teacher who both led normal lives despite gross hydrocephalus.,,,

Another interesting case is that of a 44-year-old woman with very gross hydrocephalus described by Masdeu (2008) and Masdeu et al. (2009). She had a global IQ of 98, worked as an administrator for a government agency, and spoke seven languages.,,,

,,, , people who grew up with only one hemisphere developed all the neuronal foundations needed for ordinary cognitive and most motor skills. Even so, it seems additionally surprising that one hemisphere can accomplish this after the other has been removed or was isolated anatomically and functionally from the rest of the brain, as it is the case of surgical hemispherectomy.,,,

It is astonishing that many patients can lead an ordinary life after this drastic procedure, having only minor motor disabilities that result from mild hemiplegia.,,,

McFie (1961) was astonished that “not only does it (one hemisphere) perform motor and sensory functions for both sides of the body, it performs the associative and intellectual functions normally allocated to two hemispheres” (p. 248).,,,

,,, most patients, even adults, do not seem to lose their long-term memory such as episodic (autobiographic) memories.,,,

Finally, we will present additional considerations about memory processing, especially in savants. In this respect, Kim Peek (1951–2009) was most remarkable in that he seemed to possess a perfect memory: he forgot nothing he ever read and remembered complete melodies, even if he heard them only once. Most remarkably, his brain showed considerable malformations that included a deformed cerebellum, abnormalities of the left hemisphere, and the complete lack of the corpus callosum, as well as the anterior and posterior commissures. In addition, much of the skull interior comprised empty areas that were filled with cerebrospinal fluid, as in hydrocephalic subjects (Treffert and Christensen, 2005). Nevertheless, he

memorized more than 12,000 books, apparently verbatim, the contents of which amounted to an encyclopedic knowledge in multiple areas of interest.

Typically, he would read a page in eight to ten seconds, and then turn to the next page. He even read two pages of smaller books such as paperbacks simultaneously, using one eye each for each page. Moreover, he had impressive calendar calculating abilities (Treffer, 2010).

<https://med.virginia.edu/perceptual-studies/wp-content/uploads/sites/360/2017/12/Discrepancy-between-cerebral-structure-and-cognitive-functioning-JNMD.pdf>

"Katie, like you and me, has a soul." - Michael Egnor

Science and the Soul - Michael Egnor - June 2018

Excerpt: I watched the CAT scan images appear on the screen, one by one. The baby's head was mostly empty. There were only thin slivers of brain – a bit of brain tissue at the base of the skull, and a thin rim around the edges. The rest was water.

Her parents had feared this. We had seen it on the prenatal ultrasound; the CAT scan, hours after birth, was much more accurate. Katie looked like a normal newborn, but she had little chance at a normal life. She had a fraternal-twin sister in the incubator next to her. But Katie only had a third of the brain that her sister had. I explained all of this to her family, trying to keep alive a flicker of hope for their daughter. I cared for Katie as she grew up. At every stage of Katie's life so far, she has excelled. She sat and talked and walked earlier than her sister. She's made the honor roll. She will soon graduate high school.

I've had other patients whose brains fell far short of their minds. Maria had only two-thirds of a brain. She needed a couple of operations to drain fluid, but she thrives. She just finished her master's degree in English literature, and is a published musician. Jesse was born with a head shaped like a football and half-full of water – doctors told his mother to let him die at birth. She disobeyed. He is a normal happy middle-schooler, loves sports, and wears his hair long.

Some people with deficient brains are profoundly handicapped. But not all are. I've treated and cared for scores of kids who grow up with brains that are deficient but minds that thrive. How is this possible?

Neuroscience, and Thomas Aquinas, point to the answer.,,,

The most remarkable result of Sperry's Nobel Prize-winning work was that the person's intellect and will – what we might call the soul – remained undivided.

The brain can be cut in half, but the intellect and will cannot.,,,

I see her (Katie) in my office each year. She is thriving: headstrong and bright. Her mother is exasperated, and, after seventeen years, still surprised. So am I.

There is much about the brain and the mind that I don't understand. But neuroscience tells a consistent story. There is a part of Katie's mind that is not her brain. She is more than that. She can reason and she can choose. There is a part of her that is immaterial – the part that Sperry couldn't split, that Penfield couldn't reach, and that Libet couldn't find with his electrodes. There is a part of Katie that didn't show up on those CAT scans when she was born.

Katie, like you and me, has a soul.

<https://www.plough.com/en/topics/justice/reconciliation/science-and-the-soul>

THE BRAIN IS NOT A "MEAT COMPUTER"

Dramatic recoveries from brain injury highlight the difference

MICHAEL EGNOR - AUGUST 7, 2018

Excerpt: Early in my neurosurgical career, I was called to the emergency room to see a four-year-old boy who had had a stroke. He was playing on a sofa and fell on his head, twisting his neck. He told his mom that his head hurt—then lapsed into a coma.

The CT scan showed that he had torn his vertebral artery, which is a vital artery that traverses the bones of the neck and provides blood flow to critical parts of the brain (see the illustration at right below). His damaged brain was swelling dangerously; quite simply, he was dying.

We rushed him to the operating room, where I removed the permanently damaged part of his brain—most of his left cerebellar hemisphere—to take the pressure off of his brainstem so as to save his life. The cerebellum plays an important role in coordination so I had to tell his family that he would likely be handicapped, both from the stroke and the need to remove the damaged part of his brain.

He survived, and in fact, he did quite well. Several weeks later, during a follow-up visit in my office, I could find no neurological deficit at all. He was a normal child, albeit missing most of his left cerebellar hemisphere.

I heard from him years later, after he had grown up and gone on to college. He sent me a photo of himself—on his NCAA college basketball team. He was a superb athlete and was dreaming of a professional career.

Every neuroanatomy and neurophysiology textbook I studied as a medical student described the function of the cerebellum in terms of circuits, neural networks, and computation. It appeared unlikely that anyone could sustain even a tiny injury in such a complex “computer” and retain normal coordination, let alone superb coordination, and play a sport at a high collegiate level.

But I have learned in practice what every neurosurgeon knows, that much of the cerebellum is expendable. We remove major parts of it routinely in order to remove tumors or blood clots or to decompress the brainstem, which is immediately in front of the cerebellum, without any lasting neurological outcomes (sequelae).

<https://mindmatters.today/2018/08/the-brain-is-not-a-meat-computer/>

A boy is missing the vision bit of his brain but can still see - 6 December 2017

Excerpt: **An Australian boy missing the visual processing centre of his brain has baffled doctors by seeming to have near-normal sight.**

The 7-year-old, known as “BI”, lost his primary visual cortex shortly after he was born due to a rare metabolic disorder called medium-chain acyl-Co-A dehydrogenase deficiency.

Normally, the primary visual cortex is crucial for sight because it processes electrical signals relayed from the eyes. People with damage to this area are said to have “cortical blindness”.

However, BI has remarkably well-preserved vision, says Iñaki-Carril Mundiñano at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. “You wouldn’t think he is blind,” he says. “He navigates his way around without any problems and plays soccer and video games,”

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2155639-a-boy-is-missing-the-vision-bit-of-his-brain-but-can-still-see/>

11-year-old conjoined twins have a connected brain, see through each others’ eyes, but have separate minds - November 6, 2017

Excerpt: **Krista and Tatiana Hogan share the senses of touch and taste and even control one another’s limbs. Tatiana can see out of both of Krista’s eyes, while Krista can only see out of one of Tatiana’s.**

Tatiana controls three arms and a leg, while Krista controls three legs and an arm. They

can also switch to self-control of their limbs.

(But their personalities are not conjoined; indeed, they are typical for twins):

The girls have very different personalities. Tatiana is outgoing, talkative and high strung while Krista is quieter, more relaxed and loves to tell jokes.

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/11-year-old-conjoined-twins-have-a-connected-brain-see-through-each-others-eyes-but-have-separate-minds/>

What the Craniopagus Twins Teach Us About the Mind and the Brain - Michael Egnor -
November 24, 2017

Excerpt:,,, **They are two people. They remain completely distinct children — they have, we might say, two separate souls, not one soul with two bodies. They remain different and fully distinct people. In fact, their story wouldn't be so remarkable if they were one person, because centralized sensation and control of limbs is normal for one person, but quite remarkable for two people.,,,**

Tatiana's and Krista's shared and individual powers of mind are just what Thomistic dualism predicts. They share material powers of mind, but not immaterial powers. They remain distinct souls.

This distinction between material and immaterial powers of the mind has been observed in other aspects of neuroscience. Roger Sperry's Nobel Prize-winning studies of split brain operations showed that what was "split" by surgically dividing the brain in half were sensory powers of the mind. A patient with a split brain remains a discrete individual person, with one self and one mind. It is the perceptual and sensory aspect of the mind that splits with surgical cutting of the corpus callosum. The person remains unitary.

A similar phenomenon was noted by Wilder Penfield, who was the pioneering neurosurgeon who started the discipline of epilepsy surgery. He noted that while operating on conscious patients he could stimulate many sensory and motor aspects of brain function, but he couldn't stimulate or ablate that patient's sense of self or experience of unitary existence. There was, Penfield noted, as aspect of the mind that he couldn't reach, that remained beyond his surgical instruments. This has certainly been my experience as a neurosurgeon as well.

Neuroscientist Benjamin Libet, who pioneered the scientific study of consciousness and of free will, also found an immaterial power of the mind that appears distinct from and prior to material mental powers. He concluded that free will is real, and that while our actions seem to be motivated by unconscious intentions, we retain the immaterial ability to veto our actions in accordance with moral law.

It is worth noting that the conclusion that the human mind has material and immaterial powers is well founded in theology, philosophy, and neuroscience. The evidence for dualism, and specifically for Thomistic dualism, is abundant in neuroscience. We are composites of material powers and immaterial powers. In the traditional way of understanding man, we are composites of matter and spirit, and we bridge the gap between the two realms of nature.

<https://evolutionnews.org/2017/11/what-the-craniopagus-twins-teach-us-about-the-mind-and-the>

[-brain/](#)

“[Researchers were] putting people into fMRI machines and giving them intelligence tests—deductions and puzzles. It turns out the people who are better at doing the tests, who can solve them faster and more efficiently, were showing less activity in the intelligence part of the brain. Which is obviously puzzling—if that’s the intelligence part of the brain, why are people who are more intelligent not using it?”

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/neofascism-why-your-mind-evolved-to-thwart-you/#comment-614537>

July 2019

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/at-peaceful-science-an-anti-creationist-psychiatrist-misunderstands-evidence-for-an-immaterial-mind-says-michael-egnor/#comment-679997>

Dr. Benjamin Carson, in the following video, describes the elaborate process going on in the brain/body just to raise your hand:

Ben Carson - Thought Process - 2:39 minute mark of video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qdo6rT064KA&feature=player_detailpage#t=148s

Darwinism and Materialism: They Sink or Swim Together By Tom Bethell on Sept. 18, 2013
(Excellent Review Of Darwin's Doubt)

Excerpt: **Meyer also reviews the “Rules of Science” decreeing what is permitted if an investigation is to be called scientific. “Methodological naturalism” is the main one today: Only material causes are permitted. That rule is the basis for Darwinian accusations that ID is creationism. ID does admit non-material causes, thereby flouting the (recently imposed) rule obliging scientists to adhere to naturalism all the way. Yet science itself abounds with non-material entities. Information is non-material and if it is essential for building organisms, how is it transmitted to the three-dimensional world of matter? There’s an obvious parallel, Meyer points out. How are the decisions we make in our own conscious minds transmitted to the world of physical matter? We know every day that we can transform our mental decisions into physical acts. We choose to lift our arm, and it lifts.**

Neuroscience hopes to explain this materially — to show how the brain’s nerve endings translate into consciousness, thence into acts. But one may predict that they will keep looking for a long time, because the gulf separating matter and consciousness is greater than that separating us from the remotest galaxy. That doesn’t mean that mind is too remote, unreal, or can be excluded from science. Mind is within us and nothing can be closer. Without it, the very ideas, theories, and arguments of science wouldn’t exist. If our own minds can disturb matter in ways that cannot be explained by materialists, is it not possible that some larger or more encompassing Mind can impact the world of nature? No, say the materialists. Why not? Because, in their philosophy, matter is all that exists. That’s why they call themselves materialists. And that is why Thomas Nagel’s book is so significant. His book is subtitled “Why the Materialist Neo-Darwinian

Conception of Nature Is Almost Certainly False.” Incidentally, Nagel has also gone out of his way to praise Stephen Meyer.

<http://spectator.org/archives/2013/09/18/darwinism-and-materialism-they/2>

Dr. Craig Hazen, in the following video at the 12:26 minute mark, relates how he performed, for an audience full of 'academics', a 'miracle' by raising his hand,,

The Intersection of Science and Religion - Craig Hazen, PhD - video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=xVByFjV0qIE#t=746s

Dr. Hazen's example, of raising your arm being a 'miracle', really brings the burning question home, that is all too often missed by academics, as to “what is actually doing the raising of the arm and the seeing in the brain?”,, If a person says that it is merely the brain that is raising the arm and that is what is doing the seeing, then one runs headlong into the argument from divisibility for the soul;

Case for the Existence of the Soul - (Argument from Divisibility at 38:20 minute mark) - JP Moreland - video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWjkbNkMiMo&feature=player_detailpage#t=2299

Of related note:

(schizophrenic?) Brain-split between atheism and theism? No! - 15 June 2013

<http://creation.com/atheism-theism-brain-split>

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/neuroscience/why-materialist-neuroscience-must-necessarily-remain-a-pseudo-discipline/#comment-459499>

Do split-brain cases disprove the existence of an immaterial soul? YJT (Part One) - July 18, 2013

Excerpt: **If one makes all of these assumptions, then it is indeed true that dualism is in trouble. However, no dualist that I know makes all of these assumptions.**

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/do-split-brain-cases-disprove-the-existence-of-an-immaterial-soul-part-one/>

Do split-brain cases disprove the existence of an immaterial soul? (Part Two)

Dr. VJ Torley - July 20, 2013

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/do-split-brain-cases-disprove-the-existence-of-an-immaterial-soul-part-two/>

Man born without connection between two halves of brain functions normally— at 88

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/neuroscience/man-born-without-connection-between-two-halves-of-brain-functions-normally-at-88/#comment-513076>

Here is a first person account of the split-brain experiment in which the person in the experiment testifies to being 'one' person although his actions were split:

Excerpt: BTW, with regards to your citation of the split-brain experiments (and people who suffer from that due to injury, etc). I was involved in one of those split-brain experiments myself. (Which is possible by temporarily numbing the corpus callosum.) And believe me, it was the damndest thing. The thing is, even though different parts of my brain were acting as if they had no knowledge of "each other", behind it all was still "me", consciously experiencing the strange disconnection.

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/philosophy/holy-rollers-pascals-wager-if-id-is-wrong-it-was-a-n-honest-mistake/#comment-460565>

The Case for the Soul: Refuting Physicalist Objections - video

Computers vs. Qualia, Libet and 'Free won't', Split Brain (unified attention of brain despite split hemispheres, visual and motion information is shared between the two hemispheres despite the hemispheres being split),

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GB5TNrtu9Pk>

The Case for the Soul - InspiringPhilosophy - video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBsl_ay8K70

The Mind is able to modify the brain. Moreover, 'dual aspect' Idealism explains all anomalous evidence of personality changes due to brain injury, whereas physicalism does not explain mind.

YES, SPLIT BRAINS ARE WEIRD, BUT NOT THE WAY YOU THINK

Scientists who dismiss consciousness and free will ignore the fact that the higher faculties of the mind cannot be split even by splitting the brain in half

MICHAEL EGNOR JANUARY 17, 2020

Excerpt: Split surgery, called commissurotomy by neurosurgeons, is an operation that treats certain kinds of seizures. I've performed that operation myself and have taken care of the patients before and after the surgery. Beforehand, they are often incapacitated—they may have 20 or 30 seizures per day. In the surgery, we cut a portion (occasionally all) of the corpus callosum, which is a bundle of fibers that connects the two hemispheres of the brain. This procedure prevents seizures from moving across hemispheres and usually greatly reduces their severity.

What is most remarkable about these patients—what spurred Roger Sperry to do his landmark Nobel Prize-winning research—is that after the surgery they are unaffected in everyday life, except for the diminished seizures. They are one person after the surgery, as they were before. They are basically the same, even after their brain has been functionally cut in half. They feel the same, act the same, and think the same, for all intents and purposes.

In his meticulous research, Sperry found neurological effects from the surgery, but they were subtle. The hemispheres of the brain tend to act independently in some perceptual and motor activities. A patient could only name an object if it is shown to the speech hemisphere (usually the left hemisphere), and could move limbs only in accordance with the hemisphere to which

information is presented. All of the disabilities Sperry found were perceptual and motor, not intellectual and abstract.,,,

Let me repeat: Split-brain surgery doesn't split the mind. People after split brain surgery remain one person, with one consciousness, one intellect, and one will. They have perceptual disabilities caused by the surgery but those disabilities are subtle and not noticed in everyday life. Their abstract intellect remains unified and the will that follows on that intellect remains unified. Split-brain surgery doesn't split logic or mathematics or abstract reasoning or moral decisions based on abstract reasoning.

The results of split-brain surgery are strong arguments for dualism and for the immateriality of the intellect and will. It is a sad fact that an evolutionary biologist like Coyne, together with many neuroscientists, fails to understand the most important implication of this research—that the higher faculties of the mind cannot be split even by splitting the brain in half.

<https://mindmatters.ai/2020/01/yes-split-brains-are-weird-but-not-the-way-you-think/>

Michael R. Egnor, MD, is a Professor of Neurosurgery and Pediatrics at State University of New York, Stony Brook, has served as the Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery, and award-winning brain surgeon. He was named one of New York's best doctors by the New York Magazine in 2005.

Although the girl in the following videos was written off as hopelessly retarded by everyone who saw her, eventually a breakthrough was made that gave her the ability to communicate with the outside world. A breakthrough that revealed there was/is indeed a gentle intelligence, a “me”, a “soul”, a “person”, within the girl that was and still is trapped within her body. And that that “me” was not able to express herself properly to others simply because of her neurological disorder not because she did not have a ‘mind’ that was not fully functioning.

Severely Handicapped Girl Suddenly Expresses Intelligence At Age 11 – very moving video
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNZVV4Ciccq>

Carly's Café – Experience Autism Through Carly's Eyes – video
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KmDGvquzn2k>

5 Video Simulations to Help You Experience Autism - April 25, 2014
<http://www.autismspeaks.org/news/news-item/5-video-simulations-help-you-experience-autism-highlighted-mashable>

I like the following video in which Carly, who was written off as hopelessly retarded, explains to a panel of doctors what stemming is

Carly's Voice - Never Give Up! - What is Stemming? - video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2BocHID1eM>

Autistic Savants have another surprise for us,,,telepathy!!!

Dr. Diane Powell Finds Telepathy Among Autistic Savant Children - Posted on Oct 28, 2014

Excerpt: „the second therapist independently had a similar experience where she made a mistake and the girl repeated her mistake. Then she saw this often enough that she said, ‘Hey, it’s like you’re reading my mind.’ Then she had the thought, ‘How do you say I love you in German?’ And the girl typed out the German for ‘I love you’ – ich liebe dich.

Alex Tsakiris: Oh my gosh.

Diane Powell: So this created the opportunity to go and test her with two independent therapists. And the results, if people go to my website and they want to read the abstract, you will see that the results are astounding. I mean, there is this one period where I have over four hours of experimental footage with her. And there was a period of about ten minutes of where she gave – out of 162 random numbers, and I was generating these with a random number generator, out of 162, she only made 7 errors. And each one of those she corrected on the second try.,.,,

<http://www.skeptiko.com/257-diane-powell-telepathy-among-autistic-savant-children/>

podcast interview:

<http://www.skeptiko.com/upload/skeptiko-257-diane-powell.mp3>

Evidence of Telepathy in a Nonverbal Autistic Child - Diane Hennacy Powell

<http://dianehennacypowell.com/evidence-telepathy-nonverbal-autistic-child/>

[Researchers were] putting people into fMRI machines and giving them intelligence tests—deductions and puzzles. It turns out the people who are better at doing the tests, who can solve them faster and more efficiently, were showing less activity in the intelligence part of the brain. Which is obviously puzzling—if that’s the intelligence part of the brain, why are people who are more intelligent not using it?

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/neofascism-why-your-mind-evolved-to-thwart-you/#comment-614537>

Perhaps the material brain gets in the way of the spiritual mind to a certain extent? And people who use more of their mind and less of their brain to solve a problem will ‘naturally’ do so more intelligently?

STUDIES OF BRAIN ACTIVITY AREN’T AS USEFUL AS SCIENTISTS THOUGHT - June 3, 2020

Excerpt: Hariri and his colleagues reexamined 56 published papers based on fMRI data to gauge their reliability across 90 experiments. Hariri said the researchers recognized that “the correlation between one scan and a second is not even fair, it’s poor.”

They also examined data from the brain-scanning Human Connectome Project -- “Our field’s Bible at the moment,” Hariri called it -- and looked at test/retest results for 45 individuals. For six out of seven measures of brain function, the correlation between tests taken about four months apart with the same person was weak. The seventh measure studied, language processing, was only a fair correlation, not good or excellent.

Finally they looked at data they collected through the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study in New Zealand, in which 20 individuals were put through task-based fMRI twice, two or three months apart. Again, they found poor correlation from one test to the next in

an individual.

<https://today.duke.edu/2020/06/studies-brain-activity-aren%E2%80%99t-useful-scientists-thought>

What Is the Test-Retest Reliability of Common Task-Functional MRI Measures? New Empirical Evidence and a Meta-Analysis - Maxwell L. Elliott, Annchen R. Knodt, David Ireland, - June 3, 2020

Excerpt: Measuring brain activity using task functional MRI (fMRI) is a major focus of biomarker development; however, the reliability of task fMRI has not been systematically evaluated. We present converging evidence demonstrating poor reliability of task-fMRI measures. First, a meta-analysis of 90 experiments (N = 1,008) revealed poor overall reliability—mean intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) = .397. Second, the test-retest reliabilities of activity in a priori regions of interest across 11 common fMRI tasks collected by the Human Connectome Project (N = 45) and the Dunedin Study (N = 20) were poor (ICCs = .067–.485). Collectively, these findings demonstrate that common task-fMRI measures are not currently suitable for brain biomarker discovery or for individual-differences research.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0956797620916786>

WHY BRAIN ACTIVITY DOESN'T REVEAL OUR MINDS

There is poor correlation between different scans of even the same person's brain, experienced researchers say - JUNE 6, 2020

Excerpt: "there is a growing conviction among some neuroscientists that our future path is not clear. It is hard to see where we should be going, apart from simply collecting more data or counting on the latest exciting experimental approach. As the German neuroscientist Olaf Sporns has put it: "Neuroscience still largely lacks organising principles or a theoretical framework for converting brain data into fundamental knowledge and understanding." Despite the vast number of facts being accumulated, our understanding of the brain appears to be approaching an impasse."

MATTHEW COBB, "WHY YOUR BRAIN IS NOT A COMPUTER" AT THE GUARDIAN (FEBRUARY 27, 2020)

<https://mindmatters.ai/2020/06/why-brain-activity-doesnt-reveal-our-minds>

Neuroscientific Evidence: Irreducible Mind (Part 1)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOFGKhvWQ4M>

"they would seriously undermine the assumption that, in such diseases as Alzheimer's, the mind itself is destroyed in lockstep with the brain (e.g., Edwards, 1997, pp. 295–296). Like many of the experiences discussed in this chapter, such cases would suggest that in some conditions, consciousness may be enhanced, not destroyed, when constraints normally supplied by the brain are sufficiently loosened."

– Irreducible Mind, Edward F. Kelly

Do Alzheimer's, Dementia Prove the Soul Doesn't Exist? - Tara MacIsaac - September 2, 2014

Excerpt: Occasionally, just before death, people with Alzheimer's disease or dementia who've been completely incoherent for many years will seem to return suddenly to their senses. Their memories, personality, and entire mind—so long shrouded by the disease that loved ones had lost hope of their return—shine forth in a final blaze. This phenomenon is known as terminal lucidity.

Some say it refutes the philosophical argument that the "soul" is merely a function of the brain. The late philosopher Paul Edwards made his "Alzheimer's Argument Against the Soul" in 1995.,,,

Batthyany said that Edwards makes an "intuitively compelling" argument. But terminal lucidity may suggest the mind is not destroyed with the brain, Batthyany said.

If the mind were dependent on parts of the brain for existence, it is hard to see how a whole person—a person who can make connections between this memory and that, a person who can calmly and rationally interact with others and perform coherent actions—could return. If parts of the brain were so badly affected by the disease, one would expect only a fragmented individual to remain.

https://www.theepochtimes.com/do-alzheimers-dementia-prove-the-soul-doesnt-exist_930465.html

Threshold: Terminal Lucidity and the Border of Life and Death – September 12, 2023

Description: Terminal lucidity is a relatively common but poorly understood phenomenon. Near the end of life, many people—including those who have suffered brain injuries or strokes, or have been silenced by mental illness or deep dementia—experience what seems a miraculous return. They regain their clarity and energy, are able to talk with families and caregivers, recall their lives and often appear to be aware of their nearing death.

In this remarkable book, cognitive scientist and Director of the Viktor Frankl Institute Dr. Alexander Batthyány offers the first major account of terminal lucidity, utilizing hundreds of case studies

<https://www.amazon.com/Threshold-Terminal-Lucidity-Border-Death/dp/1250782287>

Alexander Batthyany - Terminal Lucidity: Preliminary Data 2014 - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Et0AwKSWwsw>

One Last Goodbye: The Strange Case of Terminal Lucidity - Jesse Bering - Nov. 24, 2014

I'm as sworn to radical rationalism as the next neo-Darwinian materialist. That said, over the years I've had to "quarantine," for lack of a better word, a few anomalous personal experiences that have stubbornly defied my own logical understanding of them.

Excerpt:,,, terminal lucidity.

Let's have a more detailed look at the phenomenon in question. The term was coined only five years ago by German biologist Michael Nahm. His 2009 article in The Journal of Near-Death Studies was the first modern review article on the curious subject of cognitively impaired people becoming clearheaded as their death approaches. According to him, cases of "terminal lucidity" had been recorded for millennia, from accounts by classical scholars such as Hippocrates, Cicero and Plutarch to 19th-century medical luminaries like Benjamin Rush (who wrote the first American treatise on mental illness). It's just that, apparently, no one had thought to label or conceptualize these elusive incidents in any formal way before.

Here's how Nahm defined terminal lucidity in that original article:

"The (re-)emergence of normal or unusually enhanced mental abilities in dull, unconscious, or mentally ill patients shortly before death, including considerable elevation of mood and spiritual affectation, or the ability to speak in a previously unusual spiritualized and elated manner."

The author characterizes terminal lucidity as one of the more common, but lesser known, ELEs (or "end-of-life experiences"). Others on his list include deathbed visions, apparitions, near-death/out-of-body experiences, telepathic impressions, and so on.,,,

Of 49 case studies of terminal lucidity, the vast majority (84 percent) occurred within a week of death; 43 percent, in fact, transpired the final day of life.

They divide the phenomenon into two general classes, however. In the first subtype, "the severity of mental derangement improve[s] slowly in conjunction with the decline of bodily vitality." This occurs in some patients with chronic mental illness when their psychiatric symptoms become less pronounced, or disappear altogether, starting around a month before their deaths. Thus, the lucid periods emerge gradually, like clouds parting. The authors offer three Russian case studies from the 1970s as examples, all schizophrenic patients "without prior lucid intervals, living in seemingly stable psychotic mental states for many years." One man who'd been completely catatonic for nearly two decades allegedly "became almost normal" before he finally passed away.

In the second subtype of terminal lucidity, the authors tell us, "full mental clarity can appear quite abruptly and unexpectedly just hours or days before death." In one study, 70 percent of caretakers in a British nursing home said they'd personally observed people with dementia becoming lucid shortly before their deaths.,,,

A 92-year-old woman with advanced Alzheimer's disease, for instance, hadn't recognized her family for years, but the day before her death, she had a pleasantly bright conversation with them, recalling everyone's name. She was even aware of her own age and where she'd been living all this time. "Such incidents happen regularly," write Nahm and Greyson.

,,, for cases involving obvious brain damage (such as strokes, tumors, advanced Alzheimer's disease) that should render the patient all but vegetative, not functioning normally, it's a genuine medical mystery.

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/bering-in-mind/one-last-goodbye-the-strange-case-of-terminal-lucidity/>

Near-Death Experiences: 30 Years of Research – 2014

Excerpt: **Improved Mental Functions With an Impaired Brain**

Bruce Greyson, M.D. and director of the Division of Perceptual Studies at the University of Virginia, said NDEs are reliable because the accounts by near-death experiencers (NDErs) of these events remain unchanged over time. He compared a group of NDErs' accounts about their NDEs made 20 years apart and found that they remained closely identical over time.

Greyson believes that NDEs are an indication that the mind is independent of the brain because impaired brain functions would be expected during the clinical situation that the NDErs underwent, but his research found no corresponding impairment of mental functions in NDErs.

“In most cases, people’s mental functioning is better in the NDE than [it] is during our normal waking life,” Greyson said during an interview with The Epoch Times.

“Their thinking is faster, is clearer, is more logical, they have more control over their chain of thought, their senses are more acute, their memories are more vivid.

“If you ask somebody about their near-death experience that happened 15 years ago, they tell it as if it happened yesterday. If you ask them [about] other experiences from their life at the same time, they are very fuzzy memories, if they have any at all.

“[...] When you think that these experiences, which are characterized by enhanced thought processes [that] takes place when the brain is not functioning well or sometimes not functioning at all since it is in cardiac arrest or deep anesthesia—times when brain science would tell us that you shouldn’t be able to think or perceive or form memories—it becomes quite clear that we can’t explain this thing on the basis of brain physiology.”

Eben Alexander, M.D., a neurosurgeon who also spoke at the conference, had an NDE that’s a case in point. He contracted acute bacterial meningitis, which damages the neocortex, in 2008 and went into a coma, spending six days on a ventilator.

The glucose level of his cerebrospinal fluid was 1 mg/dl (milligram per one-tenth of a liter), while normal levels are between 60 and 80 mg/dl. When the level drops to 20 mg/dl, the meningitis infection is considered severe. For days after the coma, Alexander struggled to speak and recall memories before the coma. No one with this kind of severe brain damage is expected to fully recover.

However, during his NDE, Alexander had such vivid experiences involving multiple senses, such as vision, hearing, and smell, that he said he couldn’t describe how amazing it was.

“My brain right now—I think it recovered pretty well—could not do anything close to what my brain was doing,” Alexander said. “How does a dying brain end up getting far, far more powerful and able to handle these tremendous loads of information instantaneously and put it altogether?”

<http://www.educatinghumanity.com/2014/07/after-life-nde.html>

July 2022 - Again, such findings are simply inexplicable for those who are wedded to the belief that the material brain generates the mind.

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/at-mind-matters-news-why-some-life-forms-are-smarter-than-others-is-still-a-mystery/#comment-761211>

Many Atheists, such as Richard Dawkins, say that it is moral to abort a child with Down’s syndrome. These people with Down’s syndrome vehemently disagree:

Canadian Down Syndrome Society - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQp8OJN5Rjk>

According to Stephen Kosslyn, cognitive modality is based on both brain structure and interaction. Apparently, a lot of the popular narrative regarding the separate functionality of the left and right brain and the corpus callosum is misleading at best.

A New Map of How We Think: Top Brain/Bottom Brain (with video) - Oct. 18, 2013

Forget dated ideas about the left and right hemispheres. New research provides a more nuanced view of the brain

Excerpt: **Who hasn't heard that people are either left-brained or right-brained—either analytical and logical or artistic and intuitive, based on the relative "strengths" of the brain's two hemispheres? How often do we hear someone remark about thinking with one side or the other?**

A flourishing industry of books, videos and self-help programs has been built on this dichotomy. You can purportedly "diagnose" your brain, "motivate" one or both sides, indulge in "essence therapy" to "restore balance" and much more. Everyone from babies to elders supposedly can benefit. The left brain/right brain difference seems to be a natural law.

Except that it isn't. The popular left/right story has no solid basis in science. The brain doesn't work one part at a time, but rather as a single interactive system, with all parts contributing in concert, as neuroscientists have long known. The left brain/right brain story may be the mother of all urban legends: It sounds good and seems to make sense—but just isn't true.

(read more here)

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304410204579139423079198270>

As well, scientists studying brain wave patterns are constantly deceiving themselves that they have actually given a coherent explanation for conscious experience:

Fallacies of Contemporary Neuroscience: "A Vast Collection of Answers, with No Memory of the Questions" - Michael Egnor - February 20, 2014

Excerpt: [Scruton:] **Neuroenvy... consist[s] of a vast collection of answers, with no memory of the questions. And the answers are encased in neurononsense of the following kind: 'The brains of social animals are wired to feel pleasure in the exercise of social dispositions such as grooming and co-operation, and to feel pain when shunned, scolded, or excluded. Neurochemicals such as vasopressin and oxytocin mediate pair-bonding, parent-offspring bonding, and probably also bonding to kith and kin...'** (Patricia Churchland).

As though we didn't know already that people feel pleasure in grooming and co-operating, and as though it adds anything to say that their brains are 'wired' to this effect, or that 'neurochemicals' might possibly be involved in producing it. This is pseudoscience of the first order, and owes what scant plausibility it possesses to the fact that it simply repeats the matter that it fails to explain. It perfectly illustrates the prevailing academic disorder, which is the loss of questions.

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2014/02/fallacies_of_co082351.html

Among the Mind Deniers: A Darwinist Mathematician Reflects on Philosophy - Michael Egnor - October 26, 2014

Excerpt: **"Paul and Patricia Churchland are materialist philosophers who champion**

reductive materialism, which is the viewpoint that the mind does not exist at all. We have been tricked by "folk psychology" into thinking that we think. We are merely brains, tricked by our neurotransmitters into believing that we have beliefs.

Shallit thinks this form of materialism is particularly profound. Actually he doesn't think ... or... he thinks that he doesn't think that he does think.... Goodness gracious, materialism is confusing.

What is revealing about Shallit's denial is the extent to which materialists will go to insulate their ideology from critique. Philosophers raise profound questions about the validity -- and even the coherence -- of materialist theories of the mind. Rather than take those critiques seriously, Shallit denies the relevance of philosophical inquiry."

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2014/10/among_the_mind090631.html

Moreover, even if observing brain wave patterns in the brain were to be addressing the question of why we have conscious experience from the right perspective, Reductive Materialism (i.e. atheism) is found to be wanting as a explanation for the observed patterns of brain waves that we do see:

'Brain Waves' Challenge Area-Specific View of Brain Activity – Mar. 20, 2013

Excerpt: **Our understanding of brain activity has traditionally been linked to brain areas – when we speak, the speech area of the brain is active. New research by an international team of psychologists led by David Alexander and Cees van Leeuwen (KU Leuven – University of Leuven) shows that this view may be overly rigid. The entire cortex, not just the area responsible for a certain function, is activated when a given task is initiated. Furthermore, activity occurs in a pattern: waves of activity roll from one side of the brain to the other.,,,**

,,,the psychologists explore uncharted territory: “We are examining the activity in the cerebral cortex as a whole. The brain is a non-stop, always-active system. When we perceive something, the information does not end up in a specific part of our brain. Rather, it is added to the brain’s existing activity. If we measure the electrochemical activity of the whole cortex, we find wave-like patterns. This shows that brain activity is not local but rather that activity constantly moves from one part of the brain to another. The local activity in the Brodmann areas only appears when you average over many such waves.”

Each activity wave in the cerebral cortex is unique. “When someone repeats the same action, such as drumming their fingers, the motor centre in the brain is stimulated. But with each individual action, you still get a different wave across the cortex as a whole.,,,

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/03/130320115111.htm>

A.I. Has Grown Up and Left Home - Dec. 19, 2013

Excerpt: **some patients with their Broca’s area destroyed can still understand language, due to the immense neuroplasticity of the brain. And language, in turn, is just a part of what we call “thinking.” If we can’t even pin down where the brain processes language, we are a far way from locating that mysterious entity, “consciousness.” That may be**

because it doesn't exist in a spot you can point at.

<http://nautil.us/issue/8/home/ai-has-grown-up-and-left-home>

'Surprisingly', at the molecular level, the cells of the brain are found to be extremely 'plastic' to changes in 'activity in the brain' which is, of course, completely contrary to the reductive materialist view of the mind 'emerging' from the material brain;

DNA Dynamism - PaV - October 2011

Excerpt: **"It was mind-boggling to see that so many methylation sites — thousands of sites — had changed in status as a result of brain activity," Song says. "We used to think that the brain's epigenetic DNA methylation landscape was as stable as mountains and more recently realized that maybe it was a bit more subject to change, perhaps like trees occasionally bent in a storm. But now we show it is most of all like a river that reacts to storms of activity by moving and changing fast."**

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/dna-dynamism/>

Further notes on the transcendence of 'mind':

The extremely 'monitored' NDE of Pam Reynolds – video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNbdUEqDB-k>

"I think death is an illusion. I think death is a really nasty, bad lie. I don't see any truth in the word death at all" –

Pam Reynolds Lowery (1956 – May 22, 2010)

<https://www.dallasobserver.com/news/high-on-death-6382995>

Pamela Reynolds - NDE - The day I died - video

<https://vimeo.com/155579637>

Near death, explained - New science is shedding light on what really happens during out-of-body experiences — with shocking results. - (defense of Pam Reynolds's NDE) - Mario Beauregard – 2012

http://www.salon.com/2012/04/21/near_death_explained/

An atheist named Woerlee tried to attack the credibility of Dr. Beauregard's timeline of events for Pam Reynolds's NDE. Here is a technical defence of Dr. Beauregard's timeline from that attack:

Reply to Woerlee's Rejoinder on the Pam Reynolds Case – Chris Carter (2012 or 2013)

Excerpt: **In summary, I agree with the assessment of this case by neuroscientist Mario Beauregard, who in his review of this remarkable case, concluded:**

Pam Reynolds' case strongly suggests that (1) mind, consciousness, and self can continue when the brain is no longer functional and clinical criteria of death have been reached; and (2) [spiritual experiences] can occur when the brain is not functioning. In

other words, this case seriously challenges the materialist view that mind, consciousness, and self are simply by-products of electrochemical brain processes and that [spiritual experiences] are delusions created by a defective brain.

<https://netwerknde.nl/wp-content/uploads/ccvsgwrepr.pdf>

Response to (Woerlee) "Could Pam Reynolds Hear?" Stuart Hameroff, M.D. - Professor of Anesthesiology and Psychology - The University of Arizona

https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc461724/m2/1/high_res_d/30-1%20D%20Hameroff.pdf

Response to "Could Pam Reynolds Hear?" Chris Carter, P.P.E., M.A.

For those who cannot afford the \$16, here is a brief outline of the main points of the debate between Woerlee and Carter in the IANDs magazine:

http://michaelprescott.typepad.com/michael_prescotts_blog/2012/05/click-on-this.html

Judge for yourself whether Woerlee was overly dogmatic

Here is a short defense of Pam's NDE

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/stephen-hawking-says-intelligent-design-of-the-universe-is-highly-probable/#comment-553744>

Moreover, Woerlee, the atheist who attacked the credibility of Pam Reynold's NDE, is shown to be grasping for straws here on another NDE:

Near-Death Experience Skeptics Running Out of Excuses

Excerpt: As to her amazing near-death experience during which she left her body and was able to look down on medical stuff during their frantic attempt to revive her, Woerlee offered this explanation, "...she hears the conversations. She feels the sensations. And she also is a woman who also has seen films and she knows how these things go. She hears the conversations, why? Because she is awake. That does not surprise me."

Dr. Woerlee's claims contradict the accounts of medical staff on the scene. They indicated she was clinically dead, "what we call sheet-faced", and under heavy anesthesia making it medically impossible for her to have a consciousness memory of the experience.

http://www.salon.com/2012/04/21/near_death_explained/

Dr. Jeffrey Long also debunked Woerlee's anesthesia awareness hypothesis:

Excerpt: "Dr. Jeffrey Long: That's a really good point. I agree with everything you said, Alex, and there's even more. In fact, if you look at the book, Evidence of the Afterlife, on pages 103 to 104, I talk directly about this so-called anesthetic-awareness that Dr. Woerlee discusses.

As an overview, let me say that these anesthetic-awareness experiences are so very, very rare that I hope this never dissuades anybody from having medically appropriate general anesthesia. Please don't let any of the discussion here be an issue in preventing appropriate medical care.

As I say in the book, and this is a direct quote, “Rather than the type of coherent NDEs you read here, anesthetic-awareness results in a totally different experience.” And I provide a number of references on that, by the way, for interested listeners.

I go on to say, “Those who experience anesthetic-awareness often report very unpleasant, painful and frightening experiences. Unlike NDEs which are predominantly visual experiences, this partial awakening during anesthesia more often involves brief and fragmented experiences that may involve hearing but usually not vision.” Again, I emphasize that anesthetic-awareness is very rare under anesthesia.

By the way, I’m not aware of any near-death experiences that occurred under general anesthesia on the NDERF website that described the typical content of anesthetic-awareness experiences. Dr. Woerlee brings up a few anecdotal discussions about anesthetic-awareness but I have a number of references. These are the scholarly people that have actually studied a number of anesthetic-awareness experiences and published them in peer-reviewed journals in the past. That’s my source of that.

As all of your listeners can easily see, you just don’t have near-death experiences that are predominantly hearing but no vision. You don’t essentially ever have near-death experiences that involve brief, fragmented experiences that are painful or frightening. In fact, none of the general anesthesia near-death experiences that I reviewed had any of those components of them. Really, there’s no doubt about that.

These are completely different experiences. That being anesthetic-awareness and near-death experiences. I don’t think Dr. Woerlee quite got that point how clear that was; how crystal clear the distinction between those two types of experiences is.””

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/stephen-hawking-says-intelligent-design-of-the-universe-is-highly-probable/#comment-553792>

The following is on par with Pam Reynolds Near Death Experience. In the following video, Dr. Lloyd Rudy, a pioneer of cardiac surgery, recounts two patients who came back to life after being declared dead, and told him things that they could not have possibly known if they were 'attached' to their brain.

Famous Cardiac Surgeon’s Stories of Near Death Experiences in Surgery

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JL1oDuvQR08>

Then there was the famous 'blue tennis shoe', seen by the NDEer as she floated above the hospital, found on the ledge of a 3rd floor hospital window by a nurse:

Kim Clark Finds the Tennis Shoe and Proves Near Death Experiences Are Real

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPXK2Ls-xzQ>

The Scientific Evidence for Near Death Experiences - Dr Jeffrey Long - Melvin Morse M.D. - video

<http://www.metacafe.com/watch/4454627>

Dr. Jeffrey Long: Just how strong is the evidence for an afterlife? - video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mptGAc3XWPs>

The Nine Lines of Evidence

Research areas, as presented in the book Evidence of the Afterlife: The Science of Near-Death Experiences, by Jeffrey Long, MD. These nine lines of evidence support the reality of near-death experiences and their consistent message that there is an afterlife.

1. Crystal-Clear Consciousness
2. Realistic Out-of-Body Experiences
3. Heightened Senses
4. Consciousness During Anesthesia
5. Perfect Playback
6. Family Reunions
7. Children's Experiences
8. Worldwide Consistency
9. Aftereffects

https://www.newdualism.org/nde-papers/Long/Long-_2012--1-2.pdf

Are near death experiences evidence of an afterlife?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2gsig5OfuU>

Dr. Jeffrey Long discusses his book 'God and the Afterlife' and explains near death experiences and how they are signs of not only after life but also supreme being

The Reality of Near-Death Experiences and their Aftereffects - Jeffrey Long - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIqKTE6jNmQ>

Near-Death Experiences Evidence for Their Reality - Jeffrey Long, MD - 2014

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6172100/>

Dr Jeffrey Long's Near Death Experience Research a Game Changer for Science

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XO_YHdD9evI

Is there Life After Death ? - Scientific Research Facts - Jeffrey Long MD. - video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HhOZLN_9FM

Is there life after death ? Near Death Experience Researcher Dr. Jeffery Long shares his expertise after studying over 4000 NDE's through his website: <http://www.nderf.org>

07:40 - Negative Near Death Experiences

11:09 - On Love

14:14 - New abilities after an NDE

33:40 - What we look like on the other side

34:22 - Dr.Long How has researching NDE's affected your life?

40:12 - Special information brought from the other-side

41:12 - Why do people return & our purpose

42:55 - A typical ending scenario of an NDE why some come back
45:01 - Shown future events of their choice if they don't return.
50:00 - Who are the beings people see?
51:08 - Time in the afterlife
55:07 - Do people reincarnate when they cross over?
59:33 - After effects of a Near-Death Experience
1:03:15 - What happens when you commit suicide?
1:06:48 - Description of the 1% of NDE's that are hellish.
1:08:14 - Does everyone get a choice to stay or return?
1:14:46 - After Death Communications
1:20:04 - Do animals have Near-Death experiences?
1:21:17 - Do people have more than one NDE
1:22:52 - Are NDE's just hallucinations of a dying brain?

Dr. Jeffrey Long Takes On Critics of, Evidence of the Afterlife

http://www.skeptiko.com/jeffrey_long_takes_on_critics_of_evidence_of_the_afterlife/

Dr. Jeffrey Long Responds to "NDEs are an Illusion"

<http://www.skeptiko.com/118-jeffrey-long-responds-to-parnia/>

Near death, explained? - Mario Beauregard - Apr 21, 2012

Excerpt: **The scientific NDE (Near Death Experience) studies performed over the past decades indicate that heightened mental functions can be experienced independently of the body at a time when brain activity is greatly impaired or seemingly absent (such as during cardiac arrest). Some of these studies demonstrate that blind people can have veridical perceptions during OBEs associated with an NDE. Other investigations show that NDEs often result in deep psychological and spiritual changes.**

These findings strongly challenge the mainstream neuroscientific view that mind and consciousness result solely from brain activity. As we have seen, such a view fails to account for how NDErs can experience—while their hearts are stopped—vivid and complex thoughts and acquire veridical information about objects or events remote from their bodies.

NDE studies also suggest that after physical death, mind and consciousness may continue in a transcendent level of reality that normally is not accessible to our senses and awareness. Needless to say, this view is utterly incompatible with the belief of many materialists that the material world is the only reality.

http://www.salon.com/2012/04/21/near_death_explained/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=socialflow

Facts about NDEs - video clip on the site

Excerpt: **In 1982 a Gallup poll estimated that 8 million Americans have had a near-death experience and a more recent study, a US News & World Report in March of 1997, found that 15 million have had the experience.**

http://www.ndelight.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=117&Itemid=63

Near-Death Experiences: Putting a Darwinist's Evidentiary Standards to the Test - Dr. Michael Egnor - October 15, 2012

Excerpt: **Indeed, about 20 percent of NDE's are corroborated, which means that there are independent ways of checking about the veracity of the experience. The patients knew of things that they could not have known except by extraordinary perception -- such as describing details of surgery that they watched while their heart was stopped, etc. Additionally, many NDE's have a vividness and a sense of intense reality that one does not generally encounter in dreams or hallucinations.,,,**

The most "parsimonious" explanation -- the simplest scientific explanation -- is that the (Near Death) experience was real. Tens of millions of people have had such experiences. That is tens of millions of more times than we have observed the origin of species , (or the origin of life, or the origin of a protein/gene, or of a molecular machine), which is never.,,,

The materialist reaction, in short, is unscientific and close-minded. NDE's show fellows like Coyne at their sneering unscientific irrational worst. Somebody finds a crushed fragment of a fossil and it's earth-shaking evidence. Tens of million of people have life-changing spiritual experiences and it's all a big yawn.

Note: Dr. Egnor is professor and vice-chairman of neurosurgery at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2012/10/near_death_expe_1065301.html

I.e. We have far more observational evidence for the reality of immaterial minds/souls than we do for the Darwinian claim that unguided material processes can generate functional information. Moreover, the transcendent nature of 'immaterial' information, which is the one thing that, (as every ID advocate intimately knows), unguided material processes cannot possibly explain the origin of, directly supports the transcendent nature, as well as the physical reality, of the soul:

(July 2019) It seems to me, scientifically speaking, since you apparently do not believe in life after death or that you have an eternal soul, the first questions you should have asked, as far as the science itself is concerned, is, "What scientific evidence do you have for life after death and for an eternal soul?"

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/do-top-chinese-technocrats-believe-in-the-soul-or-love/#comment-681552>

February 2020

<https://uncommondescent.com/evolution/michael-egnor-why-the-mind-cannot-just-emerge-from-the-brain/#comment-693361>

May 2020

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/michael-egnor-neuroscientists-cant-dis>

[miss-near-death-experiences/#comment-702862](https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/12-successful-predictions-of-mental-reality-theory/#comment-702862)

Oct 2020

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/12-successful-predictions-of-mental-reality-theory/#comment-714586>

Moreover, it is not as if we, as ID advocates, do not have a very plausible mechanism to explain NDEs.

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/12-successful-predictions-of-mental-reality-theory/#comment-714587>

Information is Physical (but not how Rolf Landauer meant)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H35l83y5Uro>

Darwinian Materialism vs. Quantum Biology – video

<https://youtu.be/LHdD2Am1g5Y>

Darwinian Materialism vs. Quantum Biology – Part II - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSig2CsjKbg>

Paper:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1O4K7ZtMxLhzkwDztoax0QK6vKEMJgR-Y7wCFCqHgyIU/edit>

Philip Cunningham: Darwinian Materialism Vs. Quantum Biology – Part II

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/philip-cunningham-darwinian-materialism-vs-quantum-biology-part-ii/>

January 2020 - My favorite proof for a Theistic universe is the proof for heaven that comes from Einstein's special theory of relativity.

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/sabine-hossenfelder-makes-it-to-slashdot/#comment-691159>

As Stuart Hameroff states: **“it's possible that this (conserved) quantum information can exist outside the body. Perhaps indefinitely as a soul.”**

“Let's say the heart stops beating. The blood stops flowing. The microtubules lose their quantum state. But the quantum information, which is in the microtubules, isn't destroyed. It can't be destroyed. It just distributes and dissipates to the universe at large. If a patient is resuscitated, revived, this quantum information can go back into the microtubules and the patient says, “I had a near death experience. I saw a white light. I saw a tunnel. I saw my dead relatives.,,” Now if they're not revived and the patient dies, then it's possible that this quantum information can exist outside the body. Perhaps indefinitely as a soul.”

– Stuart Hameroff – Quantum Entangled Consciousness – Life After Death – video (5:00 minute mark)

<https://radaronline.com/exclusives/2012/10/life-after-death-soul-science-morgan-freeman/>

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/darwinism/1-dawkins-wants-to-land-porn-on-muslim-world-2-dawkins-yawnfest-has-just-got-to-stop/#comment-545518>

"A recent analysis of several hundred cases showed that 48% of near-death experiencers reported seeing their physical bodies from a different visual perspective. Many of them also reported witnessing events going on in the vicinity of their body, such as the attempts of medical personnel to resuscitate them (Kelly et al., 2007)."

Kelly, E. W., Greyson, B., & Kelly, E. F. (2007). Unusual experiences near death and related phenomena. In E. F. Kelly, E. W. Kelly, A. Crabtree, A. Gauld, M. Grosso, & B. Greyson, Irreducible mind (pp. 367-421). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Near-death patients do see afterlife by JENNY HOPE - October 8, 2014

Excerpt: The latest study, by Southampton University researchers, suggests the mind may continue to exist after the brain has ceased to function and the body is clinically dead.

The research team studied 63 survivors of a cardiac arrest who were resuscitated at Southampton General Hospital after they had been clinically dead with no pulse, no respiration and fixed dilated pupils. Independent studies have confirmed that the brain ceases to function at that time.

But seven out of the 63 survivors recalled emotions and visions during their unconsciousness, says a report in the journal Resuscitation. Four patients (six per cent) met the strict criteria used to diagnose NDEs.

They recalled feelings of peace and joy, of time speeding up, heightened senses, lost awareness of body, seeing a bright light, entering another world, encountering a mystical being or deceased relative and coming to a point of no return.,,,

It has been suggested that the experiences are hallucinations, the result of disturbed brain chemistry caused by medication, lack of oxygen or changes in carbon dioxide levels.

But Dr Parnia said there was no difference in oxygen levels or drug treatment between the heart attack survivors who had not had NDEs and those who had.

'In fact, the four patients who met the criteria for a true NDE actually had higher oxygen levels,' he added.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-24509/Near-death-patients-afterlife.html>

Parnia, who is perhaps the most skeptical NDE researcher out there, who originally set a 'number test' up in an operating room to try to prove remote viewing, though the number test itself drew no hits, now personally concedes the evidence for remote viewing of the hospital room is 'very credible':

Life after death? Largest-ever study provides evidence that 'out of body' and 'near-death' experiences may be real - October 7, 2014

Excerpt: Dr Sam Parnia, an assistant professor at the State University of New York and a former research fellow at the University of Southampton who led the research, said that he previously

(held) that patients who described near-death experiences were only relating hallucinatory events.

One man, however, gave a “very credible” account of what was going on while doctors and nurses tried to bring him back to life – and says that he felt he was observing his resuscitation from the corner of the room.

Speaking to The Telegraph about the evidence provided by a 57-year-old social worker Southampton, Dr Parnia said: “We know the brain can’t function when the heart has stopped beating.

“But in this case, conscious awareness appears to have continued for up to three minutes.

“The man described everything that had happened in the room, but importantly, he heard two bleeps from a machine that makes a noise at three minute intervals. So we could time how long the experienced lasted for.

“He seemed very credible and everything that he said had happened to him had actually happened.”

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/life-after-death-largest-ever-study-provides-evidence-that-out-of-body-and-near-death-experiences-may-actually-be-real-9780195.html>

Michaela's Amazing NEAR death experience - video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTcHWz6UMZ8>

Another piece of evidence that argues very strongly against any type of materialistic explanation for Near death Experiences is what is termed 'Shared Death Experience'. A 'Shared Death Experience' is an experience in which a loved one, though not terminally ill, is caught up into part of the Near Death Experience as a loved one passes on:

Dr. Raymond Moody on Shared Death Experiences - video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-ihzzYjgeE>

Consciousness After Death: Strange Tales From the Frontiers of Resuscitation Medicine By Brandon Keim - 04.24.13

Excerpt: **Parnia:,, When I looked at the cardiac arrest literature, it became clear that it's after the heart stops and blood flow into the brain ceases. There's no blood flow into the brain, no activity, about 10 seconds after the heart stops. When doctors start to do CPR, they still can't get enough blood into the brain. It remains flatlined. That's the physiology of people who've died or are receiving CPR.**

Not just my study, but four others, all demonstrated the same thing: People have memories and recollections. Combined with anecdotal reports from all over the world, from people who see things accurately and remember them, it suggests this needs to be studied in more detail.,,,

The point that goes against the experiences happening afterwards, or before the brain shut down, is that many people describe very specific details of what happened to them during cardiac arrest. They describe conversations people had, clothes people wore, events that went on 10 or 20 minutes into resuscitation. That is not compatible with

(having no) brain activity.

<http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2013/04/consciousness-after-death/all/>

August 2019 - further to Dr. Egnor's quote,, "The patients knew of things that they could not have known except by extraordinary perception — such as describing details of surgery that they watched while their heart was stopped, etc"

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/descartes-mind-body-problem-makes-nonsense-of-materialism/#comment-682192>

The AWARE (AWAreness during RESuscitation) study is the first launched by the Human Consciousness Project - AWARE Study Update January 2013 (Report due out in late autumn of 2013)

http://www.horizonresearch.org/main_page.php?cat_id=279

How Strong is the 'Quantum' Evidence for a Transcendent Soul?

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yHsXAZl4Tw2xOW2lpsUE4os70Ot22eXBOZ6qauoJfZQ/edit>

Near death, explained (?) - By Dr. Mario Beauregard research professor Neuroscience Research Center at the University of Montreal. - April 2012

Excerpt: These findings strongly challenge the mainstream neuroscientific view that mind and consciousness result solely from brain activity. As we have seen, such a view fails to account for how NDErs can experience—while their hearts are stopped—vivid and complex thoughts and acquire veridical information about objects or events remote from their bodies.

NDE studies also suggest that after physical death, mind and consciousness may continue in a transcendent level of reality that normally is not accessible to our senses and awareness. Needless to say, this view is utterly incompatible with the belief of many materialists that the material world is the only reality.

http://www.salon.com/2012/04/21/near_death_explained/singleton/

In the following study, materialistic researchers who had an inherent bias against Near Death Experiences being real, set out to prove that they were merely 'false memories', and or hallucinations, by setting up a clever questionnaire that could differentiate which memories a person had were real and which memories a person had were merely imaginary. Simply put, they did not expect the results they got: To quote the headline 'Afterlife' feels 'even more real than real"

'Afterlife' feels 'even more real than real,' researcher says - Wed April 10, 2013

Excerpt: "If you use this questionnaire ... if the memory is real, it's richer, and if the memory is recent, it's richer," he said.

The coma scientists weren't expecting what the tests revealed.

"To our surprise, NDEs were much richer than any imagined event or any real event of

these coma survivors," Laureys reported.

The memories of these experiences beat all other memories, hands down, for their vivid sense of reality. "The difference was so vast," he said with a sense of astonishment. Even if the patient had the experience a long time ago, its memory was as rich "as though it was yesterday," Laureys said.

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/04/09/health/belgium-near-death-experiences/>

Memories of Near Death Experiences (NDEs): More Real Than Reality? - Mar. 27, 2013

Excerpt: **University of Liège**

,,,researchers,, have looked into the memories of NDE with the hypothesis that if the memories of NDE were pure products of the imagination, their phenomenological characteristics (e.g., sensorial, self referential, emotional, etc. details) should be closer to those of imagined memories. Conversely, if the NDE are experienced in a way similar to that of reality, their characteristics would be closer to the memories of real events.

The researchers compared the responses provided by three groups of patients, each of which had survived (in a different manner) a coma, and a group of healthy volunteers. They studied the memories of NDE and the memories of real events and imagined events with the help of a questionnaire which evaluated the phenomenological characteristics of the memories. The results were surprising. From the perspective being studied, not only were the NDEs not similar to the memories of imagined events, but the phenomenological characteristics inherent to the memories of real events (e.g. memories of sensorial details) are even more numerous in the memories of NDE than in the memories of real events.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/03/130327190359.htm>

And as the following study also found, 'memories of near-death experiences are recalled as "realer" than real events or imagined events.'

Characteristics of memories for near-death experiences - Lauren E. Moore, Bruce Greyson - March 2017

Abstract: Near-death experiences are vivid, life-changing experiences occurring to people who come close to death. Because some of their features, such as enhanced cognition despite compromised brain function, challenge our understanding of the mind-brain relationship, the question arises whether near-death experiences are imagined rather than real events. We administered the Memory Characteristics Questionnaire to 122 survivors of a close brush with death who reported near-death experiences. Participants completed Memory Characteristics Questionnaires for three different memories: that of their near-death experience, that of a real event around the same time, and that of an event they had imagined around the same time. The Memory Characteristics Questionnaire score was higher for the memory of the near-death experience than for that of the real event, which in turn was higher than that of the imagined event. These data suggest that memories of near-death experiences are recalled as "realer" than real events or imagined events.

<https://med.virginia.edu/perceptual-studies/wp-content/uploads/sites/360/2017/03/NDE-85-MCQ-ConCog.pdf>

The Enigma of Memory: Beyond the Brain - 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7seE0pA9om4>

Dec. 2022 - I, personally, think the fact that NDEs are found to be quote-unquote ““realer” than real events” to be fairly powerful evidence substantiating the general point Plato was making in his allegory of the cave.

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/at-quora-is-it-possible-to-prove-beyond-a-reasonable-doubt-that-intelligence-was-required-to-create-life/#comment-771753>

Oct. 2022 - Moreover, another problem worth noting in their ‘memory model’ of consciousness is that, when we recall memories into our subjective consciousness experience, our memories are extremely ‘fuzzy’ compared to the initial subjective conscious experience that generated the memory in the first place. Even people who have ‘photographic memory’ do not have 100% accurate recall. For instance, Kim Peek, an autistic savant of exceptional ability, could ‘only’ recall 98% of the 12,000 books he had read,

<https://uncommondescent.com/mind/at-the-debrief-org-is-consciousness-really-a-memory-system-for-our-interactions-with-reality-new-research-says-maybe/#comment-766902>

Oct: 2021:

Whereas under Theistic presuppositions, in which the Mind of God is held to be the source for all reality, this ‘even more real than real’ aspect of NDEs is to be expected in that it pretty much directly follows that things will become even ‘more real than real’ for us the closer we get to God.

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/stephen-meyer-can-you-have-an-expanding-universe-without-a-beginning/#comment-738277>

Oct. 2020 - My question(s) to atheistic materialists is this. First, “how is it possible for something to be real for us in the first place unless, as Planck pointed out. ‘consciousness is fundamental’?”

Secondly, how is it even remotely possible, on materialistic presuppositions, for something to become ‘even more real than real’ during Near Death Experiences unless the infinite Mind of God truly is the foundation of all reality just as Christians have held all along?

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/researcher-we-need-a-new-theory-of-everything-one-with-no-things/#comment-714036>

Exactly how is it remotely possible for something to become even ‘more real than real’ for a person having an NDE unless the infinite Mind of God truly is the basis for all reality, and this material reality we presently live in, and as is claimed in Christianity, is really just a shadow of the heavenly paradise that awaits us after death?

Dec. 2019

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/weve-talked-about-near-death-experiences-what-about-visions-of-hell/#comment-689336>

April 2020 It is very interesting to find that life after death feels 'even more real than real'. The reason why this 'more real than real' finding for NDEs (Near Death Experiences) is very interesting is that atheists, in their denial of the reality of God, have lost any objective basis in which to differentiate what is truly real from what is merely illusory.

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/michael-egnor-jerry-coyne-just-cant-give-up-denying-free-will/#comment-700058>

Special and General Relativity compared to Heavenly and Hellish Near Death Experiences and The Resurrection of Jesus Christ as the quote unquote "Theory of Everything" – video playlist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbKELVHcvSI&index=1&list=PLtAP1KN7ahia8hmDICYEKifQ8n65oNpQ5>

And since Christianity has ALWAYS claimed that the infinite Mind of God sustains all of material reality in its continued existence,,,

Colossians 1:17

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

,, then on Christianity this 'more real than real' finding is expected whereas, once again, materialism is found to be at a complete loss to explain why this should happen.

A Doctor's Near Death Experience Inspires a New Life - video

Quote: **"It's not like a dream. It's like the world we are living in is a dream and it's kind of like waking up from that."**

Dr. Magrisso

<http://www.nbcchicago.com/on-air/as-seen-on/A-Doctor--186331791.html>

Medical Miracles – Dr. Mary Neal's Near Death Experience – video (More real than real quote at 37:49 minute mark)

<https://youtu.be/WCNjmWP2JjU?t=2269>

"More real than anything I've experienced since. When I came back of course I had 34 operations, and was in the hospital for 13 months. That was real but heaven is more real than that. The emotions and the feelings. The reality of being with people who had preceded me in death."

- Don Piper - "90 Minutes in Heaven," 10 Years Later - video (2:54 minute mark)

<https://youtu.be/3LyZoNIKnMM?t=173>

"I was in the spiritual dimension. And this spiritual dimension, this spiritual world, that's the real world. And this spiritual man that I was seeing and perceiving, that was the real me. And I instantly knew it. The colors are brighter. The thoughts are more intense. The feelings have greater depth. They're more real. In the spirit world instantly I knew that

this is the real world.,,,,”

– The Near Death Experience of Mickey Robinson – video (testimony starts at 27:45 minute mark)

<https://youtu.be/voak1RM-pXo?t=1655>

Dr. Eben Alexander Says It's Time for Brain Science to Graduate From Kindergarten - 10/24/2013

Excerpt: **To take the approach of, "Oh it had to be a hallucination of the brain" is just crazy. The simplistic idea that NDEs (Near Death Experiences) are a trick of a dying brain is similar to taking a piece of cardboard out of a pizza delivery box, rolling it down a hill and then claiming that it's an identical event as rolling a beautiful Ferrari down a hill. They are not the same at all. The problem is the pure materialist scientists can be so closed-minded about it.**

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ingrid-peschke/near-death-experiences_b_4151093.html

Verses:

Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2 Corinthians 4:18

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Near-Death Experiences and DMT - Steve Taylor Ph.D. - Oct 12, 2018

A neurological explanation of NDEs remains elusive.

Excerpt: **Another theory is that NDEs are related to psychedelic chemicals that are naturally produced by the brain.** This theory was apparently boosted recently with the release of a paper called "DMT Models the Near-Death Experience" by a team of UK researchers associated with the Psychedelic Research Group at Imperial College London. (In case you don't know, DMT - short for dimethyltryptamine - is a hallucinogenic, similar to LSD and magic mushrooms.) Aiming to study the apparent similarities between the psychedelic substance and NDEs, the researchers gave both DMT and a placebo to 13 participants, then asked them to complete a scale of the characteristics of NDEs.

The results were reported as showing significant overlap between the two types of experience. As the researchers concluded, "Results revealed significant increases in phenomenological features associated with the NDE, following DMT administration compared to placebo." This appears to be true, but on closer inspection, the findings of the paper still fall far short of establishing any strong connection between DMT and NDEs.

Of the 16 items in the NDE scale used in the study, nine items showed a high degree of crossover. These included an 'unearthly environment,' a sense of peace, heightened senses, harmony/unity, altered time perception, feelings of joy, bright light, and so on. However, all nine of these characteristics are generally associated with spiritual or mystical experiences, rather than just NDEs. It is well known that NDEs have a strong spiritual or mystical element to them, which is partly why they have such a powerful life-changing effect. But NDEs are not just spiritual experiences. And significantly, the seven items in this study with the least crossover between NDEs and DMT were those which differentiate NDEs from standard spiritual experiences. For example, three of the most salient characteristics of NDEs are a feeling of reaching a 'border/point of no return,' 'encountering deceased/religious spirits,' and a life review. In this study, these were amongst the least reported in DMT experiences.

In other words, what this study seems to indicate is a relationship between DMT experiences and spiritual or mystical experiences. Since we already know that NDEs contain some of the same elements of spiritual experiences, it is not surprising that there is some relationship between NDEs and DMT experiences.

In view of this, there is no reason to jump to the conclusion that NDEs are associated with DMT. Other researchers—such as Rick Strassman—have suggested that NDEs may be caused by the release of DMT when a person is close to death or in the process of dying. However, there is no evidence that large amounts of DMT are released close to death. It is not even certain that DMT is produced in the human body (although it has been found in the pineal gland of rats).

The After-Effects of NDEs

But perhaps one of the strongest arguments against any connection between NDEs and DMT is their after-effects. As I describe in my new book, *Spiritual Science*, in the great majority of cases, NDEs are powerfully transformative experiences. After them, a person's values and attitude toward life are completely transformed. People often become less materialistic and more altruistic, less self-oriented and more compassionate. They often feel a new sense of purpose, and their relationships become more authentic and intimate. They report becoming more sensitive to beauty and more appreciative of everyday things. They also typically report a loss of the fear of death.

It's remarkable that one single experience can have such a profound, long-lasting, transformational effect. This is illustrated by research showing that people who have near-death experiences following suicide attempts very rarely attempt suicide again. This is in stark contrast to the normal pattern—in fact, a previous suicide attempt is usually the strongest predictor of actual suicide.

This is one of the strongest arguments against the idea that NDEs are a brain-generated hallucination. Dreams and hallucinations do not generally have transformational after-effects. They are usually quickly forgotten, with a clear sense that they were delusional experiences, less authentic and reliable than ordinary consciousness. (In contrast, with NDEs there is a clear sense that the experience is more real and authentic than normal consciousness.)

And this applies to DMT experiences, too. There is no doubt that psychedelic experiences such as DMT can sometimes be transformative to some degree. For some, they provide a glimpse of a more expansive and intense reality which makes them realize that their normal view of the world is limited. They may lead to a new interest in spirituality. However, DMT experiences are

certainly not transformational to anything like the same degree as NDEs. In a 2012 paper in the Journal of Near-Death Studies, Dr. Michael Potts examined the similarities between NDEs and DMT and also concluded that salient features of NDEs are absent (such as traveling through a tunnel into a transcendent realm or the subsequent reporting of events witnessed during the experience). But most notably, in Potts' view, DMT lacked the powerful transformative after-effects of NDEs. He concluded that in NDEs permanent change is the rule rather than the exception, whereas it is the exception rather than the rule with DMT.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/out-the-darkness/201810/near-death-experiences-and-dmt>

Steve Taylor, Ph.D. is a senior lecturer in psychology at Leeds Beckett University, UK.

CAN LSD HELP US UNDERSTAND THE MIND–BRAIN RELATIONSHIP?

Is the mind generated by the brain or does the brain merely focus the mind on the current scene?

An experiment sheds some light

MICHAEL EGNOR MAY 23, 2021

Excerpt: The Cornell researchers used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to study the brains of people on LSD or on placebo (= the control group). While using LSD, the brains of volunteers showed less high-level processing and more activity related to more rudimentary sensation. One of the investigators described the effect as flattening the landscape over which the brain can roam — the drug makes it easier for the mind to transcend mundane perceptual habits and see the world in greater detail. Thus they enabled people to break out of repetitive and ruminative thought.

This work, whatever its other merits, lends credence to an understanding of the mind–brain relationship that goes back centuries. It was stated perhaps most clearly by Oxford philosopher Ferdinand Schiller in 1891 when he proposed that

“... matter is not what produces consciousness but what limited and confines its intensity within certain limits... This explanation admits the connection of matter and consciousness, but contends that the course of interpretation must proceed in the contrary direction. Thus it will fit the facts with materialism rejected as supernatural and thereby attain an explanation which is ultimately tenable instead of one which is ultimately absurd. It is an explanation the possibility of which no evidence in favor materialism can possibly affect.”

QUOTED IN CHRIS CARTER, SCIENCE AND THE NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE: HOW CONSCIOUSNESS SURVIVES DEATH (2010) CHAPTER 1.

<https://mindmatters.ai/2021/05/can-lsd-help-us-understand-the-mind-brain-relationship/>

In the following video, Dr. Alexander is scathing of the kindergarten level understanding of consciousness that modern brain science is shackled to in its current reductive materialist framework

Eben Alexander - Synthesis of Science and Spirituality: The Arc of Human Destiny over

Millennia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpjX9aHcjAo>

Sep 18, 2014: Distinguished scholars and scientists at the 128th Summer Convention of the Theosophical Society in America discuss the implications of the near-death experience and more! In this program, Dr. Alexander(Proof of Heaven) continues his discussion of why he believes that his near-death experience is totally consistent with the leading edges of scientific understanding today.

The following video was referenced in Alexander's video at the 27:00 minute mark.,

Jill Bolte Taylor's stroke of insight - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyyjU8fzEYU>

My Stroke of Insight: A Brain Scientist's Personal Journey Paperback – book - May 26, 2009

Review: On the morning of December 10, 1996, Jill Bolte Taylor, a thirty-seven-year-old Harvard-trained brain scientist, experienced a massive stroke when a blood vessel exploded in the left side of her brain. A neuroanatomist by profession, she observed her own mind completely deteriorate to the point that she could not walk, talk, read, write, or recall any of her life, all within the space of four brief hours. As the damaged left side of her brain--the rational, grounded, detail- and time-oriented side--swung in and out of function, Taylor alternated between two distinct and opposite realities: the euphoric nirvana of the intuitive and kinesthetic right brain, in which she felt a sense of complete well-being and peace; and the logical, sequential left brain, which recognized Jill was having a stroke, and enabled her to seek help before she was lost completely.

In My Stroke of Insight, Taylor shares her unique perspective on the brain and its capacity for recovery, and the sense of omniscient understanding she gained from this unusual and inspiring voyage out of the abyss of a wounded brain.

<http://www.amazon.com/My-Stroke-Insight-Scientists-Personal/dp/0452295548>

Memory transference in organ transplant recipients – April 2011

Case 3: murder mystery involving donor is solved by an organ recipient

An eight year-old girl, who received the heart of a murdered ten year-old girl, began having recurring vivid nightmares about the murder. Her mother arranged a consultation with a psychiatrist who after several sessions concluded that she was witnessing actual physical incidents. They decided to call the police who used the detailed descriptions of the murder (the time, the weapon, the place, the clothes he wore, what the little girl he killed had said to him) given by the little girl to find and convict the man in question (2).

<http://www.namahjournal.com/doc/Actual/Memory-transference-in-organ-transplant-recipients-volume-19-iss-1.html>

March 2021 - Now as a Christian Theist who believes in an immaterial mind and in an immaterial soul, (as well as believing that we have "a heart"), the preceding makes fairly good sense to me. But I simply don't see how materialists, who don't even believe in a immaterial

mind, much less believing in an immaterial soul, (or 'a heart'), can make any sense out of such testimonies.,,, Materialists simply have no way to explain such things in their worldview. Things like this are simply not suppose to happen in their worldview.

Matthew 22:37

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/michael-egnor-what-would-happen-to-your-soul-if-your-head-were-transplanted/#comment-725869>

audio - Skeptiko interviews Dr. Mario Beauregard on his latest book 'Brain Wars':

Dr. Mario Beauregard Sees an End to the Era of science (thinking of us as) Biological Robots
Excerpt: **"I think that there eventually will be another big revolution in science and this will be about mind and consciousness. The same kind of revolution that they've had about 100 years ago in physics from classical physics to quantum physics. We'll have probably the same in our own field.**

At the same time in parallel, like you said at the beginning of the interview, if you talk to laypeople, most people do not believe that they are strictly biological robots and don't have any influence over their brain activity or what's happening in their body. So, if there's the start of really a transition within science, it will go quickly because the rest of the world is very sympathetic regarding a non-materialist view of consciousness and of human life and the universe."

<http://www.skeptiko.com/mario-beauregard-end-to-era-of-biological-robots/>

One of the more fascinating branches of Near Death Studies have been the studies of people who were born blind who have had NDE's, who could see for the first time in their life during their NDE. This simply has no explanation within the materialistic framework, whereas, in the theistic framework, this is expected:

Blind Woman Can See During Near Death Experience (NDE) - Pim von Lommel - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKyQJDZuMHE>

Kenneth Ring and Sharon Cooper (1997) conducted a study of 31 blind people, many of who reported vision during their Near Death Experiences (NDEs). 21 of these people had had an NDE while the remaining 10 had had an out-of-body experience (OBE), but no NDE. It was found that in the NDE sample, about half had been blind from birth. (of note: This 'anomaly' is also found for deaf people who can hear sound during their Near Death Experiences(NDEs).)
http://www.newdualism.org/nde-papers/Ring/Ring-Journal%20of%20Near-Death%20Studies_1997-16-101-147-1.pdf

Man born blind can see during Near Death Experience - video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_m-T46xH34

Transcending the Brain

At least some cases of physical damage are associated with enriched consciousness or cognitive skill

By Bernardo Kastrup – March 29, 2017

Excerpt: Generalized physiological stress caused, for instance, by cardiac arrest—which severely compromises brain function—is sometimes accompanied by reports of “Near Death Experiences” (NDEs).⁹ NDEs reportedly entail life-transforming insights, emotions and inner imagery far richer than ordinary experiences,¹⁰ despite overwhelming disruption to the brain’s ability to operate.

This pattern of correlations between brain function impairment and a seeming expansion of awareness is surprisingly broad.

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/guest-blog/transcending-the-brain/>

(Eben Alexander) - A (Harvard) neurosurgeon confronts the non-material nature of consciousness - December 2011

Excerpted quote: **To me one thing that has emerged from my (Near Death) experience and from very rigorous analysis of that experience over several years, talking it over with others that I respect in neuroscience, and really trying to come up with an answer, is that consciousness outside of the brain is a fact. It’s an established fact. And of course, that was a hard place for me to get, coming from being a card-toting reductive materialist over decades. It was very difficult to get to knowing that consciousness, that there’s a soul of us that is not dependent on the brain.**

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/he-said-it-a-neurosurgeon-confronts-the-non-material-nature-of-consciousness/>

Harvard Neurosurgeon Confirms The Afterlife Exists - March 2015

<http://www.spiritscienceandmetaphysics.com/harvard-neurosurgeon-confirms-the-afterlife-exists/>

Top brain surgeon who claims he saw heaven while in a coma reveals the stories of others who say they have had similar life-changing experiences By Dr Eben Alexander - 19 October 2014

Excerpt: A man named Pascale wrote to tell me about his father, who had a PhD in astrophysics and was ‘100 per cent scientifically minded’ — in other words, a complete atheist.

Pascale’s dad (we’ll call him Pierre) was a heavy drinker. He’d suffered a succession of emotional blows, and he used hard drink to numb the pain — so much that his organs started one by one to pack up. Kidneys, liver and then lungs gave way, and Pierre succumbed to double pneumonia.

He was not expected to live, but to give his body the best chance of repairing itself, the doctors placed him in an induced coma.

After three months in intensive care, he started to come round — and all this hard-headed scientific man wanted to talk about with his son were his experiences of heaven.

He had seen the after-life, just as I did. And he brought back the same message: there were angel-like beings who loved us more than we could imagine, and they would help us, if only we would let them.

Pierre faced a major challenge. He could never drink again. One glass would be enough to tip him back into alcohol abuse, and the end would be inevitable.

Somehow, he found the strength to beat his demons. For the next four years, Pierre didn't touch a drop. But after his initial burst of spiritual fervour in the hospital, he stopped talking about heaven.

Pascale sensed that his dad, an intensely shy man, was embarrassed by the massive contradiction between the atheism he had always preached, and the heaven he had experienced during his coma,,,

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2799385/glimpses-life-brain-surgeon-told-saw-heaven-coma-today-reveals-stories-say-ve-similar-life-changing-experiences.html>

Neurosurgeon Dr. Eben Alexander's Near-Death Experience Defies Medical Model of Consciousness - audio interview

<http://www.skeptiko.com/upload/skeptiko-154-eben-alexander.mp3>

Here are refutations of an article that tried to discredit Dr. Alexander:

Esquire Proof of Heaven Expose Debunked, Dr. Eben Alexander Prevails – Interview with Robert Mays reveals a disturbing pattern of misrepresentation and distortion in Luke Dittrich's Proof of Heaven expose published in Esquire Magazine.

<http://www.skeptiko.com/220-esquire-proof-of-heaven-expose-debunked/>

audio:

<http://www.skeptiko.com/upload/skeptiko-220-robert-mays.mp3>

In supplement to the skeptiko article and audio, for a thorough rebuttal of the Esquire article see:

Esquire article on Eben Alexander distorts the facts - August 2013

http://iands.org/images/stories/pdf_downloads/esquire%20article%20on%20eben%20alexander%20distorts%20the%20facts.pdf

Of related interest, it is interesting to note that the current prevailing materialistic explanation for how consciousness 'emerges' from the brain has failed to gain empirical validation:

Self-awareness in humans is more complex, diffuse than previously thought - August 22, 2012

Excerpt: **Self-awareness is defined as being aware of oneself, including one's traits, feelings, and behaviors. Neuroscientists have believed that three brain regions are critical for self-awareness: the insular cortex, the anterior cingulate cortex, and the medial prefrontal cortex. However, a research team led by the University of Iowa has challenged this theory by showing that self-awareness is more a product of a diffuse patchwork of pathways in the brain – including other regions – rather than confined to specific areas. The conclusions came from a rare opportunity to study a person with extensive brain damage to the three regions believed critical for self-awareness. The**

person, a 57-year-old, college-educated man known as "Patient R," passed all standard tests of self-awareness. He also displayed repeated self-recognition, both when looking in the mirror and when identifying himself in unaltered photographs taken during all periods of his life. "What this research clearly shows is that self-awareness corresponds to a brain process that cannot be localized to a single region of the brain," ,,,

<http://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-08-self-awareness-humans-complex-diffuse-previousl.html>

Of humorous note:

Imagine that you are a Kalahari Bushman and that you stumble upon a transistor radio in the sand. You might pick it up, twiddle the knobs, and suddenly, to your surprise, hear voices streaming out of this strange little box. ... Now let's say you begin a careful, scientific study of what causes the voices. You notice that each time you pull out the green wire, the voices stop. When you put the wire back on its contact, the voices begin again. ... You come to a clear conclusion: The voices depend entirely on the integrity of the circuitry. At some point, a young person asks you how some simple loops of electrical signals can engender music and conversations, and you admit that you don't know—but you insist that your science is about to crack that problem at any moment.

Assuming that you are truly isolated, what you do not know is pretty much everything that you need to know: radio waves, electromagnetism, distant cities, radio stations, and modern civilization—everything outside the radio box. You would not have the capacity to even imagine such things. And if you could, Eagleman says, "you have no technology to demonstrate the existence of the waves, and everyone justifiably points out that the onus is on you to convince them." You could convince almost no one, and you yourself would probably reject the existence of such mysterious, spiritlike waves. You would become a "radio materialist." Eagleman points out at the end of his book: "I'm not asserting that the brain is like a radio, but I am pointing out that it could be true. There is nothing in our current science that rules this out."

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/is-the-brain-a-pasta-maker-or-radio-receiver-for-thoughts/>

Also of interest:

Even more interesting than these physical revivals, however, are revivals in mental functioning. Myers (1892b) had referred to the "sudden revivals of memory or faculty in dying persons" (p. 316), and there are scattered reports of people apparently recovering from dementia shortly before death. The eminent physician Benjamin Rush, author of the first American treatise on mental illness (1812), observed that "most of mad people discover a greater or less degree of reason in the last days or hours of their lives" (p. 257). Similarly, in his classic study of hallucinations, Brierre de Boismont (1859) noted that "at the approach of death we observe that... the intellect, which may have been obscured or extinguished during many years, is again restored in all its integrity" (p. 236). Flournoy (1903, p. 48) mentioned that French psychiatrists had recently published

cases of mentally ill persons who showed sudden improvement in their condition shortly before death.

In more recent years, Osis (1961) reported two cases, “one of severe schizophrenia and one of senility, [in which] the patients regained normal mentality shortly before death” (p. 24). Osis and Haraldsson (1977/1997) reported a case of a meningitis patient who had been “severely disoriented almost to the end,” but who “cleared up, answered questions, smiled, was slightly elated and just a few minutes before death, came to herself” (p. 133). Turetskaia and Romanenko (1975) reported three cases involving remission of symptoms in dying schizophrenic patients. Grosso (2004, pp. 42–43) described three dementia cases that had been reported to him, one by a colleague and two by a nurse. In all three cases, the patient had not recognized family members for several years, but shortly before death they all were said to have become more coherent or alert and to have recognized family members. Such cases are few in number and not adequately documented, but the persistence of such reports suggests that they may represent a real phenomenon that could potentially be substantiated by further investigations. If so, they would seriously undermine the assumption that, in such diseases as Alzheimer’s, the mind itself is destroyed in lockstep with the brain (e.g., Edwards, 1997, pp. 295–296). Like many of the experiences discussed in this chapter, such cases would suggest that in some conditions, consciousness may be enhanced, not destroyed, when constraints normally supplied by the brain are sufficiently loosened.

- Irreducible Mind, Edward F. Kelly

When Alzheimer's Victims Suddenly 'Perk Up' Just Before Death -- What's Going On? -
09/29/2014

Conventional brain science has no explanation. It has long assumed that as the brain goes, so goes the mind; for the brain is what gives rise to the mind. The return of mental clarity and memory in a brain ravaged by Alzheimer's is not supposed to happen. Yet it does in some cases.

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/the-miracle-of-terminal-lucidity_b_5863492

One Last Goodbye: The Strange Case of Terminal Lucidity

I'm as sworn to radical rationalism as the next neo-Darwinian materialist. That said, over the years I've had to "quarantine," for lack of a better word, a few anomalous personal experiences that have stubbornly defied my own logical understanding of them.

By Jesse Bering on November 25, 2014

Excerpt: Yet, even if terminal lucidity is a genuine phenomenon, who's to say there isn't a logical scientific explanation, one involving some unknown brain physiology? Nahm and Greyson don't discount this possibility entirely, but for cases involving obvious brain damage (such as strokes, tumors, advanced Alzheimer's disease) that should render the patient all but vegetative, not functioning normally, it's a genuine medical mystery. According to the authors, terminal lucidity also isn't all just in the perceiver's head. Rather, they write, "it seems to be more common than usually assumed, and reflects more than just a collection of anecdotes that on closer scrutiny emerge as wishful thinking."

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/bering-in-mind/one-last-goodbye-the-strange-case-of-terminal-lucidity/>

Something peculiar in Near Death Experiences is the fact that many Experiencers say that when they look at their body, while having a Near Death Experience, they find that their body is made of light. Well interestingly, it is found that humans emit 'ultra-weak' light;

Cellular Communication through Light

Excerpt: **Information transfer is a life principle. On a cellular level we generally assume that molecules are carriers of information, yet there is evidence for non-molecular information transfer due to endogenous coherent light. This light is ultra-weak, is emitted by many organisms, including humans and is conventionally described as biophoton emission.**

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0005086>

Are humans really beings of light?

Excerpt: **"We now know, today, that man is essentially a being of light.",,, "There are about 100,000 chemical reactions happening in every cell each second. The chemical reaction can only happen if the molecule which is reacting is excited by a photon... Once the photon has excited a reaction it returns to the field and is available for more reactions... We are swimming in an ocean of light."**

<http://viewzone2.com/dna.html>

Coast to Coast - Vicki's Near Death Experience (Blind From Birth) part 1 of 3

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e65KhcCS5-Y>

Quote from preceding video: **'I was in a body and the only way that I can describe it was a body of energy, or of light. And this body had a form. It had a head. It had arms and it had legs. And it was like it was made out of light. And 'it' was everything that was me. All of my memories, my consciousness, everything.'** -

Vicky Noratuk

This following video interview of a Harvard Neurosurgeon, who had a Near Death Experience (NDE), is very interesting. His NDE was rather unique from typical NDEs in that he had completely lost brain wave function for 7 days while the rest of his body was on life support. As such he had what can be termed a 'pure consciousness' NDE that was dramatically different from the 'typical' Judeo-Christian NDEs of going through a tunnel to a higher heavenly dimension, seeing departed relatives, and having a life review. His NDE featured his 'consciousness' going outside the confines of space/time, matter/energy altogether to experience 'non-locally' what he termed 'the Core', i.e to experience God. It is also interesting to note that he retained a 'finite sense of self-identity', as Theism would hold, and did not blend into the infinite consciousness/omniscience of God, as pantheism would hold.

A Conversation with Near Death Experiencer Neurosurgeon Eben Alexander III, M.D. with

Steve Paulson (Interviewer) - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ASWnPJSf7o>

A proof of heaven - November 2, 2012 - video

Dr. Eben Alexander shares his thoughts on whether science can explain that heaven really does exist.

<http://video.msnbc.msn.com/the-cycle/49665334#49665334>

Heaven Is Real: A Doctor's Experience With the Afterlife - Dr. Eben Alexander - Oct 8, 2012

Excerpt: **One of the few places I didn't have trouble getting my story across was a place I'd seen fairly little of before my experience: church. The first time I entered a church after my coma, I saw everything with fresh eyes. The colors of the stained-glass windows recalled the luminous beauty of the landscapes I'd seen in the world above. The deep bass notes of the organ reminded me of how thoughts and emotions in that world are like waves that move through you. And, most important, a painting of Jesus breaking bread with his disciples evoked the message that lay at the very heart of my journey: that we are loved and accepted unconditionally by a God even more grand and unfathomably glorious than the one I'd learned of as a child in Sunday school.**

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2012/10/07/proof-of-heaven-a-doctor-s-experience-with-the-afterlife.html>

Here is a recent interview of Dr. Eben Alexander (Feb. 2015), neurosurgeon and the author of the book Proof of Heaven, in which he touches on the fact that as long as people think matter can create consciousness they will forever be stuck in a dead end. (Quantum mechanics is also touched upon)

<http://www.contacttalkradio.net/CTR/jeannecatherine022315.mp3>

As well, there is a viable mechanism to explain why Dr. Alexander's NDE was experienced as 'non-local' consciousness, outside the confines of space-time, matter-energy, instead of as going through a tunnel as is 'normal' in NDE's. The Quantum Entanglement of consciousness in the brain is found to be rather different, more spread out, than Quantum Entanglement of the soul to the rest of the body is:

Quantum Entangled Consciousness - Life After Death - Stuart Hameroff - video

<http://vimeo.com/39982578>

Brain 'entanglement' could explain memories - January 2010

Excerpt: **In both cases, the researchers noticed that the voltage of the electrical signal in groups of neurons separated by up to 10 millimetres sometimes rose and fell with exactly the same rhythm. These patterns of activity, dubbed "coherence potentials", often started in one set of neurons, only to be mimicked or "cloned" by others milliseconds later. They were also much more complicated than the simple phase-locked oscillations**

and always matched each other in amplitude as well as in frequency. (Perfect clones)
“The precision with which these new sites pick up on the activity of the initiating group is quite astounding – they are perfect clones,” says Plen

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn18371-brain-entanglement-could-explain-memories.html>

Bridging the Gap - October 2011

Excerpt: **Like a bridge that spans a river to connect two major metropolises, the corpus callosum is the main conduit for information flowing between the left and right hemispheres of our brains. Now, neuroscientists at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) have found that people who are born without that link—a condition called agenesis of the corpus callosum, or AgCC—still show remarkably normal communication across the gap between the two halves of their brains.**

http://media.caltech.edu/press_releases/13465

Also of 'spiritual interest' is the fact that many responses of the mind, and body, are found to defy time and space:

Quantum Consciousness - Time Flies Backwards? - Stuart Hameroff MD

Excerpt: **Dean Radin and Dick Bierman have performed a number of experiments of emotional response in human subjects. The subjects view a computer screen on which appear (at randomly varying intervals) a series of images, some of which are emotionally neutral, and some of which are highly emotional (violent, sexual...). In Radin and Bierman's early studies, skin conductance of a finger was used to measure physiological response. They found that subjects responded strongly to emotional images compared to neutral images, and that the emotional response occurred between a fraction of a second to several seconds BEFORE the image appeared! Recently Professor Bierman (University of Amsterdam) repeated these experiments with subjects in an fMRI brain imager and found emotional responses in brain activity up to 4 seconds before the stimuli. Moreover he looked at raw data from other laboratories and found similar emotional responses before stimuli appeared.**

<http://www.quantumconsciousness.org/views/TimeFlies.html>

Can Your Body Sense Future Events Without Any External Clue? (meta-analysis of 26 reports published between 1978 and 2010) - (Oct. 22, 2012)

Excerpt: **"But our analysis suggests that if you were tuned into your body, you might be able to detect these anticipatory changes between two and 10 seconds beforehand,, This phenomenon is sometimes called "presentiment," as in "sensing the future," but Mossbridge said she and other researchers are not sure whether people are really sensing the future.**

"I like to call the phenomenon 'anomalous anticipatory activity,'" she said. "The phenomenon is anomalous, some scientists argue, because we can't explain it using present-day understanding about how biology works; though explanations related to recent quantum biological findings could potentially make sense. It's anticipatory

because it seems to predict future physiological changes in response to an important event without any known clues, and it's an activity because it consists of changes in the cardiopulmonary, skin and nervous systems."

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/10/121022145342.htm>

Do Perceptions Happen in Your Brain? - Michael Egnor - December 1, 2015

Excerpt: I have pointed out that many ordinary concepts in materialist neuroscience don't hold up to scrutiny. You don't store memories in your brain -- you can't store memories in your brain. Your mind isn't a computer -- in a very real sense it is anything but a computer. Your intellect and will are immaterial powers -- they cannot be instantiated in matter at all.

So here's a question: Are there any other conventional materialist interpretations of neuroscience that are logically incoherent? Consider the belief that "perceptions happen in the brain." ,,,

He (Aristotle) commented that the mind is not a passive recipient of perceptions -- it actively grasps the sensible properties of objects and it does so externally -- at the objects perceived. Remarkably, Aristotle's simple rule of perception is consistent with experiment. **The sensory experiments of Benjamin Libet, a neuroscientist at U.C. San Francisco in the mid 20th century, demonstrated that a subject perceives a sensory stimulus on the skin at the moment the skin is touched, before the stimulus reaches the brain and before full deliberative consciousness occurs.** Libet was flabbergasted by this result and hypothesized that "the subjective timing of the experience is (automatically) referred backwards in time." Yet Aristotle offered a much simpler and logically coherent explanation -- the stimulus on the skin is perceived on the skin, not in the brain. Perception occurs at the location of the stimulus, not in the brain.

Only your perception of your brain would genuinely be "in your brain," just as your perception of the pain in your finger is in your finger, and the perception of the tree in your yard is in your yard. Your mind is not bound by location. Wherever the object is that you perceive, the location of the object is where you perceive it.

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2015/12/do_perceptions101261.html

Michael Egnor: The (neuro-scientific) Evidence against Materialism - June 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqHrpBPdtSI>

Benjamin Libet - Subjective backward referral or "antedating" of sensory experience

Excerpt: Libet's early theory, resting on study of stimuli and sensation,[17] was found bizarre by some commentators, including Patricia Churchland,[18] due to the apparent idea of backward causation. Libet[19] argued that data suggested that we retrospectively "antedate" the beginning of a sensation to the moment of the primary neuronal response. People interpreted Libet's work on stimulus and sensation in a number of different ways. John Eccles[20] presented Libet's work as suggesting a backward step in time made by a non-physical mind.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Libet#Subjective_backward_referral_or_%22antedating%22_of_sensory_experience

HOW LIBET'S FREE WILL RESEARCH IS MISREPRESENTED

Sometimes, says Michael Egnor, misrepresentation may be deliberate because Libet's work doesn't support a materialist perspective

NEWS MARCH 23, 2020

Excerpt: **"Determinism has on the whole, worked well for the physical observable world. That has led many scientists and philosophers to regard any deviation from determinism as absurd and witless, and unworthy of consideration. But there has been no evidence, or even a proposed experimental test design, that definitively or convincingly demonstrates the validity of natural law determinism as the mediator or instrument of free will."**

BENJAMIN LIBET DO WE HAVE FREE WILL? JOURNAL OF CONSCIOUSNESS STUDIES, 6, NO. 8–9, 1999, PP. 47–57

<https://mindmatters.ai/2020/03/how-libets-free-will-research-is-misrepresented/>

NEUROSCIENCE REFUTES FREE WILL? ADDRESSING AN OBJECTION

Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) is not as good as Libet's methods for assessing real-time effects - MICHAEL EGNOR - Oct. 2020

Excerpt: Many neuroscientists have attempted to replicate the Libet-type button-pushing experiments but nearly all of them have used fMRI instead of measuring brain waves. That is the research [Haggard and his collaborators](#) have done, to which AaronS1978 referred.

But fMRI is worthless in the neuroscience of free will. To understand why, note that fMRI has very poor temporal resolution. fMRI measures changes in blood flow in the brain in response to activity of neurons, and these changes lag neuronal activity by at least several seconds. Peak fMRI response seems to occur about 6 seconds after neuronal activity occurs, and may persist for up to 40 seconds. fMRI is best thought-of as a [long-time exposure](#) of brain activity rather than a snapshot, which the measurement of brain waves (EEG) provides. Libet's experiments were using brain waves and the time interval in which the immaterial "free won't veto" occurred was on the order of 200 milliseconds—1/5 of a second. fMRI is at least an order of magnitude too insensitive to timing to record this level of change, which is why it is worthless in the neuroscientific study of free will.

Libet's work was the best—and essentially only—meaningful neuroscientific exploration of free will associated with timing of decisions to perform simple acts and his research clearly supports the reality of free will.

<https://mindmatters.ai/2020/10/neuroscience-does-refute-free-will-addressing-an-objection/>

MIND TIME: The Temporal Factor in Consciousness - Benjamin Libet - 2004

Excerpt: At one pole is the determinist materialist position. In this philosophy, observable matter is the only reality and everything, including thought, will, and feeling, can be explained only in terms of matter and the natural laws that govern matter. The eminent scientist Francis Crick (codiscoverer of the genetic molecular code) states this view elegantly (Crick and Koch, 1998): "You, your joys and your sorrows, your memories and your ambitions, your sense of personal identity and free will, are in fact no more than the behavior of a vast assembly of nerve cells and their associated molecules. As Lewis Carroll's Alice might have phrased it: 'You're nothing but a

pack of neurons (nerve cells).”

According to this determinist view, your awareness of yourself and the world around you is simply the by-product or epiphenomenon of neuronal activities, with no independent ability to affect or control neuronal activities.

Is this position a “proven” scientific theory? I shall state, straight out, that this determinist materialist view is a belief system; it is not a scientific theory that has been verified by direct tests. It is true that scientific discoveries have increasingly produced powerful evidence for the ways in which mental abilities, and even the nature of one’s personality, are dependent on, and can be controlled by, specific structures and functions of the brain. However, the nonphysical nature of subjective awareness, including the feelings of spirituality, creativity, conscious will, and imagination, is not describable or explainable directly by the physical evidence alone.

As a neuroscientist investigating these issues for more than thirty years, I can say that these subjective phenomena are not predictable by knowledge of neuronal function. This is in contrast to my earlier views as a young scientist, when I believed in the validity of determinist materialism. That was before I began my research on brain processes in conscious experience, at age 40. There is no guarantee that the phenomenon of awareness and its concomitants will be explainable in terms of presently known physics.

In fact, conscious mental phenomena are not reducible to or explicable by knowledge of nerve cell activities. You could look into the brain and see nerve cell interconnections and neural messages popping about in immense profusion. But you would not observe any conscious mental subjective phenomena. Only a report by the individual who is experiencing such phenomena could tell you about them.

https://zodml.org/sites/default/files/%5BBenjamin_Libet%2C_Professor_Stephen_M._Kosslyn%5D_Min.pdf

Quantum Coherence and Consciousness – Scientific Proof of ‘Mind’ – video

<http://www.metacafe.com/watch/6266865/>

Here is an interesting quote from the preceding video;

“Wolf Singer Director of the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research (Frankfurt) has found evidence of simultaneous oscillations in separate areas of the cortex, accurately synchronized in phase as well as frequency. He suggests that the oscillations are synchronized from some common source, but the actual source has never been located.”

James J. Hurtak, Ph.D.

As to the ‘quantum differences’ in the brain in the dreaming and wakefulness states. At the 18:00 minute mark to about the 22:15 minute mark of the following video, a interesting study is highlighted on the sleeping brain that shows a fairly profound difference in the way the brain ‘shares information’ between different parts of the brain in its sleeping state compared to how the brain ‘shares information’ in its waking state:

Through The Wormhole – Morgan Freeman – Life After Death – video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=9kXrsWUcQFQ#t=1069

This following study adds weight to the 'transcendence of mind':

Study suggests precognition may be possible - November 2010

Excerpt: **A Cornell University scientist has demonstrated that psi anomalies, more commonly known as precognition, premonitions or extra-sensory perception (ESP), really do exist at a statistically significant level.**

<http://www.physorg.com/news/2010-11-precognition.html>

Mind-Brain Interaction and Science Fiction (Quantum connection) - Jeffrey Schwartz & Michael Egnor - audio

http://intelligentdesign.podomatic.com/player/web/2008-12-01T17_28_39-08_00

The Materialist and the Mind - William Lane Craig, PhD - video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwDavvndecE>

In The Wonder Of Being Human: Our Brain and Our Mind, Eccles and Robinson discussed the research of three groups of scientists (Robert Porter and Cobie Brinkman, Nils Lassen and Per Roland, and Hans Kornhuber and Luder Deeke), all of whom produced startling and undeniable evidence that a "mental intention" preceded an actual neuronal firing - thereby establishing that the mind is not the same thing as the brain, but is a separate entity altogether.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=J9pON9yB8HkC&pg=PT28&lpg=PT28>

"As I remarked earlier, this may present an "insuperable" difficulty for some scientists of materialists bent, but the fact remains, and is demonstrated by research, that non-material mind acts on material brain."

Sir John Eccles - Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1963 - (as quoted in Cousins, 1985, pp. 61-62,85-86)

<http://www.religiousforums.com/forum/2935585-post10.html>

"We regard promissory materialism as superstition without a rational foundation. The more we discover about the brain, the more clearly do we distinguish between the brain events and the mental phenomena, and the more wonderful do both the brain events and the mental phenomena become. Promissory materialism is simply a religious belief held by dogmatic materialists... who often confuse their religion with their science."

- John C. Eccles, The Wonder of Being Human: Our Brain and Our Mind, 1984 - Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1963

<http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2568511>

Craig paraphrases Eccles on the topic of correlation:

"Eccles compared the relationship between the soul (or the mind) and the brain to the

relationship between a musician and a piano. The musician can produce music by playing on the piano; the instrument (the piano) produces the music but not on its own. It is only at the instigation of the agent – the musician – who plays the piano. Eccles said in exactly the same way the self (or the mind, or the soul) uses the brain to think. It uses it as an instrument for thinking just as a musician uses a piano as an instrument to play music.”

A Christian Perspective on Brain-Computer Interface

April 11, 2016 By Dr. Fazale Rana

Excerpt: Even though Rosemary Johnson and other members of the Paramusical Ensemble haven't been able to communicate for nearly 30 years because of brain damage, they still retained the ability to conceive music. Thanks to the brain-computer interface, that capability is unleashed, anew.

If human cognitive ability is merely the manifestation of brain activity, then how is it that Johnson's damaged brain still has the capacity to compose music? And why would she have such a deep-seated desire to do so? Without the benefit of brain-computer interface studies, it would be tempting to view the communication disability of brain-damaged patients as a loss of cognitive capacity. But this is clearly not the case. Instead, it appears to me that Rosemary Johnson's identity and musical capabilities have been retained, in spite of the damage to her brain. To put it another way, it appears that her mind is distinct from her brain, consistent with the tenants of Christian theology.

Brain Relates to Mind Like Hardware Relates to Software

The results of the brain-computer musical interface studies can be interpreted through a hardware-software analogy. Accordingly, the brain corresponds to the computer hardware and the mind to the software. For a computer system to operate, both the hardware and software have to be functional and must work together. In like manner, I argue that both the brain and the mind have to be intact and working in combination for a human being to be fully functional and expressive. If computer hardware is damaged, the software can't execute. Accordingly, if the brain is damaged, the mind becomes trapped, though it may still function perfectly. When the researchers from Plymouth University and the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability produced the brain-computer music interface, they used it to bypass the disabled musicians' brain damage, creating a conduit for the mind to manifest.

On the other hand, if human capability stems from brain activity alone, then when the hardware is damaged the lost capabilities should be non-retrievable. And yet, they are.,,,

<http://www.reasons.org/articles/a-christian-perspective-on-brain-computer-interfaces>

Materialism of the Gaps - Michael Egnor (Neurosurgeon) - January 29, 2009

Excerpt: **The evidence that some aspects of the mind are immaterial is overwhelming. It's notable that many of the leading neuroscientists -- Sherrington, Penfield, Eccles, Libet -- were dualists. Dualism of some sort is the most reasonable scientific framework to apply to the mind-brain problem, because, unlike dogmatic materialism, it just follows the evidence.**

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2009/01/materialism_of_the_gaps015901.html

Dr. Egnor, who is a brain surgeon as well as a teacher/professor of brain surgery, recently wrote an excellent article on the experimental evidence, that has been accumulating over decades, which strongly supports the reality of the immaterial mind.

Science and the Soul – Michael Egnor – June 2018

Excerpt:,,, Katie looked like a normal newborn, but she had little chance at a normal life. She had a fraternal-twin sister in the incubator next to her. But Katie only had a third of the brain that her sister had. I explained all of this to her family, trying to keep alive a flicker of hope for their daughter.

I cared for Katie as she grew up. At every stage of Katie's life so far, she has excelled. She sat and talked and walked earlier than her sister. She's made the honor roll. She will soon graduate high school.,,,

,,, How is this possible? Neuroscience, and Thomas Aquinas, point to the answer.,,,

Neuroscience and Metaphysics

Remarkably, neuroscience tells us three things about the mind: the mind is metaphysically simple, the intellect and will are immaterial, and free will is real.

In the middle of the twentieth century, neurosurgeons discovered that they could treat a certain kind of epilepsy by severing a large bundle of brain fibers, called the corpus callosum, which connects the two hemispheres of the brain. Following these operations, each hemisphere worked independently. But what happened to the mind of a person with his or her brain split in half?

The neuroscientist Roger Sperry studied scores of split-brain patients. He found, surprisingly, that in ordinary life the patients showed little effect. Each patient was still one person. The intellect and will – the capacity to have abstract thought and to choose – remained unified. Only by meticulous testing could Sperry find any differences: their perceptions were altered by the surgery. Sensations – elicited by touch or vision – could be presented to one hemisphere of the brain, and not be experienced in the other hemisphere. Speech production is associated with the left hemisphere of the brain; patients could not name an object presented to the right hemisphere (via the left visual field). Yet they could point to the object with their left hand (which is controlled by the right hemisphere). The most remarkable result of Sperry's Nobel Prize-winning work was that the person's intellect and will – what we might call the soul – remained undivided.

The brain can be cut in half, but the intellect and will cannot.

One of the neurosurgeons who pioneered the corpus callosotomy for epilepsy patients was Wilder Penfield, who worked in Montreal in the middle of the twentieth century. Penfield studied the brains and minds of epileptic patients in a remarkably direct way, in the course of treating them. He operated on people who were awake. The brain itself feels no pain, and local anesthetics numb the scalp and skull enough to permit painless brain surgery. Penfield asked them to do and think things while he was observing and temporarily stimulating or impairing regions of their brains. Two things astonished him.

First, he noticed something about seizures. He could cause seizures by stimulating the brain. A patient would jerk his arm, or feel tingling, or see flashes of light, or even have memories. But

what he could never do was cause an intellectual seizure: the patient would never reason when his brain was stimulated. The patient never contemplated mercy or bemoaned injustice or calculated second derivatives in response to brain stimulation. If the brain wholly gives rise to the mind, why are there no intellectual seizures?

Second, Penfield noted that patients always knew that the movement or sensation elicited by brain stimulation was done to them, but not by them. When Penfield stimulated the arm area of the brain, patients always said, "You made my arm move" and never said, "I moved my arm." Patients always retained a correct awareness of agency. There was a part of the patient – the will – that Penfield could not reach with his electrode.

Penfield began his career as a materialist. He finished his career as an emphatic dualist. He insisted that there is an aspect of the self – the intellect and the will – that is not the brain, and that cannot be elicited by stimulation of the brain.

Some of the most fascinating research on consciousness was done by Penfield's contemporary Benjamin Libet at the University of California, San Francisco. Libet asked: What happens in the brain when we think? How are electrical signals in the brain related to our thoughts? He was particularly interested in the timing of brain waves and thoughts. Did a brain wave happen at the same moment as the thought, or before, or after?

It was a difficult question to answer. It wasn't hard to measure electrical changes in the brain: that could be done routinely by electrodes on the scalp, and Libet enlisted neurosurgeons to allow him to record signals deep in the brain while patients were awake. The challenge Libet faced was to accurately measure the time interval between the signals and the thoughts. But the signals last only a few milliseconds, and how can you time a thought with that kind of accuracy? Libet began by choosing a very simple thought: the decision to press a button. He modified an oscilloscope so that a dot circled the screen once each second, and when the subject decided to push the button, he or she noted the location of the dot at the time of the decision. Libet measured the timing of the decision and the timing of the brain waves of many volunteers with accuracy in the tens of milliseconds. Consistently he found that the conscious decision to push the button was preceded by about half a second by a brain wave, which he called the readiness potential. Then a half-second later the subject became aware of his decision. It appeared at first that the subjects were not free; their brains made the decision to move and they followed it. But Libet looked deeper. He asked his subjects to veto their decision immediately after they made it – to not push the button. Again, the readiness potential appeared a half-second before conscious awareness of the decision to push the button, but Libet found that the veto – he called it "free won't" – had no brain wave corresponding to it.

The brain, then, has activity that corresponds to a pre-conscious urge to do something. But we are free to veto or accept this urge. The motives are material. The veto, and implicitly the acceptance, is an immaterial act of the will.

Libet noted the correspondence between his experiments and the traditional religious understanding of human beings. We are, he said, beset by a sea of inclinations, corresponding to material activity in our brains, which we have the free choice to reject or accept. It is hard not to read this in more familiar terms: we are tempted by sin, yet we are free to choose.

The approach to understanding the world and ourselves that was replaced by materialism was that of classical metaphysics. This tradition's most notable investigator and teacher was Saint

Thomas Aquinas. Following Aristotle, Aquinas wrote that the human soul has distinct kinds of abilities. Vegetative powers, shared by plants and animals, serve growth, nourishment, and metabolism. Sensitive powers, shared with animals, include perception, passions, and locomotion. The vegetative and sensitive powers are material abilities of the brain.

Yet human beings have two powers of the soul that are not material – intellect and will. These transcend matter. They are the means by which we reason, and by which we choose based on reason. We are composites of matter and spirit. We have spiritual souls.

Aquinas would not be surprised by the results of these researchers' investigations.,,,

I see her (Katie) in my office each year. She is thriving: headstrong and bright. Her mother is exasperated, and, after seventeen years, still surprised. So am I.

There is much about the brain and the mind that I don't understand. But neuroscience tells a consistent story. There is a part of Katie's mind that is not her brain. She is more than that. She can reason and she can choose. There is a part of her that is immaterial – the part that Sperry couldn't split, that Penfield couldn't reach, and that Libet couldn't find with his electrodes. There is a part of Katie that didn't show up on those CAT scans when she was born.

Katie, like you and me, has a soul.

<https://www.plough.com/en/topics/justice/reconciliation/science-and-the-soul>

Neurosurgeon Wilder Penfield on Free Will – Michael Egnor – July 26, 2018

Excerpt: For a philosophical example, consider that affirmation or denial of free will is a proposition, which is a statement that may or may not be true. But matter has no truth value — propositions aren't material things. Matter just is; it is neither true nor false. Thus, when a materialist claims that material causes preclude the possibility of free will, he is also claiming that his own opinion cannot be true (or false). Denial of free will on the basis of materialistic determinism is self-refuting. ...

No Counterfeit Will

Penfield marveled that he could stimulate all manner of movement and sensation and memory, but he could never evoke agency. He couldn't stimulate the sense of will — he couldn't produce a counterfeit will in the conscious patient by stimulation of the brain.

Penfield concluded that this meant that the will (he called it the "mind") was not in the brain, or at least not in any part of the brain that he could stimulate, and that the will was not a physical thing. The will was free, in the sense that it could not be evoked by material means.

Penfield began his career as a strident materialist. He ended it as a passionate dualist — the title "Mystery of the Mind" was largely the expression of his amazement that there was a scientifically demonstrable duality to the mind.,,,

The denial of free will is an ideological bias, not a credible scientific or philosophical conclusion.

<https://evolutionnews.org/2018/07/neurosurgeon-wilder-penfield-on-free-will/>

Science and the Soul – Michael Egnor – June 2018

Excerpt:,, Some of the most fascinating research on consciousness was done by Penfield's contemporary Benjamin Libet at the University of California, San Francisco.,,,

Libet began by choosing a very simple thought: the decision to press a button. He modified an oscilloscope so that a dot circled the screen once each second, and when the subject decided

to push the button, he or she noted the location of the dot at the time of the decision. Libet measured the timing of the decision and the timing of the brain waves of many volunteers with accuracy in the tens of milliseconds. Consistently he found that the conscious decision to push the button was preceded by about half a second by a brain wave, which he called the readiness potential. Then a half-second later the subject became aware of his decision. It appeared at first that the subjects were not free; their brains made the decision to move and they followed it. But Libet looked deeper. He asked his subjects to veto their decision immediately after they made it – to not push the button. Again, the readiness potential appeared a half-second before conscious awareness of the decision to push the button, but Libet found that the veto – he called it “free won’t” – had no brain wave corresponding to it.

The brain, then, has activity that corresponds to a pre-conscious urge to do something. But we are free to veto or accept this urge. The motives are material. The veto, and implicitly the acceptance, is an immaterial act of the will.

Libet noted the correspondence between his experiments and the traditional religious understanding of human beings. We are, he said, beset by a sea of inclinations, corresponding to material activity in our brains, which we have the free choice to reject or accept. It is hard not to read this in more familiar terms: we are tempted by sin, yet we are free to choose.

<https://www.plough.com/en/topics/justice/reconciliation/science-and-the-soul>

Michael Egnor: Is free will a dangerous myth? - October 6, 2018

Excerpt: **4.the neuroscientific evidence unequivocally supports the existence of free will.**

The first neuroscientist to map the brains of conscious subjects, Wilder Penfield, noted that there is an immaterial power of volition in the human mind that he could not stimulate with electrodes. The pioneer in the neuroscience of free will was Benjamin Libet, who demonstrated clearly that, while there is an unconscious material predisposition to acts as shown by electrical brain activity, we retain an immaterial “free won’t,” which is the ability to veto an unconscious urge to act. Many experiments have followed on Libet’s work, most of which use fMRI imaging of brain activity. They all confirm Libet’s observations by showing what is at most a loose correlation between brain activity and volition (for example, nearly half the time the brain activity that precedes the act is on the wrong side of the brain for the activity to determine the will)—the looseness of correlation being best explained as evidence for libertarian free will. Modern neuroscience clearly demonstrates an immaterial component to volition. Harari is wrong about free will. It is not a myth. Free will is a real and fundamental aspect of being human, and the denial of free will is junk science and self-refuting logical nonsense.

<https://mindmatters.ai/2018/10/is-free-will-a-dangerous-myth/>

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/michael-egnor-is-free-will-a-dangerous-myth/#comment-665916>

DOES BRAIN STIMULATION RESEARCH CHALLENGE FREE WILL?

If we can be forced to want something, is the will still free?

MICHAEL EGNOR OCTOBER 12, 2018

Excerpt: **Keeping that in mind, let us look again at Reilly and her co-workers' research. When they stimulate the parietal cortex, they are stimulating the brain regions that mediate the *passions*, which are material thoughts and intentions. Note that the stimulations always involved simple physical intentions and acts—moving a limb, etc. The stimulations did not evoke complex abstract intentions and acts—the patients didn't reflexively decide to do integral calculus or donate to Amnesty International.**

The researchers didn't discuss whether the patients knew that their desires (passions) were stimulated or whether they were aware of their external origin. But even if they thought that their passions were their own, it would not be a violation of free will.

Alteration of brain function can radically change passions (as any alcoholic knows). But the will, which is free and immaterial, remains, even if it is overwhelmed by the material passions. Sometimes, of course, the passions win and sometimes the will wins. But the will is spiritual and is free, and the passions are material and are not freely chosen.

<https://mindmatters.today/2018/10/does-brain-stimulation-research-challenge-free-will/>

CAN BUZZWORDS ABOUT “NEURAL NETWORKS” SAVE MATERIALIST NEUROSCIENCE?

No. Experiments that support an immaterial consciousness often involve split or massively damaged neural networks

MICHAEL EGNOR JUNE 27, 2019

Excerpt: So let me reiterate my “take-home points”:

Roger Sperry studied patients whose brains had literally been cut in half, which meant massive damage to their neural networks. The networks had been surgically disconnected in order to get seizures under control. Yet the disconnect did not affect the patient's personality or capacity for abstract thought.

Benjamin Libet found that “free won't”—the ability to veto temptations—had no material correlate in brain activity. That, obviously, cannot be explained with recourse to neural networks. These networks entail quite a bit of neural electrical activity but Libet found none. The simplest and most scientifically cogent interpretation is that free will isn't a material act of the brain.

Finally, Adrian Owen found that patients with massive brain damage in a persistent vegetative state surprisingly retained the ability to think abstractly. That hardly supports the materialist inference that neural networks can account for abstract thought.

Many of the cases studied involved massive stimulation or destruction of neural networks, and they never specifically evoke or ablate abstract thought.

In conclusion, abstract thought cannot be accounted for on a materialist basis. The attribution of abstract thought to the material brain is philosophical and logical nonsense and has been repeatedly discredited by the best neuroscience over the past century.

So, friends and colleagues who insist that neural networks can explain away the neuroscience experiments that clearly show the immaterial aspects of the mind, I suggest that you look elsewhere to salvage your ideology.

Neural networks cannot save materialism from the dustbin of science.

<https://mindmatters.ai/2019/06/can-buzzwords-about-neural-networks-save-materialist-neuroscience/>

Do Conscious Thoughts Cause Behavior? -Roy F. Baumeister, E. J. Masicampo, and Kathleen D. Vohs - 2010

Excerpt: **The evidence for conscious causation of behavior is profound, extensive, adaptive, multifaceted, and empirically strong.**

<http://carlsonschool.umn.edu/assets/165663.pdf>

"Thought precedes action as lightning precedes thunder."

Heinrich Heine - in the year 1834

Neurosurgeon Wilder Penfield on Free Will – Michael Egnor – July 26, 2018

No Counterfeit Will

Penfield marveled that he could stimulate all manner of movement and sensation and memory, but he could never evoke agency. He couldn't stimulate the sense of will — he couldn't produce a counterfeit will in the conscious patient by stimulation of the brain.

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The denial of free will is an ideological bias, not a credible scientific or philosophical conclusion.
<https://evolutionnews.org/2018/07/neurosurgeon-wilder-penfield-on-free-will/>

As to trying to provide actual scientific evidence for their belief that they have no free will, but are just 'mindless automatons, atheists will often invoke the experiments of Benjamin Libet from 1983. Yet Libet himself was a strong defender of free will:

Do Benjamin Libet's Experiments Show that Free Will Is an Illusion? - Michael Egnor - January 15, 2014

Excerpt: **Materialists often invoke the experiments of Benjamin Libet when they deny free will.,,,**

(Yet) Libet himself was a strong defender of free will, and he interpreted his own experiments as validating free will. He noted that his subjects often vetoed the unconscious "decision" after the readiness potential appeared.

,,, "The role of conscious free will would be, then, not to initiate a voluntary act, but rather to control whether the act takes place. We may view the unconscious initiatives for voluntary actions as 'bubbling up' in the brain. The conscious-will then selects which of these initiatives may go forward to an action or which ones to veto and abort, with no act appearing." - Libet

Libet even observed that his experimental confirmation of free will accorded with the

traditional religious understanding of free will:,,,

Libet proposes (based on his work) a common-sense model of free will: our unconscious is a bubbling sea of velleities. We freely choose the impulses we wish to enact by prescinding from a veto, and we freely choose the impulses we wish to suppress by vetoing the act. Libet found experimental traces of the unconscious impulses (the readiness potential) and experimental confirmation of the freely chosen veto (the conscious choice unaccompanied by corresponding electrophysiological activity). He even noted that his experimental results validated a particular traditional religious understanding of moral choice — that sin is in the act, which is freely chosen, not in the temptation, which can arise without our choice. He even proposed a neurophysiological model of original sin!

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2014/01/do_benjamin_lib081171.html

The Timing of Mental Events: Libet's Experimental Findings and Their Implications - 2002

Benjamin Libet

Excerpt: However, Libet noted that the conscious function still had enough time to affect the outcome of the process; that is, it could allow the volitional initiative to go to completion, it could provide a necessary trigger for the completion, or it could block or veto the process and prevent the act's appearance. There is no doubt that a veto function can occur. The argument has been made that the conscious veto process would itself require preceding developmental processes, just like a conscious sensory awareness. But Libet (1999) argued that the conscious veto in a control function, different from awareness per se, need not be a direct product of the preceding processes, as is the case for simple awareness.

The implications of these findings for the concept of free will were considered fully by Libet (1999).

Impact and Acceptance of These Findings

It should be of interest to the reader that many of the world's leading neuroscientists have not only accepted our findings and interpretations, but have even enthusiastically praised these achievements and their experimental ingenuity. These included the editors and referees of the journals that published our articles (including the Journal of Neurophysiology, Science, Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology, Brain, etc.). Individual expressions came from E. D. Adrian, J. C. Eccles, Ragnar Granit, R. W. Gerard, Frederic Bremer, Charles Phillips, Laurence Weiskrantz, Wilder Penfield, David Ingvar, Herbert Jasper, Robert Doty, Robert Schmidt, Anders Lundberg, Per Andersen, Howard Shevrin, Hans Kornhuber, Ainsley Iggo,

Petra Stoerig, Pierre Buser, Stuart Hameroff, and many others.

It is interesting that most of the negative criticism of our findings and their implications have come from philosophers and others with no significant experience in experimental neuroscience of the brain. Some notable positive exceptions have been Sir Karl Popper (the leading philosopher of science in the 20th century), Stephen Pepper (late Professor of Philosophy at UC Berkeley), Martin Edman (Professor of Philosophy at the University of Umea, Sweden), and others.

<http://www.trans-techresearch.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Consciousness-and-Cognition-2002-LIBET.pdf>

Moreover, despite the widespread false belief that Libet himself supported a 'deterministic brain', the experimental work of Libet, that materialists had often invoked to support a 'deterministic brain', has now been reexamined in finer experimental detail and found to be contrary to the deterministic claims that atheists had placed on Libet's experimental work:

Brain might not stand in the way of free will - August 2012

Excerpt: **"Libet argued that our brain has already decided to move well before we have a conscious intention to move," says Schurger. "We argue that what looks like a pre-conscious decision process may not in fact reflect a decision at all. It only looks that way because of the nature of spontaneous brain activity."**

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn22144-brain-might-not-stand-in-the-way-of-free-will.html>

An accumulator model for spontaneous neural activity prior to self-initiated movement - Aaron Schurger, Jacobo D. Sitt, and Stanislas Dehaene - October 16, 2012

<https://www.pnas.org/content/109/42/E2904>

Random Brain Waves Save Free Will? - November 15, 2013

Excerpt: **A new paper adds to the perennial free will debate, by casting doubt on the famous Libet experiment. Back in 1983, neuroscientists led by Benjamin Libet found that, about two seconds before someone presses a button 'of their own free will', a negative electrical potential – dubbed the Readiness Potential (RP) – began to build up in the cortex. Their EEG study showed that the brain seemed to have 'decided' before the conscious mind did – bad news for free will.**

Since then, the meaning of the RP has been extensively debated. But the new study by Han-Gue Jo and colleagues of Freiburg makes a strong case that the "RP" is not really a 'thing' at all.

They say that, in the two seconds before a button press, you see both negative and positive changes, in roughly equal numbers. There are slightly more negative ones, so on average, there is a small negative "RP", but only on average. Almost half the button presses were not preceded by a negative potential, yet the button still got pressed – which means that the negative "RP" can't directly reflect the decision to press.,,,

<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/neuroskeptic/2013/11/15/free-will/>

Do we have free will? Researchers test mechanisms involved in decision-making - January 4, 2016

Excerpt: **Back (in the 1980s), the American researcher Benjamin Libet studied the nature of cerebral processes of study participants during conscious decision-making. He demonstrated that conscious decisions were initiated by unconscious brain processes, and that a wave of brain activity referred to as a 'readiness potential' could be recorded even before the subject had made a conscious decision.**

„Until now, the existence of such preparatory brain processes has been regarded as evidence of 'determinism', according to which free will is nothing but an illusion, meaning our decisions are initiated by unconscious brain processes, and not by our 'conscious self'. „

Using state-of-the-art measurement techniques, the researchers tested whether people are able to stop planned movements once the readiness potential for a movement has been triggered.

"The aim of our research was to find out whether the presence of early brain waves means that further decision-making is automatic and not under conscious control, or whether the person can still cancel the decision, i.e. use a 'veto'," explains Prof. Haynes.

„

"A person's decisions are not at the mercy of unconscious and early brain waves. They are able to actively intervene in the decision-making process and interrupt a movement," says Prof. Haynes. "Previously people have used the preparatory brain signals to argue against free will. Our study now shows that the freedom is much less limited than previously thought.

<http://m.medicalxpress.com/news/2016-01-free-mechanisms-involved-decision-making.html>

The point of no return in vetoing self-initiated movements

Matthias Schultze-Kraft, Daniel Birman, Marco Rusconi, Carsten Allefeld, Kai G6rgen, Sven D6hne, Benjamin Blankertz, and John-Dylan Haynes - January 26, 2016

<https://www.pnas.org/content/113/4/1080>

Sept 2019: Neuroscientific and Quantum Evidence for free will

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/did-the-neural-pattern-that-showed-that-there-is-no-free-will-turn-out-to-be-noise/#comment-683977>

A Famous Argument Against Free Will Has Been Debunked

For decades, a landmark brain study fed speculation about whether we control our own actions. It seems to have made a classic mistake.

BAHAR GHOLIPOUR - SEP 10, 2019

Excerpt: In a new study under review for publication in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Schurger and two Princeton researchers repeated a version of Libet's experiment. To avoid unintentionally cherry-picking brain noise, they included a control condition

in which people didn't move at all. An artificial-intelligence classifier allowed them to find at what point brain activity in the two conditions diverged. If Libet was right, that should have happened at 500 milliseconds before the movement. But the algorithm couldn't tell any difference until about only 150 milliseconds before the movement, the time people reported making decisions in Libet's original experiment.

In other words, people's subjective experience of a decision—what Libet's study seemed to suggest was just an illusion—appeared to match the actual moment their brains showed them making a decision.

When Schurger first proposed the neural-noise explanation, in 2012, the paper didn't get much outside attention, but it did create a buzz in neuroscience. Schurger received awards for overturning a long-standing idea. "It showed the Bereitschaftspotential may not be what we thought it was. That maybe it's in some sense artifactual, related to how we analyze our data," says Uri Maoz, a computational neuroscientist at Chapman University.

For a paradigm shift, the work met minimal resistance. Schurger appeared to have unearthed a classic scientific mistake, so subtle that no one had noticed it and no amount of replication studies could have solved it, unless they started testing for causality.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2019/09/free-will-bereitschaftspotential/597736/>

Aaron Schurger recently proved this and his previous research all supported the notion that RP is nothing more than background noise that may or may not help tip the scales in your decision

The 11 second prediction was a study done in Australia involving the visual cortex

What they found was that a previous image of a choice that you made would retain in the visual cortex for some time and could affect the next decision

What the tabloids tell you is that neuroscience can predict your decision 11 seconds a head of time, conveniently leaving the accuracy out, which you then are left to assume what it is, most will assume 100% This is probably due to the conditioning that most people have received over their lifetime and education about the perception of science

This however is bunk, they were predicting a binary choice, in this case between images and books

Now why Is this BUNK, here's why none of the tabloids tell you the accuracy of the predictions they made using the algorithm, they ranged anywhere between 45% to 72% in accuracy which averaged out to a whopping 62% this is slightly better than the 60% Sung accomplished back in 2008

In other words they haven't really improved

Their accomplishment with a \$250,000 piece of equipment is no more impressive than a magician being able to predict the next card you were about to pick

- AaronS1978 - UD blogger

<https://uncommondescent.com/evolution/michael-egnor-why-the-mind-cannot-just-emerge-from-the-brain/#comment-693430>

What Is the Readiness Potential?

[Aaron Schurger](#) - 2021

Concluding remark: The RP (readiness potential) continues to be both a methodological tool and an

object of study, but there are significant areas about which we remain unsure, despite advances (see Outstanding Questions). If recent models of the RP are on the right track, we cannot infer from the existence of the phenomenon that it reflects an actual signal in the brain that, in individual trials, has the characteristics of the RP, or that has causal efficacy. Because of this, one cannot infer that we lack conscious free will based on the temporal profile of the RP. If these models are correct, they may have implications for our understanding of free will, but none that avoid significant and substantive philosophical commitments. But given all the other reasons that have been raised for rejecting the classical interpretation (e.g. [3, 14, 16, 17]), even if SDMs (**stochastic decision models**) are mistaken and the RP does reflect a real neural signal, albeit one difficult to detect on individual trials, the RP would still fail to support the classic inference for the inefficacy of conscious will.

Outstanding Questions:

Why is there so much variability between subjects in the temporal profile and amplitude of the RP?

Why do some experimental subjects not exhibit a readiness potential at all?

What is the difference/connection between the RP, CNV, and SPN? Do they all share a similar set of neural processes? Is the difference between them a reflection of the differential recruitment of these processes due to slightly different task demands?

Does the readiness potential reflect initiation of action, or something more general such as anticipation or attention?

Which is correct: late- or early-decision models (or neither)?

What is the relationship between the RP and consciousness? Are the neural processes involved in generating the RP the same processes that lead to consciousness of intention?

Is there a discrete neural RP-like signal present on every trial, but just hidden in the noise? Or does it only exist in the average?

If there is a discrete neural signal that reflects the initiation of movement present on every trial or for every movement, what is its shape and its temporal relationship to movement onset?

If movement generated as a response to stimuli or to reasons is the result of an accumulation-to-bound process operating on evidence, then is self-generated movement just the same decision process, but in this case operating without external inputs in a stochastic milieu?

What brain activity is genuinely predictive of the onset of uncued movement?

[https://www.cell.com/trends/cognitive-sciences/fulltext/S1364-6613\(21\)00093-0](https://www.cell.com/trends/cognitive-sciences/fulltext/S1364-6613(21)00093-0)

What is the intention to move and when does it occur? [Aaron Schurger](#) and company - 2023

Abstract excerpt: Numerous studies show that the Libet method for determining [intent](#), W time, is not accurate and may be misleading. We conclude that intention has many different aspects, and although we now understand much more about how the brain makes movements, identifying the time of conscious intention is still elusive.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0149763423001689>

Dec. 2019: Defense of free will from neuroscience and quantum mechanics

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/eric-holloway-scanning-my-brain-playing-tetris-shows-true-ai-is-impossible/#comment-689739>

DOES “ALIEN HAND SYNDROME” SHOW THAT WE DON’T REALLY HAVE FREE WILL?

One woman’s left hand seemed to have a mind of its own. Did it?

MICHAEL EGNOR - APRIL 4, 2019

Excerpt: I may desire an extra slice of cake (appetite), but I think about how bad that would be for my nutritional health (intellect) and decide, based on my abstract concern for my health, to forgo the cake (will). My will can override my appetites.

Because will follows on intellect, which is an immaterial power of abstract thought, will is free, in the sense that it is not determined by physical processes such as brain chemicals. Will is, of course, influenced by physical processes. If I'm really hungry and tired, I may decide to have that piece of cake anyway because my appetite has got the better of my compromised intellect. But I still chose to have the cake. My choice was not determined by chemistry, although it was influenced by chemistry.,,,

Will is metaphysically simple, in the sense that it has no parts that can separate completely from one another. In fact, unity of will is more or less what we take to define an individual person. If there are two distinct wills, there are two distinct people.

<https://mindmatters.ai/2019/04/alien-hand-syndrome-free-will/>

Tim O'Connor (Indiana University) provides an interpretation of Libet's neuroscientific research that is consistent with human freedom; he suggests that Libet experiments do not prove physical determinism. - video

<http://cct.biola.edu/resources/does-brain-science-disprove-freedom-part-2/>

The Mind is Immaterial: Evidence

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXVKxfZV1A8>

Sources:

1. High-yield neuroanatomy, James D. Fix, 3rd edition, Lippincot publishing
2. Neural basis of free-will: criterial causation, Peter Ulric Tse, MIT Press
3. Jaegwon Kim, Making sense of emergence, Philosophical studies, 1999
4. CAUSATION AT DIFFERENT LEVELS: Tracking the commitments of mechanistic explanations, Peter Fazekas
- 5 . Downward causation and the autonomy of weak emergence - MA Bedau - Principia, 2002
Correction: the lowest level in the system are cells which originate from the eyes then go to the lateral geniculate nucleus, and not cells which are found entirely in the eyes.

Pioneering Neuroscientist Wilder Penfield: Why Don't We Have Intellectual Seizures? - Michael Egnor - April 21, 2016

Excerpt: **Penfield began his career as a materialist, convinced that the mind was wholly a product of the brain. He finished his career as an emphatic dualist.**

During surgery, Penfield observed that patients had a variable but limited response to brain stimulation. Sometimes the stimulation would cause a seizure or evoke a sensation, a perception, movement of muscles, a memory, or even a vivid emotion. Yet Penfield noticed that brain stimulation never evoked abstract thought. He wrote:

"There is no area of gray matter, as far as my experience goes, in which local epileptic discharge brings to pass what could be called "mindaction"... there is no valid evidence that either epileptic discharge or electrical stimulation can activate the mind... If one stops to consider it, this is an arresting fact. The record of consciousness can be set in

motion, complicated though it is, by the electrode or by epileptic discharge. An illusion of interpretation can be produced in the same way. But none of the actions we attribute to the mind has been initiated by electrode stimulation or epileptic discharge. If there were a mechanism in the brain that could do what the mind does, one might expect that the mechanism would betray its presence in a convincing manner by some better evidence of epileptic or electrode activations."¹

Penfield noted that intellectual function -- abstract thought -- could only be switched off by brain stimulation or a seizure, but it could never be switched on in like manner. The brain was necessary for abstract thought, normally, but it was not sufficient for it.

Abstract thought was something other than merely a process of the brain.,,,

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2016/04/wilder_penfield102789.html

Nonlocal Consciousness: An Explanatory Model for the Near-Death Experience - Pim van Lommel, M.D. - video

<http://www.btc.org/consciousness/archive/2012/videos2012/vid1.html>

Dr. Patricia Churchland interview. Words fail me at this point.

Leading materialist neuroscientist Dr. Patricia Churchland Sandbagged by Near-Death Experience Questions (On Pim van Lommel) - Skeptiko - Alex Tsakiris - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7a6ZaivvCnE>

The Rediscovery Of Mind: Eben Alexander and Thomas Nagel - William Lane Craig - video

<http://www.reasonablefaith.org/the-rediscovery-of-mind-eben-alexander-and-thomas-nagel>

A Reply to Shermer: Medical Evidence for NDEs (Near Death Experiences) – Pim van Lommel

Excerpt: **For decades, extensive research has been done to localize memories inside the brain, so far without success.,,,,**

So we need a functioning brain to receive our consciousness into our waking consciousness. And as soon as the function of brain has been lost, like in clinical death or in brain death, with iso-electricity on the EEG, memories and consciousness do still exist, but the reception ability is lost. People can experience their consciousness outside their body, with the possibility of perception out and above their body, with identity, and with heightened awareness, attention, well-structured thought processes, memories and emotions. And they also can experience their consciousness in a dimension where past, present and future exist at the same moment, without time and space, and can be experienced as soon as attention has been directed to it (life review and preview), and even sometimes they come in contact with the “fields of consciousness” of deceased relatives. And later they can experience their conscious return into their body.

<https://vdocuments.site/a-reply-to-shermer-medical-evidence-for-ndes-by-pim-van-lommel.html>

The Mystery of Perception During Near Death Experiences - Pim van Lommel - video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avyUsPgluQ0>

What Neuroscientists Now Know About How Memories Are Born And Die

Where, Exactly Are Our Memories? - August 12, 2020

Excerpt: At one time, neuroscientists believed that there must be a “seat” of memory in the brain, something like a room with a door marked Memory. They settled on two structures called hippocampi, on either side of the brain’s base.,,,

But memories turned out to have no fixed address. Neuroscientist Matthew Cobb, author of "The Idea of the Brain", tells us,

"But the hippocampuses are not the site of memory storage. Rather, these brain regions are the encoders and the routes through which memory formation seems to pass. The memories that are processed by the hippocampuses seem to be distributed across distant regions of the brain."

- Matthew Cobb, “where Do Our Memories Live?” At The Scientist (May 1, 2020)

„ Cobb acknowledges,

,,, "Our brains might be like computers in terms of how they sometimes process information, but the way we store and recall our memories is completely different. We are not machines, nor are we like any machine we can currently envisage."

- Matthew Cobb, “where Do Our Memories Live?” At The Scientist (May 1, 2020)

<https://mindmatters.ai/2020/08/what-neuroscientists-now-know-about-how-memories-are-born-and-die/>

Recalling Nana’s Face: Does Your Brain Store Memories? – Michael Egnor – December 8, 2014

Excerpt: **The brain is a physical thing. A memory is a psychological thing. A psychological thing obviously can’t be “stored” in the same way a physical thing can. It’s not clear how the term “store” could even apply to a psychological thing.,,,**

The fact is that the brain doesn’t store memories, and can’t store memories.,,, The assertion that the brain stores memories is logical nonsense that doesn’t even rise to the level of empirical testability.

https://evolutionnews.org/2014/12/recalling_nanas/

Brains on Fire: Dr. Steven Novella Explains, "The Mind Is the Fire of the Brain" - Michael Egnor - December 18, 2014

Excerpt: **The difference between a memory and a representation of a memory is obvious. Right now I remember that I have an appointment at noon. I'm writing down "appointment at noon" on my calendar.**

My memory is my thought that I have an appointment at noon.

The representation of my memory is the written note on my calendar.

A thought differs from a note. A thought is something I experience; a note is something I write. My memory is a psychological thing. My note is a physical thing. My memory is represented in my note. My memory is not the same thing as my note. A memory is not the same thing as a representation of a memory.

I hope that's clear. I'm not sure how I can be clearer.

- Michael Egnor is a professor and vice chairman of the department of neurosurgery at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2014/12/brains_on_fire092151.html

March 2023 - Of related note to memories. Around the 20 minute mark of the following Near Death Experience documentary, the Life Review portion of the Near Death Experience is highlighted, with several testimonies relating how every word, thought, deed, and action, of a person's life (all the 'memories' from a person's life) is gone over in the presence of God: <https://uncommondescent.com/academic-freedom/lfp-67-so-called-critical-rationalism-and-he-bl-under-of-denying-defeat-able-warrant-for-knowledge/#comment-779075>

The Enigma of Memory: Beyond the Brain - 2024
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7seE0pA9om4>

Here is an excellent article which strongly supports the claim that memories are not stored in the brain.

HSAM Memory Whiz Subjects Scored 25 Times Higher on a Random Dates Test - **May 8, 2024**
Excerpt: We have in this paper proof of the claim that certain rare individuals have a dramatically superior ability to recall the past, an ability vastly better than the average person has. Cases such as these are evidence against claims that memory is mostly a neural phenomenon. If memory was mostly a neural phenomenon, we would expect that only vast differences in brains could produce vast differences in memory performance. But those with Highly Superior Autobiographical Memory have brains that do not substantially differ from those with ordinary memories. Read my post [here](#) for a discussion of two studies that attempted to show differences in the brains of those with Highly Superior Autobiographical Memory, but actually failed to show any major differences. The same post has a very interesting discussion of numerous memory marvels with recollection abilities as impressive as those with Highly Superior Autobiographical Memory.

The normal facts of human memory performance are sufficient to discredit claims that memory formation and memory recall are brain activities. There is not a neuroscientist who can credibly explain how a brain can store a detailed memory. Nothing known to neuroscientists can explain how learned information or experiences could be translated into brain states or synapse states. Neuroscientists claim that memories are stored in synapses, but we know that the proteins in synapses have average lifetimes of only a few weeks, 1000 times shorter than the maximum length of time that humans can remember things (more than 50 years). We know the kind of things (in products that humans manufacture) that make possible an instant retrieval of stored information: things such as sorting, addressing, indexing, and read/write heads. The human brain has no such things. Humans such as actors playing the role of Hamlet can recall large bodies of text with 100% accuracy, but such recall should be impossible using a brain in which each chemical synapse can only transmit a signal with 50% accuracy or less. Brains are [too slow, too noisy](#) and too unstable to be the source of human memory recall which can occur at blazing fast speeds with 100% accuracy.

Here are some relevant quotes:

- *"Direct evidence that synaptic plasticity is the actual cellular mechanism for human learning and memory is lacking."* -- 3 scientists, "[Synaptic plasticity in human cortical circuits: cellular mechanisms of learning and memory in the human brain?](#)"
- *"The fundamental problem is that we don't really know where or how thoughts are stored in the brain. We can't read thoughts if we don't understand the neuroscience behind them."* -- [Juan Alvaro Gallego](#), neuroscientist.
- *"The search for the neuroanatomical locus of semantic memory has simultaneously led us*

nowhere and everywhere. There is no compelling evidence that any one brain region plays a dedicated and privileged role in the representation or retrieval of all sorts of semantic knowledge." Psychologist Sharon L. Thompson-Schill, "[Neuroimaging studies of semantic memory: inferring 'how' from 'where'](#)".

- "How the brain stores and retrieves memories is an important unsolved problem in neuroscience." --Achint Kumar, "[A Model For Hierarchical Memory Storage in Piriform Cortex](#)."
- "We are still far from identifying the 'double helix' of memory—if one even exists. We do not have a clear idea of how long-term, specific information may be stored in the brain, into separate engrams that can be reactivated when relevant." -- Two scientists, "[Understanding the physical basis of memory: Molecular mechanisms of the engram](#)."
- "There is no chain of reasonable inferences by means of which our present, albeit highly imperfect, view of the functional organization of the brain can be reconciled with the possibility of its acquiring, storing and retrieving nervous information by encoding such information in molecules of nucleic acid or protein." -- Molecular geneticist G. S. Stent, quoted in the paper [here](#).
- "Up to this point, we still don't understand how we maintain memories in our brains for up to our entire lifetimes." --neuroscientist [Sakina Palida](#).
- "The available evidence makes it extremely unlikely that synapses are the site of long-term memory storage for representational content (i.e., memory for 'facts' about quantities like space, time, and number)." --Samuel J. Gershman, "[The molecular memory code and synaptic plasticity: A synthesis](#)."
- "Synapses are signal conductors, not symbols. They do not stand for anything. They convey information bearing signals between neurons, but they do not themselves convey information forward in time, as does, for example, a gene or a register in computer memory. No specifiable fact about the animal's experience can be read off from the synapses that have been altered by that experience." -- Two scientists, "[Locating the engram: Should we look for plastic synapses or information- storing molecules?](#)"
- "If I wanted to transfer my memories into a machine, I would need to know what my memories are made of. But nobody knows." -- neuroscientist Guillaume Thierry ([link](#)).
- "Memory retrieval is even more mysterious than storage. When I ask if you know Alex Ritchie, the answer is immediately obvious to you, and there is no good theory to explain how memory retrieval can happen so quickly." -- Neuroscientist [David Eagleman](#).
- "How could that encoded information be retrieved and transcribed from the enduring structure into the transient signals that carry that same information to the computational machinery that acts on the information?....In the voluminous contemporary literature on the neurobiology of memory, there is no discussion of these questions." --- Neuroscientists C. R. Gallistel and Adam Philip King, "Memory and the Computational Brain: Why Cognitive Science Will Transform Neuroscience," [preface](#).
- "The very first thing that any computer scientist would want to know about a computer is how it writes to memory and reads from memory....Yet we do not really know how this most foundational element of computation is implemented in the brain." -- Noam Chomsky and Robert C. Berwick, "Why Only Us? Language and Evolution," [page 50](#).
- "When we are looking for a mechanism that implements a read/write memory in the nervous system, looking at synaptic strength and connectivity patterns might be misleading for many reasons...Tentative evidence for the (classical) cognitive scientists' reservations toward the synapse as the locus of memory in the brain has accumulated....Changes in synaptic strength are not directly related to storage of new information in memory....The rate of synaptic turnover in absence of learning is actually so high that the newly formed connections (which supposedly encode the new memory) will have vanished in due time. It is worth noticing that these findings

actually are to be expected when considering that synapses are made of proteins which are generally known to have a short lifetime...Synapses have been found to be constantly turning over in all parts of cortex that have been examined using two-photon microscopy so far...**The synapse is probably an ill fit when looking for a basic memory mechanism in the nervous system.**" -- Scientist Patrick C. Trettenbrein, "The Demise of the Synapse As the Locus of Memory: A Looming Paradigm Shift? ([link](#)).

- "Most neuroscientists believe that memories are encoded by changing the strength of synaptic connections between neurons....Nevertheless, the question of whether memories are stored locally at synapses remains a point of contention. Some cognitive neuroscientists have argued that for the brain to work as a computational device, it must have the equivalent of a read/write memory and the synapse is far too complex to serve this purpose ([Gaallistel and King, 2009](#); [Trettenbrein, 2016](#)). While it is conceptually simple for computers to store synaptic weights digitally using their read/write capabilities during deep learning, **for biological systems no realistic biological mechanism has yet been proposed, or in my opinion could be envisioned, that would decode symbolic information in a series of molecular switches ([Gaallistel and King, 2009](#)) and then transform this information into specific synaptic weights.**" -- Neuroscientist Wayne S. Sossin ([link](#)).
- "We take up the question that will have been pressing on the minds of many readers ever since it became clear that **we are profoundly skeptical about the hypothesis that the physical basis of memory is some form of synaptic plasticity, the only hypothesis that has ever been seriously considered by the neuroscience community.** The obvious question is: Well, if it's not synaptic plasticity, what is it? Here, we refuse to be drawn. **We do not think we know what the mechanism of an addressable read/write memory is, and we have no faith in our ability to conjecture a correct answer.**" -- Neuroscientists C. R. Gallistel and Adam Philip King, "Memory and the Computational Brain Why Cognitive Science Will Transform Neuroscience." [page Xvi \(preface\)](#).
- "Current theories of synaptic plasticity and network activity cannot explain learning, memory, and cognition." -- Neuroscientist Hessameddin Akhlaghpour ([link](#)).
- "We don't know how the brain stores anything, let alone words." -- Scientists David Poeppel and, William Idsardi, 2022 ([link](#)).
- "If we believe that memories are made of patterns of synaptic connections sculpted by experience, and if we know, behaviorally, that motor memories last a lifetime, then how can we explain the fact that individual synaptic spines are constantly turning over and that aggregate synaptic strengths are constantly fluctuating? How can the memories outlast their putative constitutive components?" --Neuroscientists Emilio Bizzi and Robert Ajemian ([link](#)).
- "After more than 70 years of research efforts by cognitive psychologists and neuroscientists, the question of where memory information is stored in the brain remains unresolved." -- Psychologist James Tee and engineering expert Desmond P. Taylor, "[Where Is Memory Information Stored in the Brain?](#)"
- "There is no such thing as encoding a perception...There is no such thing as a neural code...Nothing that one might find in the brain could possibly be a representation of the fact that one was told that Hastings was fought in 1066." -- M. R. Bennett, Professor of Physiology at the University of Sydney ([link](#)).
- "No sense has been given to the idea of encoding or representing factual information in the neurons and synapses of the brain." -- M. R. Bennett, Professor of Physiology at the University of Sydney ([link](#)).
- "We have still not discovered the physical basis of memory, despite more than a century of efforts by many leading figures. Researchers searching for the physical basis of memory are looking for

the wrong thing (the associative bond) in the wrong place (the synaptic junction), guided by an erroneous conception of what memory is and the role it plays in computation." --Neuroscientist C.R. Gallistel, "[The Physical Basis of Memory](#)," 2021.

- "To name but a few examples, **the formation of memories and the basis of conscious perception, crossing the threshold of awareness**, the interplay of electrical and molecular-biochemical mechanisms of signal transduction at synapses, the role of glial cells in signal transduction and metabolism, the role of different brain states in the life-long reorganization of the synaptic structure **or the mechanism of how cell assemblies generate a concrete cognitive function are all important processes that remain to be characterized.**" -- "The coming decade of digital brain research, a 2023 [paper](#) co-authored by more than 100 neuroscientists, one confessing scientists don't understand how a brain could store memories.
- "The human brain isn't really empty, of course. But it does not contain most of the things people think it does – not even simple things such as 'memories'.... We don't create **representations** of visual stimuli, **store** them in a short-term memory buffer, and then **transfer** the representation into a long-term memory device. We don't **retrieve** information or images or words from memory registers. Computers do all of these things, but organisms do not." -- Robert Epstein, senior research psychologist, "[The Empty Brain](#)."

Every additional piece of evidence establishing extraordinary human memory abilities is an additional nail in the coffin of the doctrine that brains store memories. Given a brain lacking any of the characteristics that would be required to allow the best examples of human memory performance, the credibility of the claim that brains store memories is inversely proportional to the highest observed speed, accuracy, duration and depth of human memory performance. The longer humans can remember things and the more they can remember and the more quickly they can remember and the more quickly they can form new memories, the less credible are claims of brain memory creation and storage.

<https://headtruth.blogspot.com/2024/05/hsam-memory-whiz-subjects-scored-25.html>

Non-local Consciousness: A Concept Based on Scientific Research on Near-Death Experiences During Cardiac Arrest - Pim van Lommel - 2013

Excerpt: Since the publication of several prospective studies on NDEs in survivors of cardiac arrest, with strikingly similar results and conclusions, the phenomenon of the NDE can no longer be scientifically ignored.,,,

The NDE is an authentic experience which cannot be simply reduced to imagination, fear of death, hallucination, psychosis, the use of drugs, or oxygen deficiency.,,,

There are good reasons to assume that our consciousness does not always coincide with the functioning of our brain: enhanced or non-local consciousness can sometimes be experienced separately from the body.,,,

<https://pimvanlommel.nl/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Pim-van-Lommel-Nonlocal-Consciousness-article-JCS-2013.pdf>

Dr Pim Van Lommel's scientific studies on near-death experiences and consciousness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J8scc2YbXUk>

Dr. Ed Feser - The Immateriality of the Intellect - video

Excerpt:

1: Formal thought processes can have an exact or unambiguous conceptual content.

However,

2: Nothing material can have an exact or unambiguous conceptual content.

So,

3: Formal thought processes are not material.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fNi0j19ZSpo>

Although matter can represent information, it is clear that it is impossible for matter to actually be the information that it represents. This distinction between the representation of information and the actuality of information is made all the more clear by the abject failure of unguided material processes to ever generate information. i.e. Immaterial Information, although it can be represented by material particles, simply can never be completely reduced to material particles. Thus, since memories at their most essential nature are immaterial information, then it is impossible for material brain states to ever actually be the memories that they represent to a mind.

Intelligence is in the genes, but where? - October 2, 2012

Excerpt: **You can thank your parents for your smarts—or at least some of them.**

Psychologists have long known that intelligence, like most other traits, is partly genetic.

But a new study led by psychological scientist Christopher Chabris reveals the surprising fact that most of the specific genes long thought to be linked to intelligence probably have no bearing on one's IQ. And it may be some time before researchers can identify intelligence's specific genetic roots.

<http://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-10-intelligence-genes.html#jCp>

And though it is not possible to localize memories (information) inside the brain (or intelligence in the genes), it is interesting to note how extremely complex the brain is in its ability to manipulate information:

Boggle Your Brain - November 2010

Excerpt: **One synapse, by itself, is more like a microprocessor--with both memory-storage and information-processing elements--than a mere on/off switch. In fact, one synapse may contain on the order of 1,000 molecular-scale switches. A single human brain has more switches than all the computers and routers and Internet connections on Earth.**

<http://www.creationsafaris.com/crev201011.htm#20101119a>

Modular Biological Complexity - Christof Koch - August 2012

Summary: **It has been argued that the technological capability to fully simulate the human brain on digital computers will exist within a decade. This is taken to imply that we will comprehend its functioning, eliminate all diseases, and “upload” ourselves to computers (1). Although such predictions excite the imagination, they are not based on a sound assessment of the complexity of living systems. Such systems are characterized by large numbers of highly heterogeneous components, be they genes, proteins, or cells. These components interact causally in myriad ways across a very large spectrum of space-time, from nanometers to meters and from microseconds to years. A complete**

understanding of these systems demands that a large fraction of these interactions be experimentally or computationally probed. This is very difficult.,,,

This is bad news. Consider a neuronal synapse -- the presynaptic terminal has an estimated 1000 distinct proteins. Fully analyzing their possible interactions would take about 2000 years. Or consider the task of fully characterizing the visual cortex of the mouse -- about 2 million neurons. Under the extreme assumption that the neurons in these systems can all interact with each other, analyzing the various combinations will take about 10 million years..., even though it is assumed that the underlying technology (in computers used to try to understand the biological interactions) speeds up by an order of magnitude each year. ,,,

Improved technologies for observing and probing biological systems has only led to discoveries of further levels of complexity that need to be dealt with. This process has not yet run its course. We are far away from understanding cell biology, genomes, or brains, and turning this understanding into practical knowledge.

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/337/6094/531.summary>

This following experiment is really interesting:

Correlations of Random Binary Sequences with Pre-Stated Operator Intention: A Review of a 12-Year Program - 1997

Abstract: **Strong correlations between output distribution means of a variety of random binary processes and pre-stated intentions of some 100 individual human operators have been established over a 12-year experimental program. More than 1000 experimental series, employing four different categories of random devices and several distinctive protocols, show comparable magnitudes of anomalous mean shifts from chance expectation, with similar distribution structures. Although the absolute effect sizes are quite small, of the order of 10–4 bits deviation per bit processed, over the huge databases accumulated the composite effect exceeds 7σ ($p \approx 3.5 \times 10^{-13}$). These data display significant disparities between female and male operator performances, and consistent serial position effects in individual and collective results. Data generated by operators far removed from the machines and exerting their efforts at times other than those of machine operation show similar effect sizes and structural details to those of the local, on-time experiments. Most other secondary parameters tested are found to have little effect on the scale and character of the results, with one important exception: studies performed using fully deterministic pseudorandom sources, either hard-wired or algorithmic, yield null overall mean shifts, and display no other anomalous feature.**

<http://www.princeton.edu/~pear/pdfs/1997-correlations-random-binary-sequences-12-year-review.pdf>

Dean Radin - Random Number Generators correlate to intention - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tFULrlxTFsA>

Random Number Generator-GCP - video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_w4wCWx3n1I

Mind Effects Matter - Perturbed Randomness Following Worldwide crisis - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KE1haKXoHMo>

Mass Consciousness: Perturbed Randomness Before First Plane Struck on 911 - July 29 2012

Excerpt: **The machine apparently sensed the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Centre four hours before they happened - but in the fevered mood of conspiracy theories of the time, the claims were swiftly knocked back by sceptics. But it also appeared to forewarn of the Asian tsunami just before the deep sea earthquake that precipitated the epic tragedy.,,**

Now, even the doubters are acknowledging that here is a small box with apparently inexplicable powers. 'It's Earth-shattering stuff,' says Dr Roger Nelson, emeritus researcher at Princeton University in the United States, who is heading the research project behind the 'black box' phenomenon.

http://www.redorbit.com/news/science/126649/can_this_black_box_see_into_the_future/

Here are some of the papers to go with the preceding video and article;

Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research - Scientific Study of Consciousness-Related Physical Phenomena - publications

<http://www.princeton.edu/~pear/publications.html>

The Global Consciousness Project - Meaningful Correlations in Random Data

<http://teilhard.global-mind.org/>

For me, not being a math guy, empirical evidence trumps everything else. The Data section of GCP (Global Consciousness Project) provides access to the empirical results including, for me, the highly significant bottom line.

Formal Results: Testing the GCP Hypothesis

<http://teilhard.global-mind.org/>

Dean Radin defends the 'mathematical' integrity of his work here:

Dr. Dean Radin And Dr. Roger Nelson Respond to Global Consciousness Project Criticisms

<http://www.skeptiko.com/74-radin-nelson-global-consciousness/>

Roger Nelson and Dean Radin Defend 9/11 Global Consciousness Claims

<http://mindpowermasters.blogspot.com/2009/06/roger-nelson-and-dean-radin-defend-911.html>

I once asked a evolutionist, after showing him the preceding experiments, "Since you ultimately

believe that the 'god of random chance' produced everything we see around us, what in blue blazes is my mind doing pushing your 'god of randomness' around?"

Here are a couple of defenses of the PEAR research by Dean Radin:

Getting the Facts Straight: Dean Radin Responds to a Skeptic's Conviction by Dean Radin, PhD
- Feb. 2011

Excerpt: Even Jeffers, who Alcock cites to suggest that the PEAR RNG work could not be replicated, was later involved in a successful RNG experiment.

<http://www.noetic.org/noetic/issue-7-february/getting-the-facts-straight-dean-radin-responds-to/>

Skeptic agrees that remote viewing is proven - Dean Radin - Monday, September 14, 2009

<http://deanradin.blogspot.com/2009/09/skeptic-agrees-that-remote-viewing-is.html>

A little known fact, a fact that is very antagonistic to the genetic reductionism model of neo-Darwinism, is that, besides environmental factors, even our thoughts and feelings can 'epigenetically' control the gene expression of our bodies:

New Complexity in DNA Regulation - Jon Lieff M.D. - June 26, 2017

Excerpt: **Perhaps the most unusual aspect of all of this are the findings of how mental events trigger vast genetic changes. Human thought instantly alters large circuits of neurons (see post of neuroplasticity). This occurs through a wide variety of different neuroplasticity mechanisms by triggering specific gene networks and the creation of different complex machinery protein in each different brain region. Perceptions of loneliness are very significant triggers of gene networks in immune cells causing more inflammation—130 anti inflammatory genes have been shown to lack function and 80 pro inflammatory genes were very active.,,,**

<http://jonlieffmd.com/blog/new-complexity-in-dna-regulation>

Genie In Your Genes - video

<http://www.genieinyourgenes.com/ggtrailer.html>

main website

excerpt: There are over 100 genes in your body that are activated by your thoughts, feelings and experiences

<http://www.genieinyourgenes.com/>

Genie In Your Genes - Book

Book review: **First of all, if you are a newcomer to Dawson Church's writing, you need to know that his facts are unimpeachable - they were stringently peer-reviewed before publication. What is more, when Church makes categorical statements, he provides research to corroborate them.**

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1604150114?ie=UTF8&tag=eliboo-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=1600700225>

Upgrade Your Brain

Excerpt: **The Research;** In his book **The Genie in Your Genes** (Elite Books, 2009), researcher **Dawson Church, PhD**, explains the relationship between thought and belief patterns and the expression of healing- or disease-related genes. “Your body reads your mind,” Church says. “Science is discovering that while we may have a fixed set of genes in our chromosomes, which of those genes is active has a great deal to do with our subjective experiences, and how we process them.”

One recent study conducted at Ohio University demonstrates vividly the effect of mental stress on healing. Researchers gave married couples small suction blisters on their skin, after which they were instructed to discuss either a neutral topic or a topic of dispute for half an hour. Researchers then monitored the production of three wound-repair proteins in the subjects’ bodies for the next several weeks, and found that the blisters healed 40 percent slower in those who’d had especially sarcastic, argumentative conversations than those who’d had neutral ones.

<http://experiencelife.com/article/upgrade-your-brain/>

How those marital rows can be bad for your health by JENNY HOPE – December 2005

Excerpt: **Married couples who constantly argue risk damaging their health, according to a study.**

It found that marital rows can prolong the time it takes the body to heal itself after an injury.

One argument alone can slow this process by a day.

And the study claims that when married couples feel consistently hostile towards one another, the delay in the healing process can be doubled.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-370708/How-marital-rows-bad-health.html>

I was very surprised to learn that the negative mental states of stress, anxiety, and even ‘loathing’, have been shown to have a detrimental effect upon one's health:

Anxiety May Shorten Your Cell Life - July 12, 2012

Excerpt: **These studies had the advantage of large data sets involving thousands of participants.**

If the correlations remain robust in similar studies, it would indicate that mental states and lifestyle choices can produce epigenetic effects on our genes.

<http://crev.info/2012/07/anxiety-may-shorten-your-cell-life/>

“You don’t have a soul. You are a soul. You have a body.”

George MacDonald - Annals of a Quiet Neighborhood - 1892

Study shows clear new evidence for mind-body connection -

Mindfulness-based cancer recovery - Nov. 3, 2014

Excerpt: **A group,, has demonstrated that telomeres – protein complexes at the end of**

chromosomes – maintain their length in breast cancer survivors who practise meditation or are involved in support groups, while they shorten in a comparison group without any intervention.

Although the disease-regulating properties of telomeres aren't fully understood, shortened telomeres are associated with several disease states, as well as cell aging, while longer telomeres are thought to be protective against disease.

"We already know that psychosocial interventions like mindfulness meditation will help you feel better mentally, but now for the first time we have evidence that they can also influence key aspects of your biology,"

<http://m.medicalxpress.com/news/2014-11-evidence-mind-body.html>

Mindfulness-based cancer recovery and supportive-expressive therapy maintain telomere length relative to controls in distressed breast cancer survivors - Nov. 3, 2014

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cnrc.29063/full>

Is mindfulness meditation good medicine? - August 18, 2014

Excerpt: In a 2010 meta-analysis (quantitative review), psychologist Stefan Hofmann of Boston University and his colleagues examined studies that tested both forms of mindfulness meditation as a remedy for anxiety disorders and depression. They found that the meditation sessions led to significant improvements in both conditions immediately after therapy, as well as approximately three months later,, a 2013 meta-analysis partly backs up the 2010 assessment. In that review, psychologist Bassam Khoury, then at the University of Montreal, and his colleagues found that both types of mindfulness-based therapies were effective for depression and anxiety disorders,

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/neuroscience/is-mindfulness-meditation-good-medicine/>

Scientists Finally Show How Your Thoughts Can Cause Specific Molecular Changes To Your Genes, - December 10, 2013

Excerpt: "To the best of our knowledge, this is the first paper that shows rapid alterations in gene expression within subjects associated with mindfulness meditation practice," says study author Richard J. Davidson, founder of the Center for Investigating Healthy Minds and the William James and Vilas Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"Most interestingly, the changes were observed in genes that are the current targets of anti-inflammatory and analgesic drugs," says Perla Kaliman, first author of the article and a researcher at the Institute of Biomedical Research of Barcelona, Spain (IIBB-CSIC-IDIBAPS), where the molecular analyses were conducted.,,, the researchers say, there was no difference in the tested genes between the two groups of people at the start of the study. The observed effects were seen only in the meditators following mindfulness practice. In addition, several other DNA-modifying genes showed no differences between groups, suggesting that the mindfulness practice specifically affected certain regulatory pathways.

<http://www.tunedbody.com/scientists-finally-show-thoughts-can-cause-specific-molecular-chang>

[es-genes/](#)

The Unknown Link Between Your Brain and Your Immune System - June 1, 2015

Excerpt: **"In a stunning discovery that overturns decades of textbook teaching, researchers have determined that the brain is directly connected to the immune system by vessels previously thought not to exist.**

That such vessels could have escaped detection when the lymphatic system has been so thoroughly mapped throughout the body is surprising...

"The first time these guys showed me the basic result, I just said one sentence: 'They'll have to change the textbooks.' There has never been a lymphatic system for the central nervous system, and it was very clear...that it will fundamentally change the way people look at the central nervous system's relationship with the immune system."

Even Kipnis was skeptical initially. "I really did not believe there are structures in the body that we are not aware of. I thought the body was mapped," he said. "I thought that these discoveries ended somewhere around the middle of the last century."...

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/06/150601122445.html>

Controlling genes with your thoughts - November 11, 2014

Excerpt: "For the first time, we have been able to tap into human brainwaves, transfer them wirelessly to a gene network and regulate the expression of a gene depending on the type of thought. Being able to control gene expression via the power of thought is a dream that we've been chasing for over a decade," says Fussenegger.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/11/141111111317.htm>

Networks of Genes Respond to Social Experiences - October 13, 2013

Excerpt: **It is extremely surprising how networks of hundreds of genes respond immediately to human interactions and thoughts, despite the fact that actions of humans are eight orders of magnitude larger than molecular genetic events. But, it is, perhaps, more remarkable that networks of genes respond rapidly to social experiences. Previous posts have discussed the immediate neuroplasticity that occurs in widespread circuits with very complex detailed genetic production of new proteins, including motors, tubules, receptors, and neurotransmitters. The immune system does the same with cytokines, receptors, and antibodies.**

It is subjective mind and perception that changes genes, not just external situations.

<http://jonlieffmd.com/blog/networks-of-genes-respond-to-social-experiences>

Negative Thoughts Linked to Physical Health Issues - Dr. Caroline Leaf - (Part 1 of 3) - video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYgr1rTEf_w

"A study done by Positive Psychology further elaborates on the effects of using positive words. A group of adults aged 35-54 were given a nightly task of writing down three things that went well for them that day, including an explanation of why. The following three months showed their

degrees of happiness continued to rise, and their feelings of depression continued to decline. By focusing and reflecting on positive ideas and emotions, we can improve our overall well-being and increase functionality of our brain."

<http://thespiritscience.net/2016/05/18/speak-with-love-how-your-words-literally-restructure-your-brain/>

The Healing Power of Positive Words By Linda Wasmer Andrews - Jun 08, 2012

Excerpt: **When researchers analyzed the autobiographies of famous deceased psychologists, they found that those who used lots of active positive words (such as lively, enthusiastic, happy) tended to outlive their other colleagues.**

Within this category of words, the biggest boost came from humor-related terms (such as laugh, funny, giggle), which were associated with living six years longer, on average. In contrast, passive positive words (such as peaceful, calm, relaxed) and negative words (such as worried, angry, lonely) didn't affect longevity.

<http://health.yahoo.net/experts/allinyourmind/health-power-positive-words>

The Scary Power of Negative Words

Excerpt: Japanese scientist, Masaru Emoto performed some of the most fascinating experiments on the effect that words have on energy in the 1990's. When frozen, water that's free from all impurities will form beautiful ice crystals that look exactly like snowflakes under a microscope. Water that's polluted, or has additives like fluoride, will freeze without forming crystals. In his experiments, Emoto poured pure water into vials labeled with negative phrases like "*I hate you*" or "*fear*." After 24 hours, the water was frozen, and no longer crystallized under the microscope: It yielded gray, misshapen clumps instead of beautiful lace-like crystals. In contrast, Emoto placed labels that said things like "*I Love You*," or "*Peace*" on vials of polluted water, and after 24 hours, they produced gleaming, perfectly hexagonal crystals. Emoto's experiments proved that energy generated by positive or negative words can actually change the physical structure of an object.

<http://goop.com/the-scary-power-of-negative-words/>

Whereas conversely, it is found that the positive mental state of happiness, love, caring, and nurturing, have a pronounced positive effect on health,,

The health benefits of happiness - Mark Easton - 2006

Excerpt: **"It's not just that if you're physically well you're likely to be happy but actually the opposite way round," said Dr Cox.**

(Extensive studies show that) "If you are happy you are (much more) likely in the future to have less in the way of physical illness than those who are unhappy".

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/happiness_formula/4924180.stm

Proverbs 17:22

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

Are Religious People Happier Than Atheists? - 2000

Excerpt: **there does indeed appear to be a link between religion and happiness. Several studies have been done, but to give an example, one study found that the more frequently people attended religious events, the happier they were; 47% of people who attended several times a week reported that they were 'very happy', as opposed to 28% who attended less than monthly.**

<http://generallythinking.com/are-religious-people-happier-than-atheists/>

Atheism and health

Excerpt: **A meta-analysis of all studies, both published and unpublished, relating to religious involvement and longevity was carried out in 2000. Forty-two studies were included, involving some 126,000 subjects. Active religious involvement increased the chance of living longer by some 29%, and participation in public religious practices, such as church attendance, increased the chance of living longer by 43%.**[4][5]

http://www.conservapedia.com/Atheism_and_health

ABC News - The Science Behind the Healing Power of Love - video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6t1p-PwGgE4>

The Secret to Living Longer may be Socialization - TED video

https://www.ted.com/talks/susan_pinker_the_secret_to_living_longer_may_be_your_social_life/transcript?language=en

Social isolation and its health implications January 2012

Excerpt: **Studies show that social isolation and/or loneliness predict morbidity and mortality from cancer, cardiovascular disease, and a host of other diseases. In fact, the body perceives loneliness as a threat. Research from the University of California suggests that loneliness or lack of social support could triple the odds of being diagnosed with a heart condition. Redford Williams and his colleagues at Duke University directed a study in 1992 on heart patients and their relationships. They discovered that 50% of patients with heart disease who did not have a spouse or someone to confide in died within five years, while only 17% of those who did have a confidante died in the same time period.**¹²

<http://www.how-to-be-healthy.org/social-isolation-and-its-health-implications/>

What Makes a Good (long) Life? Lessons from the Longest Study on Happiness | Robert Waldinger | TED Talks (Good Relationships lead to long life) - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KkKuTCFvzI>

Humans prefer an electric shock to being left alone with their thoughts – July 4, 2014

Excerpt: **So the researchers decided to give each participant the option of doing something else, besides just thinking. But what they came up with wasn't exactly**

pleasant because, instead of just sitting there, participants were now also allowed to shock themselves as many times as they liked with a device containing a 9 volt battery. Still, for many, that option seemed like a better deal.

<http://www.theverge.com/2014/7/4/5870573/rather-electrocute-ourselves-than-be-alone-with-thoughts>

Human brains are hardwired for empathy, friendship, study shows, - August 22, 2013

Excerpt: **"Perhaps one of the most defining features of humanity is our capacity for empathy – the ability to put ourselves in others' shoes. A new University of Virginia study strongly suggests that we are hardwired to empathize because we closely associate people who are close to us – friends, spouses, lovers – with our very selves. "With familiarity, other people become part of ourselves," said James Coan, a U.Va. psychology professor in the College of Arts & Sciences who used functional magnetic resonance imaging brain scans to find that people closely correlate people to whom they are attached to themselves. ... "Our self comes to include the people we feel close to," Coan said. ... "The finding shows the brain's remarkable capacity to model self to others; that people close to us become a part of ourselves, and that is not just metaphor or poetry, it's very real."**

<http://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-08-human-brains-hardwired-empathy-friendship.html>

Moreover the positive effect of a caring attitude is found to work both ways, in that not only does the person receiving loving care from another person heal more quickly, but it is also found that people of a happy, charitable, loving, nature also receive the tangible benefits of a longer and healthier life in return:

Study finds it actually is better (and healthier) to give than to receive – February 4, 2013

Excerpt: **A five-year study by researchers at three universities has established that providing tangible assistance to others protects our health and lengthens our lives.**

<http://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-02-healthier.html>

Perhaps this tangible effect of love on health goes a long way towards explaining why women, who, IMHO, are generally more loving and caring than men are, live on average five to 10 years longer than men do. Of course from a Theistic perspective this tangible effect of love is to be expected, whereas from a materialistic perspective, well to put it mildly, from a materialistic perspective of survival of the fittest, dog eat dog, it is very counter intuitive:

Verse and music:

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast

but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.,,,

For King & Country "The Proof Of Your Love" - Live Music

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pr9YVD05x8M>

“Our Job On Earth Is Important; Our Worth Is How Much We Can Love”

Near-Death Experiencer – Heather V

“I know, that whomever is reading this, you are deeply loved. Your life is deeply important to God. God is greater than anything you could ever even fathom — too great for me to even experience. I just felt the presence of God and His love. You, my dear person reading this, are important. Your life is critical. The love you have inside you is beautiful and brilliant and it is needed on this Earth. You can change this world with your love, which is entirely particular to you only. You have your own song.”

– NDEs & The Purpose Of Life

<https://the-formula.org/ndes-the-purpose-of-life/>

March 2020

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/pass-me-a-corona/#comment-695447>

Further notes:

Memory transference in organ transplant recipients

Excerpt: Case 3: murder mystery involving donor is solved by an organ recipient

An eight year-old girl, who received the heart of a murdered ten year-old girl, began having recurring vivid nightmares about the murder. Her mother arranged a consultation with a psychiatrist who after several sessions concluded that she was witnessing actual physical incidents. They decided to call the police who used the detailed descriptions of the murder (the time, the weapon, the place, the clothes he wore, what the little girl he killed had said to him) given by the little girl to find and convict the man in question (2).

Case 4: the gender transplant

The donor was a 19 year-old woman killed in an automobile accident. The recipient was a 29 year-old woman diagnosed with cardiomyopathy secondary to endocarditis.

The donor's mother reported:

“My Sara was the most loving girl. She owned and operated her own health food restaurant and scolded me constantly about not being a vegetarian. She was a great kid — wild, but great. She was into the free-love thing and had a different man in her life every few months. She was man-crazy when she was a little girl and it never stopped. She was able to write some notes to me when she was dying. She was so out of it, but she kept saying how she could feel the impact of the car hitting them. She said she could feel it going through her body.”

The recipient reported:

"You can tell people about this if you want to, but it will make you sound crazy. When I got my new heart, two things happened to me. First, almost every night, and still sometimes now, I actually feel the accident my donor had. I can feel the impact in my chest. It slams into me, but my doctor said everything looks fine. Also, I hate meat now. I can't stand it. I was McDonald's biggest money-maker, and now meat makes me throw up. Actually, whenever I smell it, my heart starts to race. But that's not the big deal. My doctor said that's just due to my medicines. I couldn't tell him, but what really bothers me is that I'm engaged to be married now. He's a great guy and we love each other. The sex is terrific. The problem is, I'm gay. At least, I thought I was. After my transplant, I'm not... I don't think, anyway...I'm sort of semi- or confused gay. Women still seem attractive to me, but my boyfriend turns me on; women don't. I have absolutely no desire to be with a woman. I think I got a gender transplant."

The recipient's brother reported:

"Susie's straight now. I mean it seriously. She was gay and now her new heart made her straight. She threw out all her books and stuff about gay politics and never talks about it anymore. She was really militant about it before. She holds hands and cuddles with Steven just like my girlfriend does with me. She talks girl-talk with my girlfriend, where before she would be lecturing about the evils of sexist men. And my sister, the queen of the 'Big Mac', hates meat. She won't even have it in the house (3).

<http://www.namahjournal.com/doc/Actual/Memory-transference-in-organ-transplant-recipients-volume-19-iss-1.html>

This following video humorously reveals the bankruptcy that atheists have in trying to ground beliefs within a materialistic, genetic reductionism, worldview;

John Cleese – The Scientists – humorous video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-M-vnmejwXo>

There's a Gene for That...Or Is There? - Denyse O'Leary - November 24, 2014

Excerpt: Thus we have heard about not only a "bad driver" gene, but a fat gene, "friends" gene, generosity gene, happiness gene, infidelity gene, liberal gene, pedophilia gene, psychopath gene, religion gene, "smother mother" gene, suicide gene, and violent media consumption gene, for starters.

One researcher offers a model for a "religiosity" gene, warning that if such people reproduce, "the religiosity gene will eventually predominate despite a high rate of defection." ,,,

British geneticist Steve Jones points out that most human traits are influenced by so many genes that there is no likely systematic cause and effect:

"We know of more than 50 different genes associated with height ... That has not percolated into the public mind, as the Google search for "scientists find the gene for" shows. The three letter word for -- the gene FOR something -- is the most dangerous word in genetics." ,,,

Similarly, on the controversial subject of genetics and intelligence (the "genius gene"), scientists used to estimate that about half a dozen genes affected it, then later upped the number to two hundred genes. Another estimate is about a thousand. One psychologist explained, "We can't

find the effects of any individual genes that are large enough to seem worth worrying about."

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2014/11/theres_gene_for091421.html

around the 23:00 minute mark of the following video, several experiments are discussed that highlight the fact that some animals (such as dogs, cats, and birds) have a transcendent component to their being. A transcendent component that is able to sense, while the owner is away from the pet, what the owner's intentions are for the pet. (of note: reptile pets demonstrated no such transcendent connection to their owners).

The Extended Mind - Scientific Evidence - Rupert Sheldrake - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnA8GUtXpXY>

Here is a fairly vivid example that makes this point clear:

Jaytee: A dog who knew when his owner was coming home - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aA5wAm2c01w>

<https://vimeo.com/81150973>

Book:

Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home:

<http://www.amazon.com/Dogs-That-Their-Owners-Coming/dp/0307885968>

Richard Wiseman's failed attempt to debunk the (Rupert Sheldrake's) "psychic pet" phenomenon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkrLJhBC3X4>

In fact, Sheldrake, in the spirit of full disclosure, talks of a internet site that he has set up especially for skeptics (or whomever) so they could perform the experiments for themselves at home (or at school):

Here is the online test site:

Online Tests

Excerpt: **Rupert Sheldrake invites you to participate in his ongoing research. No previous experience is necessary, and the online tests can be done immediately. Most of these experiments are suitable for use in schools and colleges, and some make an excellent basis for student projects.**

<http://www.sheldrake.org/participate>

Here is a simple test that would be fairly easy to conduct at home with some friends:

Telephone telepathy with the Nolan Sisters - video

<http://www.boreme.com/posting.php?id=22013>

Sense of Being Stared At

<http://www.sheldrake.org/research/sense-of-being-stared-at>

The Sense of Being Stared At - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJkXIZJfyRw>

The Sense of Being Stared At - Part 1: Is it Real or Illusory? - Rupert Sheldrake

<http://www.sheldrake.org/files/pdfs/papers/JCSpaper1.pdf>

Sheldrake and His Critics: The Sense of Being Glared At

Excerpt: Rupert summarizes his case for the 'non-visual detection of staring'. His claims are scrutinised by fourteen critics, to whom Rupert then responds. Anthony Freeman, in his editorial introduction, explores the concept of "heresy" in science and in religion and asks why it provokes such hostility.

<http://www.sheldrake.org/books-by-rupert-sheldrake/the-sense-of-being-glared-at>

Study suggests precognition may be possible - Nov 18, 2010

Excerpt: A Cornell University scientist has demonstrated that psi anomalies, more commonly known as precognition, premonitions or extra-sensory perception (ESP), really do exist at a statistically significant level.

<http://phys.org/news/2010-11-precognition.html>

"In what manner the mental powers were first developed in the lowest organisms is as hopeless an enquiry as how life itself first originated. These are problems for the distant future".

Charles Darwin - 1871, Descent of Man, (p. 100).

Here a Darwinian Psychologist has a moment of honesty facing the 'hard problem' that consciousness presents to materialism;

Darwinian Psychologist David Barash Admits the Seeming Insolubility of Science's "Hardest Problem"

Excerpt: **'But the hard problem of consciousness is so hard that I can't even imagine what kind of empirical findings would satisfactorily solve it. In fact, I don't even know what kind of discovery would get us to first base, not to mention a home run.'**

David Barash - Materialist/Atheist Darwinian Psychologist

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2011/11/post_33052491.html

The Hard Problem (Of Consciousness) - video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRG1fA_DQ9s

David Chalmers on Consciousness - (Descartes, Philosophical zombies and the hard problem of consciousness) - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NK1Yo6VbRoo>

In fact many philosophers, instead of dealing honestly with 'the hard problem', hold that consciousness is an illusion:

Could Consciousness be an Illusion? June 30, 2014

Excerpt: "I recently participated in a conference which was unusual for a couple of reasons. Firstly it was held in a sailing boat in the Arctic. Secondly the consensus view of the conference was that consciousness is an illusion. This view, 'illusionism', is about as far removed from my own perspective in philosophy of mind as it is possible to get. Me the panpsychist, Martine Nida-Rümelin the substance dualist, and David Chalmers who splits his opinion between these two views, formed the official on board opposition to the hard-core reductionist majority. Somehow we managed to avoid being made to walk the plank.",,

Illusionism is even less plausible than solipsism: the view that my conscious mind is the only thing that exists.,,,

<http://conscienceandconsciousness.com/2014/06/30/could-consciousness-be-an-illusion/>

There is only one sort of stuff, namely, matter-the physical stuff of physics, chemistry, and physiology-and the mind is somehow nothing but a physical phenomenon. In short, the mind is the brain.

Daniel Dennett

How does the brain go beyond processing information to become subjectively aware of information? The answer is: It doesn't. The brain has arrived at a conclusion that is not correct. When we introspect and seem to find that ghostly thing — awareness, consciousness, the way green looks or pain feels — our cognitive machinery is accessing internal models and those models are providing information that is wrong.

Michael S. A. Graziano

The Hard Problem Of Consciousness as stated by Thomas Nagel:

The Core of 'Mind and Cosmos' By Thomas Nagel - August 2013

Excerpt: "The physical sciences can describe organisms like ourselves as parts of the objective spatio-temporal order – our structure and behavior in space and time – but they cannot describe the subjective experiences of such organisms or how the world appears to their different particular points of view. There can be a purely physical description of the neurophysiological processes that give rise to an experience, and also of the physical behavior that is typically associated with it, but such a description, however complete, will leave out the subjective essence of the experience – how it is from the point of view of its subject — without which it would not be a conscious experience at all."

Thomas Nagel

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/08/18/the-core-of-mind-and-cosmos/>

Related notes:

Neuroscientist: "The Most Seamless Illusions Ever Created" - April 2012

Excerpt: **We have so much confidence in our materialist assumptions (which are assumptions, not facts) that something like free will is denied in principle. Maybe it doesn't exist, but I don't really know that. Either way, it doesn't matter because if free will and consciousness are just an illusion, they are the most seamless illusions ever created. Film maker James Cameron wishes he had special effects that good.**

Matthew D. Lieberman - neuroscientist - materialist - UCLA professor

<http://darwins-god.blogspot.com/2012/04/neuroscientist-most-seamless-illusions.html>

(Harvard neurosurgeon) Dr. Eben Alexander Says It's Time for Brain Science to Graduate From Kindergarten - 10/24/2013

Excerpt: **As long as scientists hold onto that simplistic (materialistic) thinking they are going to be mired down to never, ever explain consciousness or the enigmas of quantum mechanics. But there are a lot of scientists out there who do get it,,,**

The pure scientific materialist model that I worshiped for so many years has absolutely nothing to offer up in terms of explaining how consciousness might emerge from the physical brain.,,,

consciousness is a far deeper, more profound mystery than "kindergarten level" scientific materialism offers up. Now that's why I include in my book the hard problem of consciousness and the enigma of quantum mechanics.,,,

It's time for brain science, mind science, physics, cosmology, to move from kindergarten up into first grade and realize we will never truly understand consciousness with that simplistic materialist mindset.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ingrid-peschke/near-death-experiences_b_4151093.html

Jerry Coyne, a Holy Warrior for Darwin - James Barham - April 20, 2012

Excerpt: **Darwinists deny the objective existence of purpose, value, and meaning.,,,, (Yet) everyday human life as we experience it is saturated with purpose, value, and meaning. Therefore, to ordinary people -- as to most philosophers who have given the matter deep thought -- the reductionist claims of the Darwinists are absurd on their face.**

In fact, they are self-contradictory, and just plain silly. Every word that comes out of Jerry Coyne's mouth contradicts his official philosophy. Why? Because he presumably means something by what he says. Because he obviously values some things (Darwinism) and disvalues other things (religion). And because he manifestly has the purpose of convincing his readers that he is right and religious believers are wrong.

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2012/04/jerry_coyne_a_h058811.html

Jerry Coyne Endorses Free Will (Inadvertently as You Might Expect) - Michael Egnor - September 29, 2013

Excerpt: **But still more remarkable is Dawkins's next proposal -- one that would have shocked Hobbes profoundly. Dawkins writes (in 'The Selfish Gene'),**

"We can even discuss ways of cultivating and nurturing pure, disinterested altruism, something that has no place in nature, something that has never existed before in the whole history of the world.... We have the power to turn against our creators. We, alone on earth, can rebel against the tyranny of the selfish replicators."

Hobbes would have pointed out pretty sharply that this is a metaphysical claim to a very strong form of free-will -- a mental ability to resist physical causes. Moreover, he would have asked what could possibly be the motivation for trying to transform one's own basic wishes so completely?

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2013/09/jerry_coyne_end077221.html

David Chalmers on Consciousness (Philosophical Zombies and the Hard Problem) - video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NK1Yo6VbRoo>

The impossible Problem of Consciousness - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FglKcWBKEu8>

As well, it is interesting to point out how utterly absurd the naturalist's position becomes if pressed to explain 'traits of consciousness':

Is Metaphysical Naturalism Viable? – William Lane Craig – video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HzS_CQnmoLQ

Nagel Asks, Is the World Really Knowable? - Joshua Youngkin - October 26, 2012

Excerpt: science even at its best could never offer a complete picture of the world. That is, science as science will necessarily lack the vocabulary to capture and express the myriad private worlds of subjective, conscious experience. To take Nagel's famous example, science could tell you everything you want to know about bats except what it is like to be a bat, to "see" via echolocation. Similarly, brain scientists could in principle learn every objective fact about your brain and how it works yet they wouldn't by virtue of this knowledge know what sugar tastes like to you.

In the final chapter of the book, Nagel sums the matter up this way:

"In attempting to understand consciousness as a biological phenomenon, it is too easy to forget how radical is the difference between the subjective and the objective, and to fall into the error of thinking about the mental in terms taken from our ideas of physical events and processes."

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2012/10/nagel_asks_is_t065761.html

Angus Menuge Interviewed by Apologetics 315 - audio interview

Description: **Today's interview is with Dr. Angus Menuge, Professor of Philosophy at Concordia University, and author of Agents Under Fire: Materialism and the Rationality of Science. He talks about his background and work, the philosophy of mind, what reason (or reasoning) is, what materialism is as a worldview, things excluded from a materialistic worldview, methodological naturalism and materialism, accounting for free will,**

materialistic accounts of reason, the epistemological argument from reason, the ontological argument from reason, finding the best explanation for reason, problems with methodological naturalism, implications of materialism, practical application of the argument from reason, advice for apologists, the International Academy of Apologetics, and more.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkbMy7AjwOE>

Materialism and Human Dignity - Casey Luskin interviews Michael Egnor, professor of neurosurgery at SUNY, Stony Brook, on the relationship between the mind and the brain. - podcast

http://intelligentdesign.podomatic.com/entry/2011-10-14T15_14_37-07_00

Is the Brain Just an Illusion? - Anika Smith interviews Denyse O'Leary - podcast

http://intelligentdesign.podomatic.com/entry/2011-10-21T15_48_33-07_00

At the 15:00 minute mark in the following video, Dr. Stuart Hameroff comments on the connection of the permanence of quantum information to the permanence of the soul:

Through the Wormhole - Had a life after death (BG Sub) - video (warning; eastern mysticism is presupposed as true in the video)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDu5X-NMghg>

Genesis 2:7

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Evolution of the Genus Homo – Annual Review of Earth and Planetary Sciences – Ian Tattersall, Jeffery H. Schwartz, May 2009

Excerpt: **“Definition of the genus Homo is almost as fraught as the definition of Homo sapiens. We look at the evidence for “early Homo,” finding little morphological basis for extending our genus to any of the 2.5–1.6-myr-old fossil forms assigned to “early Homo” or Homo habilis/rudolfensis.”**,,,,

“Unusual though Homo sapiens may be morphologically, it is undoubtedly our remarkable cognitive qualities that most strikingly demarcate us from all other extant species. They are certainly what give us our strong subjective sense of being qualitatively different. And they are all ultimately traceable to our symbolic capacity. Human beings alone, it seems, mentally dissect the world into a multitude of discrete symbols, and combine and recombine those symbols in their minds to produce hypotheses of alternative possibilities. When exactly Homo sapiens acquired this unusual ability is the subject of debate.”

<http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.earth.031208.100202>

Leading Evolutionary Scientists Admit We Have No Evolutionary Explanation of Human

Language - December 19, 2014

Excerpt: **Understanding the evolution of language requires evidence regarding origins and processes that led to change. In the last 40 years, there has been an explosion of research on this problem as well as a sense that considerable progress has been made. We argue instead that the richness of ideas is accompanied by a poverty of evidence, with essentially no explanation of how and why our linguistic computations and representations evolved.,,,**

(Marc Hauser, Charles Yang, Robert Berwick, Ian Tattersall, Michael J. Ryan, Jeffrey Watumull, Noam Chomsky and Richard C. Lewontin, "The mystery of language evolution," *Frontiers in Psychology*, Vol 5:401 (May 7, 2014).)

Luskin comments: "It's difficult to imagine much stronger words from a more prestigious collection of experts."

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2014/12/leading_evoluti092141.html

Darwin's mistake: explaining the discontinuity between human and nonhuman minds. - 2008

Excerpt: **Over the last quarter century, the dominant tendency in comparative cognitive psychology has been to emphasize the similarities between human and nonhuman minds and to downplay the differences as "one of degree and not of kind" (Darwin 1871),,, To wit, there is a significant discontinuity in the degree to which human and nonhuman animals are able to approximate the higher-order, systematic, relational capabilities of a physical symbol system (PSS) (Newell 1980). We show that this symbolic-relational discontinuity pervades nearly every domain of cognition and runs much deeper than even the spectacular scaffolding provided by language or culture alone can explain.,,**

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18479531>

Origin of the Mind: Marc Hauser - *Scientific American* - April 2009

Excerpt: **"Researchers have found some of the building blocks of human cognition in other species. But these building blocks make up only the cement footprint of the skyscraper that is the human mind",,,**

<http://www.wjh.harvard.edu/~mnkylab/publications/recent/mindSciAm.pdf>

Young Children Have Grammar and Chimpanzees Don't - Apr. 10, 2013

Excerpt: **"When you compare what children should say if they follow grammar against what children do say, you find it to almost indistinguishable," Yang said. "If you simulate the expected diversity when a child is only repeating what adults say, it produces a diversity much lower than what children actually say."**

As a comparison, Yang applied the same predictive models to the set of Nim Chimpsky's signed phrases, the only data set of spontaneous animal language usage publicly available. He found further evidence for what many scientists, including Nim's own trainers, have contended about Nim: that the sequences of signs Nim put together did not follow from rules like those in human language.

Nim's signs show significantly lower diversity than what is expected under a systematic grammar and were similar to the level expected with memorization. This suggests that

true language learning is -- so far -- a uniquely human trait, and that it is present very early in development.

"The idea that children are only imitating adults' language is very intuitive, so it's seen a revival over the last few years," Yang said. "But this is strong statistical evidence in favor of the idea that children actually know a lot about abstract grammar from an early age."

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/04/130410131327.htm>

Babies are born with a grasp of physics, researchers claim - April 2015

Babies have an innate understanding of the way the world works and will pay more attention to objects if they appear to defy the basic laws of physics, a pioneering study has found.,,,

The findings support the contention that humans are born with some kind of core knowledge about how things should work which acts as a template on which babies begin to learn about the world around them, the scientists said.

"Our research suggests that infants use what they already know about the world to form predictions. When these predictions are shown to be wrong, infants use this as a special opportunity for learning," said Lisa Feigenson, a psychologist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.,,,

The study looked at the way 11-month-old babies responded to seeing a ball apparently rolling through a solid wall. In another experiment, a toy car could be seen rolling off a ledge into mid-air without falling.

On both occasions, the gaze of the babies became significantly longer compared to parallel tests where the ball and toy car did what the babies expected and were stopped by the wall or fell to the floor respectively.

The study also found that when surprised in this way, the babies were more likely to become interested in the objects. They would bang the ball for instance against a surface as if to test its solidity, while they would drop the car to see if it fell to the floor.

The observations support the idea that when babies are surprised by something that goes against their core knowledge, they used it as a chance to learn more about the world, Professor Feigenson said.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/babies-are-born-with-a-grasp-of-physics-researchers-claim-10153133.html>

Quantitative Reasoning In Babies: They Count Long Before They Talk - June 14th 2010

Excerpt: **Babies can grasp information about numbers, space and time before they can speak, and they do so in more complex ways than previously realized, according to new research.**

In 1890 William James wrote in "The Principles of Psychology" that the baby's impression of the world as "one great blooming, buzzing confusion." But modern evidence indicates otherwise.

Babies understand quantity quite well, say Emory University psychologist Stella Lourenco and University College London neuroscientist Matthew Longo, and so much earlier than thought.

https://www.science20.com/news_articles/quantitative_reasoning_babies_they_count_long_the

[y_talk](#)

Babies have logical reasoning before age one

Deductive problem solving was previously thought to be beyond the reach of infants -

November 18, 2015

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/11/151118131813.htm>

Deductive_Logic

- The most certain of all basic principles is that contradictory propositions are not true simultaneously. ... This principle forms the foundation of reason, and especially of deductive logic. The goal of deductive logic is to derive the most powerful claims possible within the law of non-contradiction.

https://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Deductive_Logic

Language study offers new twist on mind-body connection - Feb. 2, 2014

Excerpt: **The results show that speech perception automatically engages the articulatory motor system, but linguistic preferences persist even when the language motor system is disrupted. These findings suggest that, despite their intimate links, the language and motor systems are distinct.**

"Language is designed to optimize motor action, but its knowledge consists of principles that are disembodied and potentially abstract," the researchers concluded.

<http://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-02-language-mind-body.html>

Earliest humans not so different from us, research suggests - February 2011

Excerpt: **Shea argues that comparing the behavior of our most ancient ancestors to Upper Paleolithic Europeans holistically and ranking them in terms of their "behavioral modernity" is a waste of time. There are no such things as modern humans, Shea argues, just Homo sapiens populations with a wide range of behavioral variability.**

<http://www.physorg.com/news/2011-02-earliest-humans.html>

Hallmarks of humanity in the culture of ancient man - David Tyler - Dec. 22, 2012

Excerpt: **"Our analysis suggests that the use of clothing likely originated with anatomically modern humans in Africa and reinforces a broad trend of modern human developments in Africa during the Middle to Late Pleistocene." ,,,
,,we can remind ourselves that advances in knowledge about ancient humans show them to be culturally more advanced than has been predicted by the Darwinian evolutionists. We can have some confidence that this trend will continue and evidences of modernity (for the earliest humans) will continue to be found.**

http://www.arn.org/blogs/index.php/literature/2012/12/22/hallmarks_of_humanity_in_the_culture_of

Geometric Principles Appear Universal in Our Minds - May 2011

Excerpt: **Villagers belonging to an Amazonian group called the Mundurucú intuitively**

grasp abstract geometric principles despite having no formal math education,,, Mundurucú adults and 7- to 13-year-olds demonstrate as firm an understanding of the properties of points, lines and surfaces as adults and school-age children in the United States and France,,,

<http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2011/05/universal-geometry/>

“Geometry is unique and eternal, a reflection from the mind of God. That mankind shares in it is because man is an image of God.”

– Johannes Kepler

Design Thinking Is Hardwired in the Human Brain. How Come? - October 17, 2012

Excerpt: **"Even Professional Scientists Are Compelled to See Purpose in Nature, Psychologists Find."** The article describes a test by Boston University's psychology department, in which researchers found that "despite years of scientific training, even professional chemists, geologists, and physicists from major universities such as Harvard, MIT, and Yale cannot escape a deep-seated belief that natural phenomena exist for a purpose" ,,,

Most interesting, though, are the questions begged by this research. One is whether it is even possible to purge teleology from explanation.

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2012/10/design_thinking065381.html

"Shutting down part of the brain that's responsible for problem solving" causes atheism.

Shutting down part of brain changes views on God, immigrants: study - October 14, 2015

Excerpt: Temporarily shutting down part of the brain that's responsible for problem solving can suppress your religious views and prejudices toward immigrants, a new study has found. Researchers out of the University of York, in England, and the University of California, Los Angeles, used magnetic energy to safely and temporarily shut down specific regions of the brain of some study participants.

When the posterior medial frontal cortex -- a part of the brain located near the surface and roughly a few inches up from the forehead -- was shut down, participants reported a decrease in their religious convictions and were more positive toward new immigrants critical of their country.

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/health/shutting-down-part-of-brain-changes-views-on-god-immigrants-study-1.2609612>

Children Act Like Scientists - October 1, 2012

Excerpt: **New theoretical ideas and empirical research show that very young children's learning and thinking are strikingly similar to much learning and thinking in science. Preschoolers test hypotheses against data and make causal inferences; they learn from statistics and informal experimentation, and from watching and listening to others. The mathematical framework of probabilistic models and Bayesian inference can describe this learning in precise ways.**

<http://crev.info/2012/10/children-act-like-scientists/>

Children are born believers in God, academic claims - 24 Nov 2008

Excerpt: "Dr Justin Barrett, a senior researcher at the University of Oxford's Centre for Anthropology and Mind, claims that young people have a predisposition to believe in a supreme being because they assume that everything in the world was created with a purpose."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/3512686/Children-are-born-believers-in-God-academic-claims.html>

These following articles are of related interest:

Adventures in Experimenting On Toddlers By Alison Gopnik Dec. 13, 2013

Excerpt: **But this simple problem actually requires some very abstract thinking. It's not that any particular block makes the machine go. It's the fact that the blocks are the same rather than different. Other animals have a very hard time understanding this. Chimpanzees can get hundreds of examples and still not get it, even with delicious bananas as a reward.**

The conventional wisdom has been that young children also can't learn this kind of abstract logical principle. Scientists like Jean Piaget believed that young children's thinking was concrete and superficial. And in earlier studies, preschoolers couldn't solve this sort of "same/different" problem.

But in those studies, researchers asked children to say what they thought about pictures of objects. Children often look much smarter when you watch what they do instead of relying on what they say.

We did the experiment I just described with 18-to-24-month-olds. And they got it right, with just two examples. The secret was showing them real blocks on a real machine and asking them to use the blocks to make the machine go.,,,

Now we are looking at another weird result. Although the 4-year-olds did well on the easier sequential task, in a study we're still working on, they actually seem to be doing worse than the babies on the harder simultaneous one. So there's a new problem for us to solve.

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304744304579248093386009168>

A scientist looks again at Project Nim - Trying to teach Chimps to talk fails

Excerpt: **"The language didn't materialize. A human baby starts out mostly imitating, then begins to string words together. Nim didn't learn. His three-sign combinations - such as 'eat me eat' or 'play me Nim' - were redundant. He imitated signs to get rewards. I published the negative results in 1979 in the journal Science, which had a chilling effect on the field."**

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/the-truth-about-%E2%80%9Cchimp-language-capabilities>

Tom Wolfe on Language and Evolution - Michael Egnor - August 31, 2016

Excerpt: Our language "organ" is an *immaterial* ability. As I have argued [previously](#), human language is an *abstract* mapping of designators (words) to objects such as particular things and universal concepts. Abstract thought is inherently immaterial, because abstraction entails universal concepts, which cannot be particular things and thus cannot be in or part of the brain. Normal function of the brain is necessary for abstract thought, but the brain is not sufficient for abstract thought. Abstraction -- exercise of intellect and will -- is an immaterial power of human beings. Language is an immaterial human ability.,,,

Immaterial thought, because it cannot by its nature be caused by particular matter, requires a system of designators (words) for its exercise. The universal grammar that structures our thoughts and language is the correspondence between our language and metaphysical reality, which our immaterial language organ is designed to allow us to contemplate.

Language is a beautiful example of the exercise of the immaterial human intellect. Wolfe raises the question about evolution of human language, and of course, while the brain structures necessary for human language may have "evolved" in some sense, our language ability itself, because it is an immaterial power, cannot evolve, but must be created.

It is in Chomsky's refusal to follow his own reasoning to that conclusion -- that language is a created human ability -- that he falls short. Yet his theory of universal grammar and recursion and of the necessity of language for thought are profound insights.

It remains for us to follow the logic Chomsky has opened to us, and to acknowledge that our language abilities are created immaterial powers of the human soul.

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2016/08/tom_wolfe_on_la103105.html

In The Kingdom of Speech, Tom Wolfe Tells the Story of Evolution's Epic Tumble – August 30, 2016

Excerpt: **The most distinctive thing about man is of course his gift for language. On that, the great Tom Wolfe masterfully explains in a new book out today, Darwinism takes an epic tumble. Evolution cannot explain the very thing that preeminently makes us human. "To say that animals evolved into man," writes Wolfe on the last page of The Kingdom of Speech, "is like saying that Carrara marble evolved into Michelangelo's David."**

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2016/08/in_the_kingdom_103098.html

"Hardly any linguist would now challenge the fact that language is creative and that there is at present no materialist theory whatsoever to explain this--though of course this fact is seldom mentioned."

Noel Rude – Linguist

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/linguist-noel-rude-on-wolfes-kingdom-of-speech/>

The following paper holds that since words themselves are, in many cases, irreducibly complex, then language cannot have been acquired gradually but must have 'emerged' abruptly:

New paper suggests speech developed in a now-familiar form - March 31, 2015

Excerpt: "The hierarchical complexity found in present-day language is likely to have been present in human language since its emergence," says Shigeru Miyagawa, Professor of Linguistics,,

"Since we can find syntax within words, there is no reason to consider them as 'linguistic fossils' of a prior, presyntax stage," Miyagawa adds.,,

Nobrega and Miyagawa write that a single word can be "internally complex, often as complex as an entire phrase," making it less likely that words we use today are descended from a presyntax mode of speech.,,,

"Hierarchical structure is present not only in single words, but also in compounds, which, contrary to the claims of some, are not the structureless fossilized form of a prior stage," Miyagawa says.

In their paper, Nobrega and Miyagawa hold that the same analysis applies to words in Romance languages that have been described elsewhere as remnants of formless proto-languages.,,,

Miyagawa's integration hypothesis is connected intellectually to the work of other MIT scholars, such as Noam Chomsky, who have contended that human languages are universally connected and derive from our capacity for using syntax.,,,

<http://phys.org/news/2015-03-paper-speech-now-familiar.html>

On the lack of evidence that non-human animals possess anything remotely resembling a theory of mind' - 2007

Abstract

After decades of effort by some of our brightest human and non-human minds, there is still little consensus on whether or not non-human animals understand anything about the unobservable mental states of other animals or even what it would mean for a non-verbal animal to understand the concept of a 'mental state'. In the present paper, we confront four related and contentious questions head-on: (i) What exactly would it mean for a non-verbal organism to have an 'understanding' or a 'representation' of another animal's mental state? (ii) What should (and should not) count as compelling empirical evidence that a non-verbal cognitive agent has a system for understanding or forming representations about mental states in a functionally adaptive manner? (iii) Why have the kind of experimental protocols that are currently in vogue failed to produce compelling evidence that non-human animals possess anything even remotely resembling a theory of mind? (iv) What kind of experiments could, at least in principle, provide compelling evidence for such a system in a non-verbal organism?

(Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B, 362, 731-744, doi:10.1098/rstb.2006.2023)

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17264056>

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/could-the-internet-ever-be-conscious-definitely-not-before-2115-even-if-youre-a-materialist/#comment-440977>

Monkey Theory Proven Wrong:

Excerpt: **A group of faculty and students in the university's media program left a computer in the monkey enclosure at Paignton Zoo in southwest England, home to six Sulawesi crested macaques. Then, they waited. At first, said researcher Mike Phillips,**

“the lead male got a stone and started bashing the hell out of it. “Another thing they were interested in was in defecating and urinating all over the keyboard,” added Phillips, who runs the university’s Institute of Digital Arts and Technologies. Eventually, monkeys Elmo, Gum, Heather, Holly, Mistletoe and Rowan produced five pages of text, composed primarily of the letter S. Later, the letters A, J, L and M crept in — not quite literature.

<http://www.arn.org/docs2/news/monkeysandtypewriters051103.htm>

New Caledonian Crows Exceed Apes/Chimps at Trap-tube Experiment - video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M52ZVtmPE9g>

Origin of Soulful Animals:

Excerpt: **Bolhuis and Wynne contrast the cognitive capacities of birds and primates.,,, Evidently, certain bird species exhibit greater powers of the mind than do apes.**

<http://www.reasons.org/OriginofSoulfulAnimals>

Dogs Succeed While Chimps Fail at Following Finger Pointing: Chimpanzees Have Difficulty Identifying Object of Interest Based On Gestures - Feb. 8, 2012

Excerpt: **The fact that chimpanzees do not understand communicative intentions of others, suggests that this may be a uniquely human form of communication. The dogs however challenge this hypothesis.**

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/02/120208180251.htm>

Humans Evolved from Dogs (Dogs shown to be smarter than chimps) - February 2012

Excerpt: **Birds are actually smarter than dogs, and dolphins than birds. So we have to update our earlier report that humans evolved from pigeons. The new evolutionary tree is: chimps begat dogs, who begat birds, who begat dolphins, who begat people. Hydrogen begat everything; or was it nothing that begat everything?**

<http://crev.info/2012/02/humans-evolved-from-dogs/>

Dolphins Recorded Having a ‘Conversation?’ Not So Fast.

A researcher in Russia claims to have evidence that dolphins can use words and sentences, but marine mammal experts remain unconvinced.

BY JASON BITTEL - SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

Excerpt: Denise Herzing, research director for the Wild Dolphin Project, has spent more than 30 years trying to understand dolphin communication, most recently by developing pattern recognition algorithms to identify reoccurring sounds and structures that could be the basis for language. (Read more about Herzing’s work decoding dolphin communication patterns.)

“We know dolphins are capable of understanding artificially created language, both acoustic and gestural, and abstract concepts,” says Herzing. “However, we simply do not have the data to suggest that they use words or labels in the wild.”

And the fact that the dolphins in Ryabov’s experiment did not seem to interrupt each other?

Herzing says we’ve known dolphins can exchange sound back and forth without overlap since 1979.

"Many, many animals across the animal kingdom will avoid signal masking and thus time their vocalizations accordingly," says Stephanie King, a research fellow at the University of Western Australia and member of the Shark Bay Dolphin Research Alliance.

"This by no means should be compared to human language," says King.

<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/09/dolphins-conversation-explained-words-sentences-language-animals/>

A top anthropology finding of year show humans cognitively closer to dogs than chimps

- December 28, 2017

Excerpt: This research raises new questions about what brought dogs and humans together in prehistory and how they might influence each other's development. More than 550 domestic dogs, *Canis familiaris*, were put through a series of tests based on studies of humans and nonhuman apes. Comparison of the data from all three species revealed patterns of individual differences in cooperative communication between human infants and dogs that were similar—and were not observed in chimpanzees. The researchers conclude that social cognition is better developed in dogs and humans. This raises as many questions as it answers because it is unknown whether the mental processes of dogs and humans work in the same way.

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/a-top-anthropology-finding-of-year-show-humans-cognitively-closer-to-dogs-than-chimps/>

Dolphins may be maths geniuses - July 2012

Excerpt: **"or they have a sonar that can do what human sonar cannot,,,"**

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2012/07/18/3548573.htm>

It is interesting to note that the co-discoverer of Natural Selection, Alfred Wallace, ended up turning against against Charles Darwin and embraced Intelligent Design, in large measure, because of the 'problem' of human consciousness:

Rescuing Alfred Russel Wallace from his (Darwinist) Rescuers - May 22, 2012

Excerpt: **By 1913, Wallace declared himself unapologetically for theism:**

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2012/05/rescuing_alfred059961.html

New thoughts on evolution - A 1910 Interview with Alfred Russel Wallace

Excerpt: **"There seems to me," said Professor Wallace, "unmistakeable evidence of guidance and control in the physical apparatus of every living creature. Consider for a moment the question of nourishment. Men of various races eat different foods; men of the same race may follow diets as separate and distinct as chalk from cheese. But in all cases the main result is the same. The food is converted into blood. That is interesting enough, marvellous enough, baffling enough; but mark what follows. This blood circulating through the body becomes at one point hair and at another nail; here it transforms itself into bone and there into tissue; at the same moment that it changes into skin it changes into nerve; it is at once the bone in my finger and the eye in my head.**

Materialism forges such words as secretion, but no word signifying unconscious and accidental action can explain this mystery.”

Alfred Russel Wallace - An interview by Harold Begbie printed on page four of The Daily Chronicle (London) issues of 3 November and 4 November 1910

<http://wallace-online.org/content/frame?seq=1&itemID=S746.1&viewtype=text>

And again from the same interview:

“Nothing in evolution can account for the soul of man. The difference between man and the other animals is unbridgeable. Mathematics is alone sufficient to prove in man the possession of a faculty unexistent in other creatures. Then you have music and the artistic faculty. No, the soul was a separate creation.,,,

,,, for those who have eyes to see and minds accustomed to reflect, in the minutest cells, in the blood, in the whole earth, and throughout the stellar universe--our own little universe, as one may call it--there is intelligent and conscious direction; in a word, there is Mind.” ,,,

(Wallace) shook his head and smiled amiably upon the hotheadedness of Darwinians.

"The scales on the wings of a moth," he said quietly, "have no explanation in Evolution. They belong to Beauty, and Beauty is a spiritual mystery. Even Huxley was puzzled by the beauty of his environment. What is the origin of Beauty? Evolution cannot explain."

— Alfred Russell Wallace, New Thoughts on Evolution, - 1910

<http://people.wku.edu/charles.smith/wallace/S746.htm>

Roy Davies Exposes Charles Darwin's Plagiarism - Jun 17, 2014

Interview with journalist and author, Roy Davies reveals how Charles Darwin lied about the help he received from Alfred Russell Wallace.

<http://www.skeptiko.com/247-roy-davies-exposes-darwin-plagiarism/>

audio of interview:

http://www.skeptiko.com/?powerpress_pinw=3693-podcast

Of note: There is much question as to whether Darwin copied from Wallace or not as Davies maintains

Shipping timetables debunk Darwin plagiarism accusations: Wallace's letter and essay could not in fact have arrived sooner than 18 June, the very day that Darwin wrote to Lyell that he had received it.

<http://www.nature.com/news/shipping-timetables-debunk-darwin-plagiarism-accusations-1.9613>

Roy Davies defends his research here:

How Charles Darwin received Wallace's Ternate paper 15 days earlier than he claimed: a comment on van Wyhe and Rookmaaker (2012)

Excerpt: Van Wyhe and Rookmaaker (2012) postulate a set of events to support their claim that

Wallace's 'evolution' letter, posted at Ternate in the Moluccas in the spring of 1858, arrived at Darwin's home on 18 June 1858. If their claim were to be proven, then evidence that Darwin probably received Wallace's letter 2 weeks earlier than he ever admitted would clearly be erroneous, and any charges that he plagiarized the ideas of Wallace from that letter would be shown to be wrong. Here, evidence against this interpretation is presented and it is argued that the letter did indeed arrive in the port of Southampton on 2 June 1858 and would have been at Darwin's home near London the following day. If this were true, then the 66 new pages of material on aspects of Divergence that Darwin entered into his 'big' species book in the weeks before admitting he had received the letter could be interpreted as an attempt to present Wallace's ideas as his own.

© 2012 The Linnean Society of London, Biological Journal of the Linnean Society, 2012, 105, 472–477.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1095-8312.2011.01858.x/pdf>

Michael Flannery, who has done extensive research on Wallace, points out that the plagiarism charge, whether true or false, misses the much bigger picture that Wallace had significant disagreements with Darwin:

Darwin Plagiarism Charge Resurfaces in Time for Alfred Russel Wallace Documentary and Debate

Michael Flannery January 19, 2012

Excerpt: Perhaps more importantly, the plagiarism charge misses the crucial fact that Wallace's theory of natural selection as contained in that letter was actually far more distinct from Darwin's than Darwin first perceived, something that has not gone unnoticed by numerous scholars since then (e.g., Sloten, Martin Fichman, Jean Gayon).

Finally, and most significantly of all, Wallace would break from Darwin in 1869 and develop a theory of intelligent evolution that in many ways presaged modern intelligent design theory. Rather than see the relationship of the Darwin/Wallace theories of natural selection merely in terms of priority, it is critical to appreciate the very different trajectories taken by the two naturalists.

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2012/01/darwin_plagiari055371.html

Darwin's Heretic: Did the Co-Founder of Evolution Embrace Intelligent Design? - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxvAVIn6HLI>

Alfred Russel Wallace on the Web - Michael Flannery September 28, 2012

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2012/09/alfred_russel_w_2064831.html

Humans Display Many Behavioral and Cognitive Abilities that Offer No Apparent Survival Advantage - Casey Luskin - October 24, 2014

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2014/10/humans_display_090581.html

Alan Turing & Kurt Gödel - Incompleteness Theorem and Human Intuition - video

<http://www.metacafe.com/watch/8516356/>

As to the implications of his incompleteness theorem, Gödel stated this:

"Either mathematics is too big for the human mind, or the human mind is more than a machine."

Kurt Gödel As quoted in Topoi : The Categorical Analysis of Logic (1979) by Robert Goldblatt, p. 13

David Berlinski, in his unique style, gets this point across very clearly:

An Interview with David Berlinski - Jonathan Witt

Berlinski: There is no argument against religion that is not also an argument against mathematics. Mathematicians are capable of grasping a world of objects that lies beyond space and time

Interviewer:... Come again(?) ...

Berlinski: No need to come again: I got to where I was going the first time. The number four, after all, did not come into existence at a particular time, and it is not going to go out of existence at another time. It is neither here nor there. Nonetheless we are in some sense able to grasp the number by a faculty of our minds. Mathematical intuition is utterly mysterious. So for that matter is the fact that mathematical objects such as a Lie Group or a differentiable manifold have the power to interact with elementary particles or accelerating forces. But these are precisely the claims that theologians have always made as well – that human beings are capable by an exercise of their devotional abilities to come to some understanding of the deity; and the deity, although beyond space and time, is capable of interacting with material objects.

<http://tofspot.blogspot.com/2013/10/found-upon-web-and-reprinted-here.html>

Although there are various methods for scientifically detecting design, basically, at its most foundational level, 'design detection' is an inbuilt, 'natural', ability that humans possess because of the 'image of God' that they have within themselves.

In the following video Dr. Behe quotes Richard Dawkins himself from his book 'The Blind Watchmaker', in noting that 'design detection' is a 'natural' for humans:

"Life reeks of design! But don't take my word for it. Take the word of Richard Dawkins, who is perhaps the most well known Darwinist in our time, and in one of his books, (The Blind Watchmaker), he starts out on page 1 by proclaiming, "Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose." So according to Dawkins that is the very definition of Biology. i.e. The study of things that appear to have been designed.

He, of course, does not think that they were designed. He's a Darwinist and he thinks Darwinian processes are responsible, but why does he even think they look designed? He doesn't think they were designed, why does he think they look designed? Is it for some aesthetic reason? Is it because baby seals are so cute? Or rainbows are so pretty? No, for Dawkins it is not an aesthetic judgment it is an engineering judgment.

He (Dawkins) writes (on page 21), "We may say a living body or organ is well designed if it has attributes that an intelligent and knowledgeable engineer might have built into it in order to achieve some sensible purpose.,, Any engineer can recognize an object has been designed just by looking at the structure of the object."

What's he (Dawkins) saying? He's saying the purposeful arrangement of parts is how we recognize design?,,, According to Dawkins the appearance of design is overpowering. He writes "Yet the living results of natural selection overwhelmingly impress us with the appearance of design as if by a master watchmaker; impress us with the illusion of design and planning."

– Michael Behe – Life Reeks Of Design – 2010 – video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hdh-YcNYThY>

Dec. 2022 - So thus in summary, as Darwinists themselves have honestly admitted, we intuitively recognize the 'illusion of design' in biology simply by the 'purposeful arrangement of parts'. Yet 'teleological purpose' in our thoughts, and in nature, can find no purchase within the metaphysics of Atheistic Naturalism. i.e. There simply is no 'real design' for the 'illusion of design' in biology to be an illusion of. "Real design' simply does not exist anywhere in nature for the Darwinian atheist. In short, the Darwinian atheist is, once again, found to be in catastrophic epistemological failure in regards to his worldview ever giving him a coherent, and sane, explanation for the supposed 'illusion of design' that he himself readily admits 'overwhelmingly' seeing in biology.

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/excerpt-from-there-is-a-god-how-the-worlds-most-notorious-atheist-changed-his-mind/#comment-772657>

"Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose"

Richard Dawkins - "The Blind Watchmaker" - 1986 - page 1

"Yet the living results of natural selection overwhelmingly impress us with the appearance of design as if by a master watchmaker, impress us with the illusion of design and planning."

Richard Dawkins – "The Blind Watchmaker" – 1986 – page 21

4:30 minute mark: "It cannot come about by chance. It's absolutely inconceivable that you could get anything as complicated or well designed as a modern bird or a human or a hedgehog coming about by chance. That's absolutely out.,,, It's out of the question.,,,

So where (does this appearance of design) it come from? The process of gradual evolution by natural selection."

Richard Dawkins – From a Frog to a Prince – video

<https://youtu.be/ClleN8ysimg?t=267>

Darwin's Influence on Modern Thought By Ernst Mayr - November 24, 2009

Excerpt: Every aspect of the "wonderful design" so admired by the natural theologians could be explained by natural selection.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/darwins-influence-on-modern-thought/>

"The real core of Darwinism ... is the theory of natural selection. This theory is so important for the Darwinian because it permits the explanation of adaptation, the 'design' of the natural theologian, by natural means, instead of by divine intervention."

- Ernst Mayr - Foreword in Michael Ruse, Darwinism Defended: A Guide to the Evolution Controversies (Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1982)

<https://www.discovery.org/a/defining-theistic-evolution/#10>

Darwin's greatest discovery: Design without designer - Francisco J. Ayala - May 15, 2007

Excerpt: "Darwin's theory of natural selection accounts for the 'design' of organisms, and for their wondrous diversity, as the result of natural processes,",,

Darwin's Explanation of Design

Darwin's focus in The Origin was the explanation of design, with evolution playing the subsidiary role of supporting evidence.

http://www.pnas.org/content/104/suppl_1/8567.full

- Harvard's Richard Lewontin summarized it, organisms " ... appear to have been carefully and artfully designed." 4 He calls the "perfection of organisms" both a challenge to Darwinism and, on a more positive note, "the chief evidence of a Supreme Designer."

4. Lewontin, Richard, "Adaptation," Scientific American. V. 239. No. 3, 1978, pp. 212-230.

<https://www.icr.org/article/creation-selection-variation>

Adaptation - by Richard C. Lewontin - 1978

Excerpt: Organisms fit remarkably well into the external world in which they live. They have morphologies, physiologies and behaviors that appear to have been carefully and artfully designed to enable each organism to appropriate the world around it for its own life.

It was the marvelous fit of organisms to the environment, much more than the great diversity of forms, that was the chief evidence of a Supreme Designer.,,,

https://dynamics.org/~altenber/LIBRARY/REPRINTS/Lewontin_Adaptation.1978.pdf

March 2023 - 'perfect adaptation

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/lfp-66-string-yes-s-t-r-i-n-g-data-structures-as-key-information-storage-arrays-thus-the-significance-of-dna-and-mrna/#comment-778549>

"Organisms appear as if they had been designed to perform in an astonishingly efficient way, and the human mind therefore finds it hard to accept that there need be no Designer to achieve this"

Francis Crick - What Mad Pursuit - p. 30

"Biologists must constantly keep in mind that what they see was not designed, but rather

evolved. It might be thought, therefore, that evolutionary arguments would play a large part in guiding biological research, but this is far from the case. It is difficult enough to study what is happening now."

Francis Crick – What Mad Pursuit - p. 138 (1988)

living organisms "appear to have been carefully and artfully designed"

Richard C. Lewontin - Adaptation," Scientific American, and Scientific American book 'Evolution' (September 1978)

"This appearance of purposefulness is pervasive in nature.... Accounting for this apparent purposefulness is a basic problem for any system of philosophy or of science."

George Gaylord Simpson - "The Problem of Plan and Purpose in Nature" - 1947

<http://www.thesis.xlibx.info/th-biology/165918-3-by-adam-goldstein-dissertation-submitted-the-johns-hopkins-univer.php>

"It was one of the great merits of Darwin himself to show that the purposiveness of organic structure and function was apparent only. The teleology of adaptation is a pseudo-teleology, capable of being accounted for on good mechanistic principles, without the intervention of purpose, conscious or subconscious, either on the part of the organism or of any outside power"

- Julian Huxley, one of the co-founders of the neo-Darwinian Synthesis

- Evolution: The Modern Synthesis, Allen and Unwin, 1942, p 412

<https://graham-pemberton.medium.com/the-ongoing-battle-against-darwinism-moving-towards-a-new-biology-5a0b9be1d389>

Can Darwinian Evolutionary Theory Be Taken Seriously? - Stephen L. Talbott – May 17, 2016

Excerpt: **Julian Huxley, who coined the phrase "Modern Synthesis" to describe the now canonical, twentieth-century formulation of what is also called "neo-Darwinism", wrote in 1942:**

"It was one of the great merits of Darwin himself to show that the purposiveness of organic structure and function was apparent only. The teleology of adaptation is a pseudo-teleology, capable of being accounted for on good mechanistic principles, without the intervention of purpose, conscious or subconscious, either on the part of the organism or of any outside power".¹¹

Here, again, we are said to be saved from the "intervention" of an alien force, as if real purpose and intelligence would be an offense against the natural world.

And, several decades later, the author who gave us the "selfish gene" warned us how hard it can be to escape illusion: "So overwhelming is the appearance of purposeful design that, even in this Darwinian era when we know 'better', we still find it difficult, indeed boringly pedantic, to refrain from teleological language when discussing adaptation". And yet, Richard Dawkins is ever ready to remind us, "the theory of natural selection provides a mechanistic, causal account of how living things came to look as if they had been designed for a purpose"¹²

http://natureinstitute.org/txt/st/org/comm/ar/2016/teleology_30.htm

Moreover, Richards Dawkins is not the only prominent atheist who seems to be afflicted with this mental illness of seeing the 'illusion of design' pervasively throughout life. And I note that they are seeing 'the appearance of design' even though they have never conducted any scientific experiments, or mathematical calculations, to scientifically 'detect design' in life, anything man-made, or otherwise:

living organisms "appear to have been carefully and artfully designed"
Richard Lewontin

"The appearance of purposefulness is pervasive in nature."
George Gaylord Simpson

"I remember how frustrated I became when, as a young atheist, I examined specimens under the microscope. I would often walk away and try to convince myself that I was not seeing examples of extraordinary design, but merely the product of some random, unexplained mutations."

- Rick Oliver ('Designed to Kill in a Fallen World.')

WJM on the truth denialism issue (of militant atheists) - Sept. 13, 2015

Excerpt: "Regardless of the overwhelming appearance of design in biology, it is possible that chance and natural law could have generated the appearance of design. That possibility of "deception" or "error" about the appearance of a thing is enough for them to deny the overwhelming evidence to the contrary.,,,

IMO, Keiths et al use "bare possibility" as a means to justify their intellectual aversion to truth, because truth inexorably leads to God. They wish to deny God, and so they must avoid truth; avoiding truth means clinging to possibilities, terminologies, interpretations and philosophies that deny truth or redefines it."

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/selective-hyperskepticism/wjm-on-the-truth-denialism-issue/#comment-579896>

Thus, since many leading atheists themselves are seeing the 'illusion of design', (seeing this illusion of design with what they claim to be the 'illusion of their mind' I might add :)), without ever conducting any scientific experiments to ever rigorously 'detect design' (or rule it out), then of course the ID advocate would be well justified in saying that the design they are seeing is real and that these atheists are not really suffering from a mental illness after all but they are in fact 'naturally detecting design' because of the inherent 'image of God' that they have within themselves.

I hold, from the scientific evidence itself, that the Theist is more than justified for his belief that he is 'made in the image' of God and that the atheist is, once again, left with deep unanswered questions that go contrary to his materialistic assumptions.

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/experience-rational-debate-science-depend-on-the-supernatural/#comment-611511>

And in support of that inference that atheist may not be suffering from mental illness after all when they see this 'illusion of design' pervasively throughout life, a tantalizing clue that we are indeed made in the image of God is our unique ability to process information.

As was highlighted in a video I uploaded on youtube, there are far more differences between humans and chimps than is commonly believed

A Closer Look At Human and Chimp Similarities and Differences
<https://youtu.be/CGqtB44AEKU>

(January 2019) **There are two places, scientifically speaking, where atheists have attacked this age old 'made in the image of God', i.e. human exceptionalism, presupposition that is foundational to much, if not all, of Western societies, governments, and jurisprudence. The first place is with the Copernican principle and/or the principle of Mediocrity.,,, The second, and perhaps most powerful, place where Atheists have attacked human exceptionalism is with Darwinian evolution.**
<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/an-information-theory-argument-for-the-value-of-human-beings/#comment-671748>

Darwinian evolution, since it has no empirical evidence that it is remotely feasible, (M. Behe, D. Axe), is heavily reliant on imaginary just so stories.,,,

Nowhere is Darwinian evolution more reliant on imaginary just so stories than it is in its myth of how humans supposedly evolved from apes.,,, (November 2016)

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/todd-wood-the-latest-is-homo-naledi-just-fell-into-the-dinaledi-chamber/#comment-620536>

And although the purported evidence for human evolution is far more illusory than most people realize, it is interesting to note exactly where leading Darwinists themselves admit that they have no clue how evolution could have produced a particular trait in humans.

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/doug-axe-vs-keith-fox-is-design-in-nature-undeniable/#comment-621351>

And that false belief, i.e. that humans are basically no different than animals, and that we are not made in 'the image of God', is what lies at the basis of Mat's, and other Darwinists's, 'moral justification' for abortion, (and for many other atrocities). (December 2015)

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/fascism-watch/#comment-621791>

"A number of hominid crania are known from sites in eastern and southern Africa in the 400- to 200-thousand-year range, but none of them looks like a close antecedent of the anatomically distinctive Homo sapiens...Even allowing for the poor record we have of our close extinct kin, Homo sapiens appears as distinctive and unprecedented...there is certainly no evidence to support the notion that we gradually became who we inherently are over an extended period, in either the physical or the intellectual sense."

Dr. Ian Tattersall: – paleoanthropologist – emeritus curator of the American Museum of Natural History – (Masters of the Planet, 2012)

Here is a paper with a table (table 1) that lists many differences between humans and chimps

Comparing the human and chimpanzee genomes: Searching for needles in a haystack – Ajit Varki¹ and Tasha K. Altheide – 2005

Excerpt: we have many characteristics that are uniquely human. Table 1 lists some of the definite and possible phenotypic traits that appear to differentiate us from chimpanzees and other “great apes”². For the most part, we do not know which genetic features interact with the environment to generate these differences between the “phenomes”³ of our two species. The chimpanzee has also long been seen as a model for human diseases because of its close evolutionary relationship. This is indeed the case for a few disorders. Nevertheless, it is a striking paradox that chimpanzees are in fact not good models for many major human diseases/conditions (see Table 2) (Varki 2000; Olson and Varki 2003).

<http://genome.cshlp.org/content/15/12/1746.full.pdf+html>

Table 1. Some phenotypic traits of humans for comparison with those of great apes

<http://genome.cshlp.org/content/15/12/1746/T1.expansion.html>

Yet out of all those differences, the one thing that most dramatically separates humans from chimps, as well as drastically separating us from the rest of the animal kingdom, is our unique ability to understand and create information. Ian Tattersall and Jeffrey Schwartz put that drastic separation like this:

Evolution of the Genus Homo – Annual Review of Earth and Planetary Sciences – Ian Tattersall, Jeffrey H. Schwartz, May 2009

Excerpt: “Unusual though Homo sapiens may be morphologically, it is undoubtedly our remarkable cognitive qualities that most strikingly demarcate us from all other extant species. They are certainly what give us our strong subjective sense of being qualitatively different. And they are all ultimately traceable to our symbolic capacity. Human beings alone, it seems, mentally dissect the world into a multitude of discrete symbols, and combine and recombine those symbols in their minds to produce hypotheses of alternative possibilities. When exactly Homo sapiens acquired this unusual ability is the subject of debate.”

<http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.earth.031208.100202>

Although the supposed genetic and fossil evidence for human evolution is far more illusory and misleading than many people have falsely been led to believe,

Refutation of human-chimp genetic similarity, i.e. alternative splicing, dGRNs- October 2019

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/nathan-lents-plugs-joshua-swamidass-book-on-adam-and-eve-at-usa-today/#comment-685918>

The Missing Link is still missing – October 2019

<https://uncommondescent.com/human-evolution/but-if-homo-erectus-was-just-an-ordinary-dude/>

[#comment-686077](#)

Although the supposed genetic and fossil evidence for human evolution is far more illusory and misleading than many people have falsely been led to believe, the one place that even leading evolutionists admit that they have no realistic clue how a particular trait in humans could have possibly evolved is with human language.

And In 2014, an impressive who's who list of leading Darwinian experts in the area of language research, authored a paper in which they honestly admitted, after 4 decades of research no less, that they have "essentially no explanation of how and why our linguistic computations and representations evolved.,,,,"

Leading Evolutionary Scientists Admit We Have No Evolutionary Explanation of Human Language - December 19, 2014

Excerpt: **Understanding the evolution of language requires evidence regarding origins and processes that led to change. In the last 40 years, there has been an explosion of research on this problem as well as a sense that considerable progress has been made. We argue instead that the richness of ideas is accompanied by a poverty of evidence, with essentially no explanation of how and why our linguistic computations and representations evolved.,,,**

(Marc Hauser, Charles Yang, Robert Berwick, Ian Tattersall, Michael J. Ryan, Jeffrey Watumull, Noam Chomsky and Richard C. Lewontin, "The mystery of language evolution," Frontiers in Psychology, Vol 5:401 (May 7, 2014).)

Casey Luskin added: "It's difficult to imagine much stronger words from a more prestigious collection of experts."

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2014/12/leading_evoluti092141.html

Oct. 2020

The attack on human exceptionalism, i.e. the attack by Atheists on the specific belief that we are 'made in the image of God' is twofold. First, Atheists appeal to the Copernican Principle and/or the Principle of Mediocrity, to argue that we are not special in the universe. And secondly, atheists appeal to Darwinian evolution to argue that we are not all that different from the animals here on earth and therefore we are not made in the image of God.

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/space-aliens-if-we-can-see-them-they-can-see-us/#comment-715541>

Brendan Dixon: Even the skeptical Deep Learning researcher left out one AI myth

November 15, 2018

Excerpt: "We speak and juggle abstract thoughts. But basic chemistry does not create language; while speaking may require chemical bonding and signaling, language rests on something more."

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/brendan-dixon-even-the-skeptical-deep-learning-researcher-left-out-one-ai-myth/>

In relation to that abstract 'something more', I read this very interesting article yesterday,

The Illusionist – Daniel Dennett's latest book marks five decades of majestic failure to explain consciousness. – 2017

Excerpt: "So, for Dennett, language must have arisen out of social practices of communication, rooted in basic animal gestures and sounds in an initially accidental association with features of the environment. Only afterward could these elements have become words, spreading and combining and developing into complex structures of reference. There must then, he assumes, have been "proto-languages" that have since died away, liminal systems of communication filling up the interval between animal vocalizations and human semiotic and syntactic capacities.

Unfortunately, this simply cannot be. There is no trace in nature even of primitive languages, let alone proto-languages; all languages possess a full hierarchy of grammatical constraints and powers. And this is not merely an argument from absence, like the missing fossils of all those dragons or unicorns that must have once existed. It is logically impossible even to reverse-engineer anything that would qualify as a proto-language. Every attempt to do so will turn out secretly to rely on the syntactic and semiotic functions of fully developed human language.",,,

– David Bentley Hart

<https://www.thenewatlantis.com/publications/the-illusionist>

The following paper points out that since words themselves are, in many cases, irreducibly complex, then language cannot have been acquired gradually but must have 'emerged' abruptly:

New paper suggests speech developed in a now-familiar form - March 31, 2015

Excerpt: "The hierarchical complexity found in present-day language is likely to have been present in human language since its emergence," says Shigeru Miyagawa, Professor of Linguistics,,,

"Since we can find syntax within words, there is no reason to consider them as 'linguistic fossils' of a prior, presyntax stage," Miyagawa adds.,,,

Nobrega and Miyagawa write that a single word can be "internally complex, often as complex as an entire phrase," making it less likely that words we use today are descended from a presyntax mode of speech.,,,

"Hierarchical structure is present not only in single words, but also in compounds, which, contrary to the claims of some, are not the structureless fossilized form of a prior stage," Miyagawa says.

In their paper, Nobrega and Miyagawa hold that the same analysis applies to words in Romance languages that have been described elsewhere as remnants of formless proto-languages.,,, Miyagawa's integration hypothesis is connected intellectually to the work of other MIT scholars, such as Noam Chomsky, who have contended that human languages are universally connected and derive from our capacity for using syntax.,,,

<http://phys.org/news/2015-03-paper-speech-now-familiar.html>

Abstract language and mathematics are forever beyond materialism

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/brendan-dixon-even-the-skeptical-deep-learning-researcher-left-out-one-ai-myth/#comment-668530>

"We are unique and alone now in the world. There is no other animal species that truly resembles our own. A physical and mental chasm separates us from all other living creatures. There is no other bipedal mammal. No other mammal controls and uses fire, writes books, travels in space, paints portraits, or prays. This is not a question of degree. It is all or nothing: there is no semi-bipedal animal, none that makes only small fires, writes only short sentences, builds only rudimentary spaceships, draws just a little bit, or prays only occasionally.

The extraordinary originality of our species is not common in the living world. Most species belong to groups of similar ones.,,"

- Juan Arsuaga (paleoanthropologist) - The Neanderthals Necklace - 2002 - page 3-4

<https://books.google.com/books?id=zCunKjqcJAEC&pg=PA3#v=onepage&q&f=false>

The Galilean Challenge - Noam Chomsky – April 2017

Excerpt: **The capacity for language is species specific, something shared by humans and unique to them. It is the most striking feature of this curious organism, and a foundation for its remarkable achievement.,,,**

There has been considerable progress in understanding the nature of the internal language, but its free creative use remains a mystery. This should come as no surprise. In a recent review of far simpler cases of voluntary action, neuroscientists Emilio Bizzi and Robert Ajemian remark, in the case of something so simple as raising one's arm, that "the detail of this complicated process, which critically involves coordinate and variable transformations from spatial movement goals to muscle activations, needs to be elaborated further. Phrased more fancifully, we have some idea as to the intricate design of the puppet and the puppet strings, but we lack insight into the mind of the puppeteer."⁸

The normal creative use of language is an even more dramatic example.,,,

One fact appears to be well established. The faculty of language is a true species property, invariant among human groups, and unique to humans in its essential properties. It follows that there has been little or no evolution of the faculty since human groups separated from one another.,,,

There is little evidence of anything like human language, or symbolic behavior altogether,

before the emergence of modern humans.,,,

Our intricate knowledge of what even the simplest words mean is acquired virtually without experience. At peak periods of language acquisition, children acquire about a word an hour, often on one presentation.²⁶ The rich meaning of even the most elementary words must be substantially innate.

The evolutionary origin of such concepts is a complete mystery.,,,

--- Noam Chomsky is Institute Professor and Professor of Linguistics (Emeritus) at MIT.

<http://inference-review.com/article/the-galilean-challenge>

The mystery of the origin of human language has a Darwinist waxing poetically about “diverse movements of our souls.”

The Siege of Paris - Robert Berwick & Noam Chomsky - March 2019

Excerpt: Linguists told themselves many stories about the evolution of language, and so did evolutionary biologists; but stories, as Richard Lewontin rightly notes, are not hypotheses, a term that should be “reserved for assertions that can be tested.”⁴

The human language faculty is a species-specific property, with no known group differences and little variation. There are no significant analogues or homologues to the human language faculty in other species.⁵,,,

How far back does language go? There is no evidence of significant symbolic activity before the appearance of anatomically modern humans 200 thousand years ago (kya).²²,,,

There is no evidence that great apes, however sophisticated, have any of the crucial distinguishing features of language and ample evidence that they do not.⁴⁸ Claims made in favor of their semantic powers, we might observe, are wrong. Recent research reveals that the semantic properties of even the simplest words are radically different from anything in animal symbolic systems.⁴⁹,,,

Why only us?,,, We were not, of course, the first to ask them. We echo in modern terms the Cartesian philosophers Antoine Arnauld and Claude Lancelot, seventeenth-century authors of the Port-Royal Grammar, for whom language with its infinite combinatorial capacity wrought from a finite inventory of sounds was uniquely human and the very foundation of thought. It is subtle enough to express all that we can conceive, down to the innermost and “diverse movements of our souls.”

<https://inference-review.com/article/the-siege-of-paris>

Robert Berwick is a Professor in the Laboratory for Information and Decision Systems at MIT.

Noam Chomsky is Institute Professor and Professor of Linguistics (Emeritus) at MIT.

Kept in Mind - Juan Uriagereka - March 2019

Review of: Language in Our Brain: The Origins of a Uniquely Human Capacity

by Angela Friederici

Excerpt: Which part of our brain carries information forward in time? No one knows. For that matter, no one knows what a symbol is, or where symbolic interactions take place. The formal structures of linguistics and neurophysiology are disjoint, a point emphasized by Poeppel and

David Embick in a widely cited study.²,,

No one has distinguished one thought from another by dissecting brains. Neuroimaging tells us only when some areas of the brain light up selectively. Brain wave frequencies may suggest that different kinds of thinking are occurring, but a suggestion is not an inference—even if there is a connection between certain areas of the brain and seeing, hearing, or processing words.

Connections of this sort are not nothing, of course, but neither are they very much.,,

Some considerable distance remains between the observation that the brain is doing something and the claim that it is manipulating various linguistic representations. Friederici notes the lapse. “How information content is encoded and decoded,” she remarks, “in the sending and receiving brain areas is still an open issue—not only with respect to language, but also with respect to the neurophysiology of information processing in general.”⁵,,

Cognitive scientists cannot say how the mass or energy of the brain is related to the information it carries. Everyone expects that more activity in a given area means more information processing. No one has a clue whether it is more information or more articulated information, or more interconnected information, or whether, for that matter, the increased neuro-connectivity signifies something else entirely.,,

,, present-day observational technology does not seem capable of teasing apart these different components of syntax at work.,,

<https://inference-review.com/article/kept-in-mind>

Juan Uriagereka is a linguist at the University of Maryland.

January 2017 - Leading Evolutionary Scientists Admit We Have No Evolutionary Explanation of Human Language,, Best Selling author Tom Wolfe was so taken aback by this honest confession by leading Darwinists that he wrote a book on the subject.,,

It is hard to imagine a more convincing scientific proof that we are made ‘in the image of God’ than finding both the universe, and life itself, are both ‘information theoretic’ in their foundational basis, and that we, of all the creatures on earth, uniquely possess an ability to understand and create information, and, moreover, have come to ‘master the planet’ precisely because of our unique ability infuse information into material substrates.

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/human-language-after-wolfe-on-chomsky-everett-finally-speaks-for-himself/#comment-623446>

The mystery of language evolution - May 7, 2014

Excerpt: Paleontology and archaeology,,

Although technologies became more complex over the history of the genus Homo (Tattersall, 2012), indications of modern-style iconic and representational activities (Henshilwood et al., 2002, 2004) begin only significantly after the first anatomically recognizable H. sapiens appears at a little under 200 thousand years ago,,

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4019876/>

“The distance between a human being and our nearest chimpanzee-like ancestors, common ancestors is much, much, much greater than the difference between a

chimpanzee and a flower.”

- Berlinski

“Suppose you were coming from outer space, you're a biologist, right?,, You come to the Earth and you listen to a long lecture about Darwin, the immense importance of Darwinian biology, but then, you open your own eyes,,,

What are the two things that would most strike you about living systems on the face of the Earth? Not the Darwinian rhetoric, but just the evidence of your own eyes?,,,

One is that all life is related.,,, Biochemistry is the same throughout life. All life has very, very many of its properties in common.,,,

The second thing you'd notice, if you are honest, is that there is a vast inseparable distinction between two kinds of living systems -- human beings and all the rest. That is something that's rarely noticed, rarely emphasized.

The distance between a human being and our nearest chimpanzee-like ancestors, common ancestors is much, much, much greater than the difference between a chimpanzee and a flower. We're talking about a bifurcation in the manifold of Biology. Human beings on one side, the rest of the animal kingdom or the plant kingdom on the other. These are facts that I think that any untroubled observer, and by untroubled, I mean someone who is not previously adhered to any kind of ideology such as Darwinism. Would it once recognize life is connected? It's in some sense one living system, but profoundly divided between human beings and all the rest.

That's the first step towards some sort of system of reconciliation because it prompts the inevitable question. "Hey, how come? Why are human beings so different? Why do they organize themselves differently? Why do they have mathematics, literature? Why do they speak to one another? Why do they have creative thoughts?

A chimpanzee is probably a lovable animal, but nobody ever asked the chimpanzee a question that was possible for the chimpanzee to answer. So, these are I would say, orthogonal to the main axis of ideology.”

- David Berlinski - 2018

<https://www.foxnews.com/transcript/david-berlinski-on-the-link-between-evolution-science-and-progressivism>

Do Animals Have Language? - Michael Egnor - July 12, 2016

Excerpt: Shallit mischaracterizes de Waal's work. De Waal is a pioneer in the study of animal emotion and moral behavior. De Waal's views on the link between thought and language are nuanced and are not views I share, but his view on animal language is worth noting.

De Waal:

"You won't often hear me say something like this, but I consider humans the only linguistic species. We honestly have no evidence for symbolic communication, equally rich and multifunctional as ours, outside our species."

Perhaps, in addition to recommending de Waal's books, Shallit should read them.

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2016/07/do_animals_have102990.html

Language Is a Rock Against Which Evolutionary Theory Wrecks Itself - Michael Egnor
September 19, 2016

Excerpt: "The most fundamental questions about the origins and evolution of our linguistic capacity remain as mysterious as ever," [the authors] concluded. Not only that, they sounded ready to abandon all hope of ever finding the answer. Oh, we'll keep trying, they said gamely... but we'll have to start from zero again. One of the eight was the biggest name in the history of linguistics, Noam Chomsky. "In the last 40 years," he and the other seven were saying, "there has been an explosion of research on this problem," and all it had produced was a colossal waste of time by some of the greatest minds in academia."

- Tom Wolfe

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2016/09/language_is_a_r103151.html

The late best selling author Tom Wolfe was so taken aback by this honest confession from leading Darwinists that he wrote a book on the subject. Here is a general outline of his main argument;

The Mystery of Language Evolution

"It seems that eight heavyweight evolutionists -linguists, biologists, anthropologists, and computer scientists- had published an article announcing they were giving up, throwing in the towel, folding, crapping out when it came to the question of where speech -language- comes from and how it works.,.,,

What is the problem? Speech is not one of man's several unique attributes- speech is the attribute of all attributes! *Speech is 95 percent plus of what lifts man above animal! Physically, man is a sad case. His teeth, including his incisors, which he calls eyeteeth, are baby-size and can barely penetrate the skin of a too-green apple. His claws can't do anything but scratch him where he itches. His stringy-ligament body makes him a weakling compared to all the animals his size. Animals his size? In hand-to-paw, hand-to-claw, or hand-to-incisor combat, any animal his size would have him for lunch. Yet man owns or controls them all, every animal that exists, thanks to his superpower: speech.*"

—Tom Wolfe, in the introduction to his book, [The Kingdom of Speech](https://books.google.com/books?id=NPslCwAAQBAJ&pg=PT5)

<https://books.google.com/books?id=NPslCwAAQBAJ&pg=PT5>

February 2023

<https://uncommondescent.com/origin-of-life/paul-davies-on-the-gap-between-life-and-non-life/#comment-776032>

Language Is a Rock Against Which Evolutionary Theory Wrecks Itself - Michael Egnor -
September 19, 2016

Excerpt: **Wolfe provides a précis of his argument:**

"Speech is not one of man's several unique attributes -- speech is the attribute of all attributes!"

And yet, as Wolfe points out, Darwinists are at an utter loss to explain how language -- the salient characteristic of man -- "evolved." None of the deep drawer of evolutionary just-so stories come anywhere close to explaining how man might have acquired the astonishing ability to craft unlimited propositions and concepts and subtleties within

subtleties using a system of grammar and abstract designators (i.e. words) that are utterly lacking anywhere else in the animal kingdom.

Darwin and his progeny have had no dearth of fanciful guesses -- birdsongs (Darwin's favorite theory) and grunts and grimaces that mutate (survivors survive!) into Cicero and Shakespeare. Evolutionary theorizing about language has been a colossal waste of time. None of this evolutionary fancifulness makes any sense, nor has any real scientific basis, and these "theories" are published almost sheepishly, as if their authors tacitly acknowledge the fecklessness of Darwinian mechanism in the face of such a gift as language.

I have argued before that the human mind is qualitatively different from the animal mind. The human mind has immaterial abilities -- the intellect's ability to grasp abstract universal concepts divorced from any particular thing -- and that this ability makes us more different from apes than apes are from viruses. We are ontologically different. We are a different kind of being from animals. We are not just animals who talk. Although we share much in our bodies with animals, our language -- a simulacrum of our abstract minds -- has no root in the animal world.

Language is the tool by which we think abstractly. It is sui generis. It is a gift, a window into the human soul, something we are made with, and it did not evolve. Language is a rock against which evolutionary theory wrecks, one of the many rocks -- the uncooperative fossil record, the jumbled molecular evolutionary tree, irreducible complexity, intricate intracellular design, the genetic code, the collapsing myth of junk DNA, the immaterial human mind -- that comprise the shoal that is sinking Darwin's Victorian fable.

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2016/09/language_is_a_r103151.html

Basically they, like Chomsky, are looking for a materialistic explanation for language. And because they are looking for a materialistic explanation for language then they too will fail to find a satisfactory materialistic explanation for language! (Oct. 2016)

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/scientific-american-chomsky-largely-overturnd/#comment-616993>

Tom Wolfe on Language and Evolution - Michael Egnor - August 31, 2016

Excerpt: I'll give a précis of my views on Chomsky's theories and Everett's challenge. I think that Chomsky is fundamentally right, and I am skeptical of Everett's claim.,,,

This Thomistic perspective makes sense of Chomsky's observation that natives of Everett's Brazilian tribe can learn Portuguese quite easily, which is a language that exhibits both universal grammar and recursion. Members of this small tribe have the active potency to use human language fully, but don't ordinarily exercise full language ability in their speech within their culture. However, they easily learn to do so when they learn other languages. Everett's natives have a language organ, but they don't ordinarily use it. The actual use of an ability (second actuality) is not the same thing as having the ability (first actuality).

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2016/08/tom_wolfe_on_la103105.html

What Is Consciousness? - Michael Egnor – July 14, 2016

Excerpt: **“Why am I an I, and not an it?”**

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2016/07/what_is_conscio102995.html

The Fundamental Difference Between Humans and Nonhuman Animals - Michael Egnor - November 5, 2015

Excerpt: **Human beings have mental powers that include the material mental powers of animals but in addition entail a profoundly different kind of thinking. Human beings think abstractly, and nonhuman animals do not. Human beings have the power to contemplate universals, which are concepts that have no material instantiation. Human beings think about mathematics, literature, art, language, justice, mercy, and an endless library of abstract concepts. Human beings are rational animals.**

Human rationality is not merely a highly evolved kind of animal perception. Human rationality is qualitatively different -- ontologically different -- from animal perception. Human rationality is different because it is immaterial. Contemplation of universals cannot have material instantiation, because universals themselves are not material and cannot be instantiated in matter.,,,

It is a radical difference -- an immeasurable qualitative difference, not a quantitative difference.

We are more different from apes than apes are from viruses.,,,

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2015/11/the_fundamental_2100661.html

David Hume Notwithstanding, Abstract Thought in Animals Is a Myth - Michael Egnor - July 15, 2016

Excerpt: A diehard believer in animal abstraction might ask: How do you know that animals can't think abstractly without particulars? I answer that there is not a shred of evidence for abstract thought in animals, when the clear distinction between sensus communis and abstract thought is recognized.

The inability of animals to think abstractly is demonstrable not only empirically, but logically. How could an animal think about universals, without particulars and without language? What would be the content of the animal's abstract thought, if not particular things or words?

Abstract thought in animals is a myth. And I mean "myth" in its richest sense. Abstract thought in animals is a cultural myth at the heart of the Darwinian understanding of man, the predicate of which excludes any qualitative difference between man and beast.

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2016/07/david_hume_notw102999.html

Prairie Dogs Are Cute, But Can They Talk? - Michael Egnor - June 2, 2017

Excerpt: It's a great article, and the prairie dogs are fascinating (and adorable) little creatures, but with all due respect to Doctor Dolittle, the assertion that non-human animals have language is indeed nonsense.

Animals have no language, despite the occasional complexity of their communication. The error these scientists and journalists make in attributing language to animals is an easy error to make, but it is an error nonetheless. The error lies in the failure to distinguish between designators and signals.,,,

Words (designators) are language, and signals are not. Words are arranged syntactically, to enhance meaning. Some words are nouns, which designate things, and some words are verbs, which designate change or states of being. Proper names designate particular things, and general names designate universals. You will notice that the structure of genuine language, as contrasted with a set of signals, has a metaphysical structure — it uses signs that point to particulars and universals and change and states of being. Signals lack this metaphysical structure.

Signals point to specific things, albeit sometimes (as with these prairie dogs) with unexpected complexity. But complexity is not the same as abstraction, and it is abstraction that is the hallmark of language.

Prairie dogs and other non-human animals are capable of using signals — signs that point to particular things in a concrete way — in order to communicate.

Human beings are rational animals, and we are the only animals capable of abstract thought, which is thought that entails contemplation of universals. We are the only animals capable of using abstract signs – designators — to communicate, and we are the only animals capable of genuine language.

<https://www.evolutionnews.org/2017/06/prairie-dogs-are-cute-but-can-they-talk/>

Mental time travel: An exclusively human capacity? December 22, 2015

Excerpt: **There is, however, no evidence that they (animals) are able to construct, reflect and compare different future scenarios like humans are. We therefore don't believe that animals are capable of mental time travel," says Prof Sen Cheng.**

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/12/151222082343.htm>

Human and animal cognition: Continuity and discontinuity - David Premack - August 28, 2007

Excerpt: Microscopic study of the human brain has revealed neural structures, enhanced wiring, and forms of connectivity among nerve cells not found in any animal, challenging the view that the human brain is simply an enlarged chimpanzee brain.,,,

In examining claims of similarity between animals and humans, one must ask: What are the dissimilarities? This approach prevents confusing similarity with equivalence. We follow this approach in examining eight cognitive cases—teaching, short-term memory, causal reasoning, planning, deception, transitive inference, theory of mind, and language—and find, in all cases, that similarities between animal and human abilities are small, dissimilarities large.

<https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.0706147104>

The Human Brain Is Something New – Ann Gauger – September 18, 2018

Excerpt: Physically a human brain is three times the size of a chimpanzee brain, and uses considerably more energy. Our brain represents 2 percent of our body weight but uses 20 percent of the oxygen we breathe. However, our brains are not merely enlarged ape brains — there are other differences. Our brains contain neural structures, enhanced wiring, and forms of connectivity among nerve cells not found in any animal.¹ Our neurons continue dividing well into adulthood and have a 10-fold higher density than chimps. The human brain is something new, something different, as can be seen by the things we do that animals don't.,,,

David Premack, the late psychologist at the University of Pennsylvania said:

“In examining claims of similarity between animals and humans, one must ask: What are the

dissimilarities? This approach prevents confusing similarity with equivalence. We follow this approach in examining eight cognitive cases — teaching, short-term memory, causal reasoning, planning, deception, transitive inference, theory of mind, and language — and find, in all cases, that similarities between animal and human abilities are small, dissimilarities large.²

Our brains have vastly more ability than is needed for survival, most notably the capacity for language and abstract thought. We are orders of magnitude beyond anything animals can do.
<https://evolutionnews.org/2018/09/beyond-adapation-the-human-brain-is-something-new/>

“Darwin’s Mistake: Explaining the Discontinuity between Human and Nonhuman Minds,”
Behavioral and Brain Sciences 31, no. 2 (2008): 109–30

Derek C. Penn, Keith Holyoak, and Daniel J. Povinelli,
Abstract

Over the last quarter century, the dominant tendency in comparative cognitive psychology has been to emphasize the similarities between human and nonhuman minds and to downplay the differences as “one of degree and not of kind” (Darwin 1871). In the present target article, we argue that Darwin was mistaken: the profound biological continuity between human and nonhuman animals masks an equally profound discontinuity between human and nonhuman minds. To wit, there is a significant discontinuity in the degree to which human and nonhuman animals are able to approximate the higher-order, systematic, relational capabilities of a physical symbol system (PSS) (Newell 1980). We show that this symbolic-relational discontinuity pervades nearly every domain of cognition and runs much deeper than even the spectacular scaffolding provided by language or culture alone can explain. We propose a representational-level specification as to where human and nonhuman animals’ abilities to approximate a PSS are similar and where they differ. We conclude by suggesting that recent symbolic-connectionist models of cognition shed new light on the mechanisms that underlie the gap between human and nonhuman minds...

Animals certainly communicate, but none has even the beginning of a recursively structured language. Although apes and a few other species can identify the numerosity of up to four objects, they cannot intuit the abstract system behind integer addition. Animals learn to run mazes; they cannot learn to read maps...

But no nonhuman animal has been shown to understand invisible causal forces such as gravity...

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18479531/>

The following paper holds that since words themselves contain syntax then language could not possibly have been acquired gradually but must have 'emerged' abruptly:

New paper suggests speech developed in a now-familiar form - March 31, 2015

Excerpt: "The hierarchical complexity found in present-day language is likely to have been present in human language since its emergence," says Shigeru Miyagawa, Professor of

Linguistics,,,

"Since we can find syntax within words, there is no reason to consider them as 'linguistic fossils' of a prior, presyntax stage," Miyagawa adds.,,,

Nobrega and Miyagawa write that a single word can be "internally complex, often as complex as an entire phrase," making it less likely that words we use today are descended from a presyntax mode of speech.,,,

"Hierarchical structure is present not only in single words, but also in compounds, which, contrary to the claims of some, are not the structureless fossilized form of a prior stage," Miyagawa says.

In their paper, Nobrega and Miyagawa hold that the same analysis applies to words in Romance languages that have been described elsewhere as remnants of formless proto-languages.,,,

Miyagawa's integration hypothesis is connected intellectually to the work of other MIT scholars, such as Noam Chomsky, who have contended that human languages are universally connected and derive from our capacity for using syntax.,,,

<http://phys.org/news/2015-03-paper-speech-now-familiar.html>

Complex cognition shaped the Stone Age hand axe, study shows - Apr 15, 2015

Excerpt: The skill of making a prehistoric hand axe is "more complicated and nuanced than many people realize," Stout says. "It's not just a bunch of ape-men banging rocks together. We should have respect for Stone Age tool makers."

<http://phys.org/news/2015-04-complex-cognition-stone-age-axe.html>

Moreover, that humans should 'master the planet' due to his unique ability to communicate information is completely contrary to the 'survival of the fittest' thinking that undergirds Darwinian thought. Although humans are fairly defenseless creatures in the wild compared to other creatures, such as lions, bears, sharks, etc., nonetheless, humans have, completely contrary to Darwinian 'survival of the fittest' thinking, managed to become masters of the planet, not by brute force, but simply by our unique ability to create and communicate information and also to, more specifically, infuse immaterial information into material substrates in order to create, i.e. intelligently design, objects that are extremely useful for our defense, basic survival in procuring food, furtherance of our knowledge, and also merely for our pleasure.

History of Invention

<http://www.explainthatstuff.com/timeline.html>

And although the 'top-down' infusion of immaterial information into material substrates, that allowed humans to become 'masters of the planet', was rather crude to begin with, (i.e. spears, arrows, and plows etc.), this top down infusion of immaterial information into material substrates has become much more impressive over the last half century or so.

Specifically, the 'top-down' infusion of mathematical and/or logical information into material substrates lies at the very basis of many, if not all, of man's most stunning, almost miraculous, technological advances in recent decades.

Here are a couple of articles which clearly get this 'top-down' point across:

Here is one by Peter Tyson

Describing Nature With Math By Peter Tyson – Nov. 2011

Excerpt: Mathematics underlies virtually all of our technology today. James Maxwell's four equations summarizing electromagnetism led directly to radio and all other forms of telecommunication. $E = mc^2$ led directly to nuclear power and nuclear weapons. The equations of quantum mechanics made possible everything from transistors and semiconductors to electron microscopy and magnetic resonance imaging.

Indeed, many of the technologies you and I enjoy every day simply would not work without mathematics. When you do a Google search, you're relying on 19th-century algebra, on which the search engine's algorithms are based. When you watch a movie, you may well be seeing mountains and other natural features that, while appearing as real as rock, arise entirely from mathematical models. When you play your iPod, you're hearing a mathematical recreation of music that is stored digitally; your cell phone does the same in real time.

"When you listen to a mobile phone, you're not actually hearing the voice of the person speaking," Devlin told me. "You're hearing a mathematical recreation of that voice. That voice is reduced to mathematics."

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/physics/describing-nature-math.html>

And here is one by George Ellis

Recognising Top-Down Causation – George Ellis

Excerpt: Causation: The nature of causation is highly contested territory, and I will take a pragmatic view:

Definition 1:

Causal Effect

If making a change in a quantity X results in a reliable demonstrable change in a quantity Y in a given context, then X has a causal effect on Y.

Example: I press the key labelled "A" on my computer keyboard; the letter "A" appears on my computer screen.,.,.,

Definition 2:

Existence

If Y is a physical entity made up of ordinary matter, and X is some kind of entity that has a demonstrable causal effect on Y as per Definition 1, then we must acknowledge that X also exists (even if it is not made up of such matter).

This is clearly a sensible and testable criterion; in the example above, it leads to the conclusion that both the data and the relevant software exist. If we do not adopt this definition, we will have instances of uncaused changes in the world; I presume we wish to avoid that situation.

Excerpt: page 5: A: Causal Efficacy of Non Physical entities:

Both the program and the data are non-physical entities, indeed so is all software. A program is not a physical thing you can point to, but by Definition 2 it certainly exists. You can point to a CD

or flashdrive where it is stored, but that is not the thing in itself: it is a medium in which it is stored.

The program itself is an abstract entity, shaped by abstract logic. Is the software “nothing but” its realisation through a specific set of stored electronic states in the computer memory banks? No it is not because it is the precise pattern in those states that matters: a higher level relation that is not apparent at the scale of the electrons themselves. It’s a relational thing (and if you get the relations between the symbols wrong, so you have a syntax error, it will all come to a grinding halt). This abstract nature of software is realised in the concept of virtual machines, which occur at every level in the computer hierarchy except the bottom one [17]. But this tower of virtual machines causes physical effects in the real world, for example when a computer controls a robot in an assembly line to create physical artefacts.

Excerpt page 7: The assumption that causation is bottom up only is wrong in biology, in computers, and even in many cases in physics, ,,,

The mind is not a physical entity, but it certainly is causally effective: proof is the existence of the computer on which you are reading this text. It could not exist if it had not been designed and manufactured according to someone’s plans, thereby proving the causal efficacy of thoughts, which like computer programs and data are not physical entities.

http://fqxi.org/data/essay-contest-files/Ellis_FQXI_Essay_Ellis_2012.pdf

More interesting still, the three Rs, reading, writing, and arithmetic, i.e. the unique ‘image of God’ inherent to man, is the very first thing to be taught to children when they enter elementary school.

What is more interesting still about the fact that humans have a unique ability to understand and create information, and have come to ‘master the planet’ through the ‘top-down’ infusion of immaterial information into material substrates, is the fact that, due to advances in science, both the universe and life itself, are now found to be ‘information theoretic’ in their foundational basis.

Renowned physicist John Wheeler stated “in short all matter and all things physical are information-theoretic in origin and this is a participatory universe”.

“it from bit” Every “it”— every particle, every field of force, even the space-time continuum itself derives its function, its meaning, its very existence entirely—even if in some contexts indirectly—from the apparatus-elicited answers to yes-or-no questions, binary choices, bits. “It from bit” symbolizes the idea that every item of the physical world has a bottom—a very deep bottom, in most instances, an immaterial source and explanation, that which we call reality arises in the last analysis from the posing of yes-no questions and the registering of equipment—evoked responses, in short all matter and all things physical are information-theoretic in origin and this is a participatory universe.”

– Princeton University physicist John Wheeler (1911–2008) (Wheeler, John A. (1990), “Information, physics, quantum: The search for links”, in W. Zurek, Complexity, Entropy, and the Physics of Information (Redwood City, California: Addison-Wesley))

In the following article, Anton Zeilinger, a leading expert in quantum mechanics who recently won the Nobel prize for physics, stated that 'it may very well be said that information is the irreducible kernel from which everything else flows.' and that "It might even be fair to observe that the concept that information is fundamental is very old knowledge of humanity, witness for example the beginning of gospel according to John: "In the beginning was the Word."

Why the Quantum? It from Bit? A Participatory Universe?

Excerpt: In conclusion, it may very well be said that information is the irreducible kernel from which everything else flows. Thence the question why nature appears quantized is simply a consequence of the fact that information itself is quantized by necessity. It might even be fair to observe that the concept that information is fundamental is very old knowledge of humanity, witness for example the beginning of gospel according to John: "In the beginning was the Word."

Anton Zeilinger - Nobel Laureate, leading expert in quantum mechanics:

http://www.metanexus.net/archive/ultimate_reality/zeilinger.pdf

In the following video at the 48:24 mark Zeilinger states that "It is operationally impossible to separate Reality and Information" and he goes on to note at the 49:45 mark the Theological significance of "In the Beginning was the Word" John 1:1

48:24 mark: "It is operationally impossible to separate Reality and Information"

49:45 mark: "In the Beginning was the Word" John 1:1

Prof Anton Zeilinger speaks on quantum physics. at UCT - video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3ZPWW5NOrw>

Vlatko Vedral, who is a Professor of Physics at the University of Oxford, and is also a recognized leader in the field of quantum mechanics, states

"The most fundamental definition of reality is not matter or energy, but information—and it is the processing of information that lies at the root of all physical, biological, economic, and social phenomena."

- Vlatko Vedral - Professor of Physics at the University of Oxford, and CQT (Centre for Quantum Technologies) at the National University of Singapore, and a Fellow of Wolfson College -

Quantum physics just got less complicated - Dec. 19, 2014

Excerpt: Patrick Coles, Jędrzej Kaniewski, and Stephanie Wehner,,, found that 'wave-particle duality' is simply the quantum 'uncertainty principle' in disguise, reducing two mysteries to one.,,, "The connection between uncertainty and wave-particle duality comes out very naturally when you consider them as questions about what information you can gain about a system. Our result highlights the power of thinking about physics from the perspective of information,",,

<http://phys.org/news/2014-12-quantum-physics-complicated.html>

John Lennox at Rice University: Christianity Gave Us Science - Sept. 28, 2015

53:00 minute mark - (John 1 - mass-energy is derivative from information (i.e. It from bit) and life is based on information.)

<https://youtu.be/PSq4KLjMSII?t=3182>

Moreover, besides being foundational to physical reality, information is also found to be 'infused' into biological life. Here are some videos and articles, which you can watch and read at your leisure, that gets this point across:

Information Enigma (Where did the information in life come from?) - - Stephen Meyer - Doug Axe - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aA-FcnLsF1g>

Signature in the Cell by Stephen Meyer - video clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVkdQhNdzHU>

Complex grammar of the genomic language – November 9, 2015

Excerpt: **The 'grammar' of the human genetic code is more complex than that of even the most intricately constructed spoken languages in the world. The findings explain why the human genome is so difficult to decipher –,,,**

,, in their recent study in Nature, the Taipale team examines the binding preferences of pairs of transcription factors, and systematically maps the compound DNA words they bind to.

Their analysis reveals that the grammar of the genetic code is much more complex than that of even the most complex human languages. Instead of simply joining two words together by deleting a space, the individual words that are joined together in compound DNA words are altered, leading to a large number of completely new words.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/11/151109140252.htm>

Biophysics – Information theory. Relation between information and entropy: - Setlow-Pollard, Ed. Addison Wesley

Excerpt: **Linschitz gave the figure 9.3×10^{12} cal/deg or $9.3 \times 10^{12} \times 4.2$ joules/deg for the entropy of a bacterial cell. Using the relation $H = S/(k \ln 2)$, we find that the information content is 4×10^{12} bits. Morowitz' deduction from the work of Bayne-Jones and Rhees gives the lower value of 5.6×10^{11} bits, which is still in the neighborhood of 10^{12} bits. Thus two quite different approaches give rather concordant figures.**

<http://www.astroscu.unam.mx/~angel/tsb/molecular.htm>

“a one-celled bacterium, e. coli, is estimated to contain the equivalent of 100 million pages of Encyclopedia Britannica. Expressed in information in science jargon, this would be the same as 10^{12} bits of information. In comparison, the total writings from classical Greek Civilization is only 10^9 bits, and the largest libraries in the world – The British

Museum, Oxford Bodleian Library, New York Public Library, Harvard Widener Library, and the Moscow Lenin Library – have about 10 million volumes or 10^{12} bits.”

– R. C. Wysong

'The information content of a simple cell has been estimated as around 10^{12} bits, comparable to about a hundred million pages of the Encyclopedia Britannica."

Carl Sagan, "Life" in Encyclopedia Britannica: Macropaedia (1974 ed.), pp. 893-894

In other words, ‘immaterial positional information’ is now empirically shown, directly contrary to the reductive materialism of Darwinian evolution, to be a physically real entity that is separate from matter-energy and this ‘top down’ immaterial positional information is also now empirically shown to be property “of an observer who describes a system.” **In other words, immaterial mind is now empirically shown to be necessary in order to give us an adequate causal explanation as to how any particular organism may achieve its basic ‘form’.**

How Quantum Mechanics and Consciousness Correlate (27:15 minute mark – **how quantum information theory relates to molecular biology**)

<https://youtu.be/4f0hL3Nrdas?t=1635>

(Oct. 2018) This physically distinct “immaterial” classical information is now also shown to be a subset of “immaterial” quantum information by the following method:

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/from-barren-planet-to-civilization-in-four-easy-steps/#comment-666202>

John Lennox - Semiotic Information - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6rd4HEdfw>

It is hard to imagine a more convincing scientific proof that we are ‘made in the image of God’, than finding that both the universe and life itself are ‘information theoretic’ in their foundational basis, and that we, of all the creatures on earth, uniquely possess an ability to understand and create information, and have come to ‘master the planet’, not via brute force as is presupposed in Darwinian thought, but precisely because of our ability to infuse immaterial information into material substrates

- July 2019 - IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN EXCEPTIONALISM

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/why-cant-we-make-apes-behave-like-people/#comment-680996>

Sept: 2021

<https://uncommondescent.com/physics/what-steven-weinbergs-pointless-universe-really-meant/#comment-737105>

Humanity - Chemical Scum or Made in the Image of God? - video

<https://youtu.be/EIBWAwjPzyM>

Paper:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MUk0Deode33BLy7UOFUzR8XGmZ9MPCJfuWXN8TnJC0Y/edit>

Humans: Did we Evolve or were we Created? - video (2017)

<https://youtu.be/7EcmVGnAzY0>

Humans – Are We Accidents or are We Made in the Image of God?

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PhW4THgihoAJ2FQBFmmlMkoJW4s3HB10-D_MTLFDzQs/edit

Of course, a more convincing proof that we are made in the image of God could be if God Himself became a man, walked on water, healed the sick, raised the dead, and then defeated death itself on a cross.

And that just so happens to be precisely the proof that is claimed within Christianity.

Shroud of Turin: From discovery of Photographic Negative, to 3D Information, to Quantum Hologram - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-TL4QOCiis>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-TL4QOCiis&list=PLtAP1KN7ahia8hmDICYEKifQ8n65oNpQ5&index=5>

<https://www.facebook.com/philip.cunningham.73/videos/1119619634717635/?pnref=story>

The evidence for the Shroud's authenticity keeps growing stronger. (Timeline of facts) - November 08, 2019

What Is the Shroud of Turin? Facts & History Everyone Should Know - Myra Adams and Russ Breault

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/jesus-christ/what-is-the-shroud-of-turin.html>

Turin Shroud Hologram Reveals The Words 'The Lamb' on a Solid Oval Object Under The Beard - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Tmka1I8GAQ>

<http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=J21MECNU>

Solid Oval Object Under The Beard

<http://shroud3d.com/findings/solid-oval-object-under-the-beard>

Minimal Facts vs. Maximal Data Approaches to the Resurrection: A Conversation with Dr. Lydia McGrew

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUt3r3dXBr4>

Verses and Music:

Genesis 1:26

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

John 1:1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and that life was the Light of men.

Casting Crowns - The Word Is Alive

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9itgOBAXSc>

supplemental note:

Conversations with William Dembski--The Thesis of Being as Communion - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYAsaU9lvnl>

All the Digital Data In the World Is Equivalent to One Human Brain - February 2011

Excerpt: „**the 6.4×10^{18} instructions per second that humankind can carry out on its general-purpose computers in 2007 are in the same ballpark area as the maximum number of nerve impulses executed by one human brain per second,**” Hilbert and Lopez write.

<http://www.popsoci.com/technology/article/2011-02/new-study-inventories-all-data-world-and-measures-how-its-stored-and-shared>

Human brain has more switches than all computers on Earth - November 2010

Excerpt: **They found that the brain's complexity is beyond anything they'd imagined, almost to the point of being beyond belief, says Stephen Smith, a professor of molecular and cellular physiology and senior author of the paper describing the study: ...One synapse, by itself, is more like a microprocessor--with both memory-storage and information-processing elements--than a mere on/off switch. In fact, one synapse may contain on the order of 1,000 molecular-scale switches. A single human brain has more switches than all the computers and routers and Internet connections on Earth.**

http://news.cnet.com/8301-27083_3-20023112-247.html

A New Paper on the Brain Says its Structure ...

Excerpt: **"Far from being just a tangle of wires, the brain's connections turn out to be more like ribbon cables—folding 2D sheets of parallel neuronal fibers that cross paths at**

right angles, like the warp and weft of a fabric."

<http://darwins-god.blogspot.com/2012/04/new-paper-on-brain-says-its-structure.html>

podcast - "Human Brain Development as a Symphony"

„a recent study from scientists at Yale that found that "human brain development is a symphony in three movements." The human brain develops through distinct patterns in gene activity,,,

http://intelligentdesign.podomatic.com/entry/2014-01-08T16_36_24-08_00

Human brain development is a symphony in three movements - Dec. 2013

Excerpt: **The human brain develops with an exquisitely timed choreography marked by distinct patterns of gene activity at different stages from the womb to adulthood, Yale researchers report in the Dec. 26 issue of the journal Neuron.,,,**

Intriguingly, say the researchers, some of the same patterns of genetic activity that define this human "hour glass" sketch were not observed in developing monkeys,

<http://news.yale.edu/2013/12/26/human-brain-development-symphony-three-movements>

Has "Evolution" Given Humans Unique Brain Structures? - February 22, 2013

Excerpt: **"We did functional brain scans in humans and rhesus monkeys at rest and while watching a movie to compare both the place and the function of cortical brain networks.,,, we found two networks unique to humans and one unique network in the monkey."**

"When watching a movie, the cortex processes an enormous amount of visual and auditory information. The human-specific resting state networks react to this stimulation in a totally different way than any part of the monkey brain. This means that they also have a different function than any of the resting state networks found in the monkey. In other words, brain structures that are unique in humans are anatomically absent in the monkey and there no other brain structures in the monkey that have an analogous function.,,

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/02/130222120753.htm>

Stark Differences Between Human and Chimp Brains - Brian Thomas, M.S. - Oct. 5, 2012

Excerpt: **The researchers used a new technique to peer in unprecedented detail at the methylation patterns of human and chimp DNA that they harvested from brain tissue of three cadavers of each species. They compared only those DNA sequences already known to have basically the same genes, ignoring the vast majority of DNA. If humans and chimps are close relatives, then they should have similar DNA methylation patterns in the areas of chromosomes that they have in common such as similar gene sequences.² However, this team found major differences.**

In particular, human and chimp DNA methylation patterns, called "methylomes," were very different between the two species' brain tissue. The data statistically indicated that "major principal components separate humans and chimpanzees," according to their report in American Journal of Human Genetics.^{1,3}

A second observation is that the very genes that were differently methylated "exhibit striking associations with several disorders, including neurological and psychological disorders and cancers."¹ These data show that methylation patterns in many cases can tolerate very little disruption, thus presenting another impossible hurdle for the evolutionary model to overcome.

If humans evolved from chimpanzee-like creatures, then some unknown evolutionary process must have altered their methylomes. But since methylomes apparently cannot tolerate that much alteration, then the evolutionary story must be in error.

Human and chimp species-specific and irreducibly complex methylomes refute human evolution.,,,

(Zeng, J. et al. 2012. Divergent whole-genome methylation maps of human and chimpanzee brains reveal epigenetic basis of human regulatory evolution. American Journal of Human Genetics. 91 (3):455-465.)

<http://www.icr.org/article/7067/>

Why should we ever consider a process, which is utterly incapable of ever generating any complex functional information at even the most foundational levels of molecular biology, to suddenly, magically, have the ability to generate our brain which can readily understand and generate functional information? A brain which has been repeatedly referred to as 'the Most Complex Structure in the Universe'? Darwinists never seem to consider the 'spiritual angle' for why we would have such a unique capacity for such abundant information processing. This following short video, and verses, are very clear as to what the implications of this evidence means to us and for us:

Made In God's Image

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/more-on-emergent-poofery/#comment-530594>

Moreover, since the ability to assign meaning has to exist before information that means anything can be created, then the finding of information to be foundational to life, (in DNA, Proteins and RNA), is equivalent to finding that there must be an overall meaning for life to have been created.

Modus Tollens - It Is Impossible For Evolution To Be True - T.G. Peeler - video

<http://www.metacafe.com/w/5047482>

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

John 1:1-1

In the beginning, the Word existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Genesis 3:8

And they (Adam and Eve) heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...

A very strong piece of suggestive evidence, which persuasively hints at a unique relationship that man has with 'The Word' of John 1:1, is found in these following articles which point out the fact that 'coincidental scientific discoveries' are far more prevalent than what should be expected from a materialistic perspective,:

In the Air – Who says big ideas are rare? by Malcolm Gladwell

Excerpt: **This phenomenon of simultaneous discovery—what science historians call “multiples”—turns out to be extremely common. One of the first comprehensive lists of multiples was put together by William Ogburn and Dorothy Thomas, in 1922, and they found a hundred and forty-eight major scientific discoveries that fit the multiple pattern. Newton and Leibniz both discovered calculus. Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace both discovered evolution. Three mathematicians “invented” decimal fractions. Oxygen was discovered by Joseph Priestley, in Wiltshire, in 1774, and by Carl Wilhelm Scheele, in Uppsala, a year earlier. Color photography was invented at the same time by Charles Cros and by Louis Ducos du Hauron, in France. Logarithms were invented by John Napier and Henry Briggs in Britain, and by Joost Bürgi in Switzerland. ... For Ogburn and Thomas, the sheer number of multiples could mean only one thing: scientific discoveries must, in some sense, be inevitable.**

http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2008/05/12/080512fa_fact_gladwell/?currentPage=all

List of multiple discoveries

Excerpt: **Historians and sociologists have remarked on the occurrence, in science, of "multiple independent discovery". Robert K. Merton defined such "multiples" as instances in which similar discoveries are made by scientists working independently of each other.... Multiple independent discovery, however, is not limited to only a few historic instances involving giants of scientific research. Merton believed that it is multiple discoveries, rather than unique ones, that represent the common pattern in science.**

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

Bruce Charlton's Miscellany - October 2011

Excerpt: **I had discovered that over the same period of the twentieth century that the US had risen to scientific eminence (in the world) it had undergone a significant Christian revival. ... The point I put to (Richard) Dawkins was that the USA was simultaneously by-far the most dominant scientific nation in the world (I knew this from various scientometric studies I was doing at the time) and by-far the most religious (Christian) nation in the world. How, I asked, could this be - if Christianity was culturally inimical to science?**

<http://charltonteaching.blogspot.com/2011/10/meeting-richard-dawkins-and-his-wife.html>

Of related interest:

Da and Nyet - Religion in the Public Square - 2012 By: Eric Metaxas

Excerpt: **Two years ago, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev announced a pilot program in which Russian public school students would be required to take classes in either religion or ethics. The plan is part of an effort to re-moralize Russia after seventy-plus years of atheistic Communist rule.**

Under the plan, students would study the history of one of the four religions termed “traditional”: Orthodox Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Buddhism. Or they could take a course in secular ethics.

The two-year trial involving twenty percent of Russia’s schools went so well that, according the Asia News, Vladimir Putin, the president of Russia, plans to expand the program to every Russian school later this year.

<http://www.breakpoint.org/bpcommentaries/entry/13/19170>

Gifted people being able to instantaneously know answers to complex problems is also something that argues forcefully against the notion that our minds are merely the 'emergent' products of molecules in motion;

Electrical genius Nicola Tesla was born in Serbia in 1856,,, his father was a clergyman.

Excerpt: **While walking in Budapest Park, Hungary, Nikola Tesla had seen a vision of a functioning alternating current (AC) electric induction motor. This was one of the most revolutionary inventions in the entire history of the world.**

<http://www.reformation.org/nikola-tesla.html>

The boy in this following video rivals, or surpasses, Nikola Tesla as an example of innovative ideas coming fully formed to the mind without any need for trial and error:

Bluejay: The Mind of a Child Prodigy – video

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7186319n>

At the 11:50 minute mark of this following video 21 year old world Chess champion Magnus Carlsen explains that he does not know how he knows his next move of Chess instantaneously, that ‘it just comes natural’ to him to know the answer instantaneously.

Mozart of Chess: Magnus Carlsen – video

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7399370n&tag=contentMain:contentAux>

A chess prodigy explains how his mind works – video

Excerpt: **What’s the secret to Magnus’ magic? Once an opponent makes a move, Magnus instantaneously knows his own next move.**

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504803_162-57380913-10391709/a-chess-prodigy-explains-how-his-mind-works/?tag=segmentExtraScroller:housing

Searching for Bobby Fischer (10/10) Movie CLIP - Josh Offers a Draw (1993) HD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9pFp6iRVM0>

"I became a Christian because it is the thinking man's religion. You have to ask questions. You have to make decisions. You have to study the Bible and ponder if it makes sense to you. You are asked to act on your beliefs so you have to seriously think about them. People like to say I am "lucky", What is that? It takes more faith to believe in some vague unstable concept like "luck" than to believe in God who gives us many records of Himself and His involvement in the affairs of men."

- Wesley So - World's #2 chess player

http://evangelicalfocus.com/lifetech/2302/Wesley_So_I_am_not_foolish_enough_to_think_I_can_do_this_by_myself

This ability to 'instantaneously' know answers to complex problems has long been a very intriguing characteristic of some autistic savants;

Is Integer Arithmetic Fundamental to Mental Processing?: The mind's secret arithmetic
Excerpt: **Because normal children struggle to learn multiplication and division, it is surprising that some savants perform integer arithmetic calculations mentally at "lightning" speeds (Treffert 1989, Myers 1903, Hill 1978, Smith 1983, Sacks 1985, Hermelin and O'Connor 1990, Welling 1994, Sullivan 1992). They do so unconsciously, without any apparent training, typically without being able to report on their methods, and often at an age when the normal child is struggling with elementary arithmetic concepts (O'Connor 1989). Examples include multiplying, factoring, dividing and identifying primes of six (and more) digits in a matter of seconds as well as specifying the number of objects (more than one hundred) at a glance. For example, one savant (Hill 1978) could give the cube root of a six figure number in 5 seconds and he could double 8,388,628 twenty four times to obtain 140,737,488,355,328 in several seconds. Joseph (Sullivan 1992), the inspiration for the film "Rain Man" about an autistic savant, could spontaneously answer "what number times what number gives 1234567890" by stating "9 times 137,174,210". Sacks (1985) observed autistic twins who could exchange prime numbers in excess of eight figures, possibly even 20 figures, and who could "see" the number of many objects at a glance. When a box of 111 matches fell to the floor the twins cried out 111 and 37, 37, 37.**

<http://www.centreforthemind.com/publications/integerarithmetic.cfm>

Then, of course, Sir Isaac Newton stated this:

I have a fundamental belief in the Bible as the Word of God, written by men who were inspired. I study the Bible daily.... All my discoveries have been made in an answer to prayer.

Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727), considered by many to be the greatest scientist of all time

<https://crev.info/?scientists=isaac-newton>

Inventors - George Washington Carver

Excerpt: **"God gave them to me" he (Carver) would say about his ideas, "How can I sell them to someone else?"**

<http://inventors.about.com/od/cstartinventors/a/GWC.htm>

The following video gives deep insight into how serious the problem of 'knowledge acquisition' is to the worldview of atheistic materialism:

Kurt Godel - Incompleteness Theorem and Human Intuition - video (notes in description of video)

<https://vimeo.com/92387854>

It is interesting to note that although Alan Turing believed humans were merely machines, much like the computers he had envisioned, failed to realize that his idea for computers came to him suddenly, 'in a vision', thus confirming Godel's contention that humans had access to the 'divine spark of intuition'. A divine spark which enables humans to transcend the limits he, and Turing, had found in his incompleteness theorem for computers, mathematics, and even for all material reality generally (S. Jaki).

The Half-Truths of Materialist Evolution - DONALD DeMARCO - 02/06/2015

Excerpt: "The thing from which the world suffers just now more than any other evil," wrote author and Catholic convert G.K. Chesterton, "is not the assertion of falsehood, but the endless and irrepressible repetition of half-truths."

Jean-Paul Sartre emphasized freedom, but denied morality. Sigmund Freud stressed instinct, but suppressed the spiritual. Friedrich Nietzsche glorified the individual, but disdained the community. Karl Marx celebrated the community, but rejected the individual. Charles Darwin was enamored of empirical science, but excluded metaphysics.

It is an all-too common theme. Chesterton, himself, I am happy to note, was not speaking in half-truths.

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/the-half-truths-of-materialist-evolution/>

After prayer was removed from public schools in 1963, SAT scores 'mysteriously' started to decline for 17 straight years after 1963 until 1980.

Historical average SAT scores of college bound seniors. – 1950 to the 2020

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e8/Historical_Average_SAT_Scores_%28Vector%29.svg

Results of Supreme Court (1962) Prayer Ban

Statistical graphs posted below, shockingly reveal the damaging impact on America's morality as a direct result of the Supreme Court prayer ban in 1962.

<http://www.watchmanbiblestudy.com/News/2010/07/18%20America%20To%20Pray%20Or%20Not%20To%20Pray.htm>

The last graph on the following site shows that the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) scores for students showed a steady decline, for seventeen years from the top spot or near the top spot in the world, after the removal of prayer from the public classroom by the Supreme Court, i.e. legislation from the bench, in 1963.

What Happened When the Praying Stopped? April 6, 2008

Excerpt: How did the removal of voluntary prayer from the schools of the United States (in 1963) affect our nation as a whole?,,,

Figure 1 shows how drastically the actual knowledge of high school students began to drop at an accelerating rate after 1962. Barton notes in his report that the upturn in SAT scores since 1981 is due to the increase in private Christian educational facilities which began to flourish at that time. Statistics have proven that students from private Christian schools showed higher academic achievement and higher test scores.

Figure 2: This graph shows the increase in sexual activity in unmarried teen-age girls after the 1962 Supreme Court decision. It is evident from the figures provided that in the years previous to the removal of prayer the rates remained stable and relatively unchanged. In the post- prayer years the numbers immediately began to soar. The sudden increase on the graph appears as if a great restraining force had suddenly been removed.

Figure 3: Unwed women 15-19 years of age showed a phenomenal increase in the rate of pregnancies after the School Prayer decision. Note that the figure jumps drastically after the Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade decision which made abortion legal in the U.S. The United States now has the highest incidence of teen-age motherhood in any Western country.

Figure 4: For the 15-19 and 20-24 age group, the rates of youth suicide remained relatively unchanged during the years from 1946 to the School Prayer decision in 1962. But in the years since, suicides among the same group have increased 253 percent, or an average of 10.5 percent per year.

Figure 5: Stability in the family has also been affected since the 1962 decision. Divorce, single parent families, couples living together but not married, and adultery are areas of family breakdown which have experienced radical growth in recent years. In the graph above, the increase in single parent families (households with only a mother and children) are detailed. Note the dotted line at the bottom, which shows the rate of growth prior to the 1962 decision.

Figure 6: Crime, productivity, and national morality had been on a fairly stable level prior to the 1962 decision, but that is no longer the case. It is obvious that such a quantity of students praying for their nation had a very positive effect on the course that this nation had taken. The rate of violent crime, as shown above, has risen over 330 percent.

http://www.forerunner.com/forerunner/X0124_When_America_stopped.html

The Devastating Effects When Prayer Was Removed From School in America in 1962-63 - David Barton

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1No--GpdqCY>

January 2021

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/move-to-deny-accreditation-to-religious-schools-for-science-reasons/#comment-722134>

What Happened When the Voluntary Prayer Was Removed From Schools In 1962? David Barton - starting at 5:37 minute mark of this video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=LiudwVNTUWA#t=338

and continuing through the first few minutes of this video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zo5L4f57H4>

Education Expert: Removing Bible, Prayer from Public Schools Has Caused Decline | August 15, 2014

Excerpt: Education expert William Jeynes said on Wednesday that there is a correlation between the decline of U.S. public schools and the U.S. Supreme Court's 1962 and 1963 decision that school-sponsored Bible reading was unconstitutional.

"One can argue, and some have, that the decision by the Supreme Court – in a series of three decisions back in 1962 and 1963 – to remove Bible and prayer from our public schools, may be the most spiritually significant event in our nation's history over the course of the last 55 years," Jeynes said.

On June 25, 1962, the United States Supreme Court decided in *Engel v. Vitale* that a prayer approved by the New York Board of Regents for use in schools violated the First Amendment because it represented establishment of religion. In 1963, in *Abington School District v. Schempp*, the court decided against Bible readings in public schools along the same lines. Since 1963, Jeynes said there have been five negative developments in the nation's public schools:

- Academic achievement has plummeted, including SAT scores.
- Increased rate of out-of-wedlock births
- Increase in illegal drug use
- Increase in juvenile crime
- Deterioration of school behavior

"So we need to realize that these actions do have consequences," said Jeynes, professor at California State College in Long Beach and senior fellow at the Witherspoon Institute in Princeton, N.J., "When we remove that moral fiber — that moral emphasis — this is what can result."

<https://catholiccitizens.org/views/77893/education-expert-removing-bible-prayer-public-schools-caused-decline/>

A Meta-Analysis on the Relationship Between Prayer and Student Outcomes

William Jeynes - January 6, 2020

Abstract: A meta-analysis, including 13 studies, was undertaken on the relationship between the exercise of student prayer and academic and behavioral outcomes in urban schools. Analyses both with and without sophisticated controls (e.g., socioeconomic status, race, and gender) were used. Additional analyses were done to determine whether the effects of prayer differed by the quality of the study. The results indicated that the exercise of prayer is associated with better levels of student outcomes. Moreover, the effects of prayer were greater for high-quality studies. The significance of these results is discussed.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0013124519896841>

July 2021 - And if you are thinking about pulling your child from the failing public school system in America to enroll them in a private Christian school, might I suggest a private Christian school that teaches “Classical, Christian Education”

<https://uncommondescent.com/evolution/what-exactly-is-national-center-for-science-education-doing-these-days/#comment-733652>

<https://uncommondescent.com/evolution/what-exactly-is-national-center-for-science-education-doing-these-days/#comment-733653>

Jan. 2023 - Hmm, there seems to be fatal flaw in PM1’s “a reasoned faith in human capacities (intelligence, creativity, compassion)”, i.e. in “humanism”. leading to a ‘better world’, all without God.

Specifically, “intelligence, creativity, and compassion” all find their basis in God. Thus for a humanist to try to use his ‘intelligence, creativity, and compassion’ to reason his way to ‘better world’, all without God, is for him to literally cut off the branch upon which he is sitting.

<https://uncommondescent.com/culture/allowing-rufo-and-lindsay-to-speak-in-their-own-voices/#comment-773225>

Classical, Christian Education: Higher SAT Scores Than All Other School Types “Without Even Trying”

— Tom Owens on Jan 17, 2020

One of the distinguishing features of classical education is we refuse to “teach to the test.” Instead, we immerse students in the great conversation of Western, Christian Civilization, exposing them early and often to the best minds humanity has ever produced. We seek the intellectual, moral, and spiritual development of our students above all, but when it comes to the standardized tests obsessed over in conventional schools, we are content to “let the chips fall where they may.”

Yet, in following the wisdom of the ancients in our approach, the results speak for themselves. Member schools of the Association of Christian & Classical Schools (ACCS) produce students whose SAT scores are, on average, 325 points higher than public schools, 191 points higher than conventional religious schools, and 138 points higher than secular private high schools. How does this happen when most classical schools don’t formally prep for the SAT as part of the curriculum? Why does it seem like ACCS students easily handle the SAT “without even trying?”

[https://www.dominionschool.com/dominion-blog/classical-christian-education-higher-sat-scores-t
han-all-other-school-types-without-even-trying](https://www.dominionschool.com/dominion-blog/classical-christian-education-higher-sat-scores-than-all-other-school-types-without-even-trying)

Harvard Study Reveals Religious Upbringing Better for Kids' Health, Well-Being - 2018

<https://stream.org/new-study-reveals-religious-upbringing-better-kids-health-well/>

Prayer in School - notes

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1q8uAEdSy9V2tL9JTHuGzBvbQT0tXRuNdaVI1JPjlcZ4/
edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1q8uAEdSy9V2tL9JTHuGzBvbQT0tXRuNdaVI1JPjlcZ4/edit)

The Devastating Effects When Prayer Was Removed From School in America in 1962-63 -

David Barton - video

(excerpted from Barton's "America's Godly Heritage" lecture)

<https://youtu.be/1No--GpdqCY>

[https://www.facebook.com/philip.cunningham.73/videos/vb.100000088262100/11636672136462
10/?type=2&theater](https://www.facebook.com/philip.cunningham.73/videos/vb.100000088262100/1163667213646210/?type=2&theater)

If anyone doubts those sobering numbers cited by David Barton, here is the raw data on crime statistics for America from 1960 to 2019:

United States Crime Rates 1960 - 2019 (Please note the skyrocketing crime rate from 1963, the year prayer was removed from school, thru 1980, the year the steep climb in crime rate finally leveled off.) of note: The slight decline in the violent crime rate at the mid 90s is attributed in large part to tougher enforcement on minor crimes (i.e. New York's 'spitting on the sidewalk' enforcement).

<http://www.disastercenter.com/crime/uscrime.htm>

Religiously engaged adolescents demonstrate habits that help them get better grades, Stanford scholar finds - April 15, 2018

Excerpt: Adolescents who practice religion on a regular basis do better in school than those who are religiously disengaged, according to new research from Stanford Graduate School of Education (GSE).,,,

The link between religiosity and grades remained after accounting for race, class, gender and religious denomination, Horwitz said. It also held after controlling for certain behaviors associated with strict religious practice among teenagers, like lower alcohol consumption and limited sexual activity.

"Generally, kids who are religious drink less, have less sex, and are more closely supervised by their parents," said Horwitz. "These variables explained some of why religious kids do better in school. But my models showed there's something above and beyond those factors that the survey data couldn't explain."

[https://ed.stanford.edu/news/religiously-engaged-adolescents-demonstrate-habits-help-them-ge
t-better-grades-stanford-scholar?newsletter=true](https://ed.stanford.edu/news/religiously-engaged-adolescents-demonstrate-habits-help-them-get-better-grades-stanford-scholar?newsletter=true)

John 13:13

"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am."

"I have a fundamental belief in the Bible as the Word of God, written by men who were inspired. I study the Bible daily.,,, All my discoveries have been made in answer to prayer."

– Sir Isaac Newton - Perloff, Tornado in a Junkyard - p241

"When I was young, I said to God, 'God, tell me the mystery of the universe.' But God answered, 'That knowledge is for me alone.' So I said, 'God, tell me the mystery of the peanut.' Then God said, 'Well George, that's more nearly your size.' And he told me."

George Washington Carver

David Barton - (The Fallacy of) Separation of Church and State (Full) - video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7mIU34etOk>

The Fallacy Of The Doctrine Of Separation of Church and State - video

<http://empowerliberty.com/videos/wall-of-separation-between-church-and-state-myth-reality-results>

The preceding video analyzes the Thomas Jefferson letter to the Baptists in full starting at around the 26 minute mark of the lecture and shows how the 'separation' between church and state phrase in the letter has been twisted 180 degrees out of its original context and meaning. As well, at around the 30 minute mark Thomas Jefferson's numerous 'church planting' acts (with federal money no less, while he was president of the United States) are gone over.

It appears the video that I referenced in regards to the myth of 'separation of church and state' is no longer available. Here is an article that covers much the same ground as the video did:

The Mythical "Wall of Separation": How a Misused Metaphor Changed Church–State Law, Policy, and Discourse

By Daniel L. Dreisbach

Excerpt: **The First Amendment, with all its guarantees, was entirely a check or restraint on civil government, specifically Congress. The free press guarantee, for example, was not written to protect the civil state from the press; rather, it was designed to protect a free and independent press from control by the federal government.**

Similarly, the religion provisions were added to the Constitution to protect religion and religious institutions from corrupting interference by the federal government and not to protect the civil state from the influence of, or overreaching by, religion.

<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2006/06/the-mythical-wall-of-separation-how-a-misused-metaphor-changed-church-state-law-policy-and-discourse>

In fact, the term 'separation of church and state' does not even appear anywhere in the constitution but is a term that was lifted out of context from one of Jefferson's personal letters to

the Danbury Baptists, and then twisted almost 180 degrees out of its original context. The term 'separation of church and state', as Jefferson originally intended it, meant that the Danbury Baptists could rest assured that they were free to exercise their religion as they saw fit, completely free from any government interference. I.e. The first amendment was originally devised to protect the church from the state's influence, not to protect the state from the church's influence.

The Truth About "Separation of Church and State"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DS6QGyWVgZY>

Jefferson's Letter to the Danbury Baptists – January 1, 1802

Excerpt: Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black (a former KKK member), in 1947, put forth the argument for a radical separation of religion and politics, he cited Jefferson's metaphor: "[t]he First Amendment has erected a wall of separation between church and state. That wall must be kept high and impregnable."

Jefferson's actual aim was quite to the contrary.,.,

The "wall" does not imprison the free exercise of religion. Rather, Jefferson sought to prevent the domination of particular sects, making free the religious practices of all.

<http://www.heritage.org/initiatives/first-principles/primary-sources/jefferson-s-letter-to-the-danbury-baptists>

Hugo Black and the real history of "the wall of separation between church and state" - 2011

Excerpt: So how does this invocation of "wall of separation between church and state" become Supreme Court doctrine, extending from a casual phrase by Thomas Jefferson in a letter to an obscure comment in an 1878 Supreme Court ruling on bigamy to a pervasive doctrine of anti-religious censorship in the public square in the 21st century?

Here's how:

On August 11, 1921 Fr. James Coyle, a Roman Catholic priest in Birmingham, Alabama, was shot to death on the porch of his rectory by E.R. Stephensen, a local Ku Klux Klansman. Fr. Coyle had just performed a wedding between Stephensen's daughter and her Puerto Rican husband.

Stephenson was defended by five lawyers, four of whom were Klan members. The fifth lawyer who volunteered to defend Stephenson was Hugo Black, a prominent local attorney. Despite the fact that the Catholic priest was unarmed and the murder was committed in public in front of witnesses, Stephensen was acquitted of murder based on "self-defense" and "temporary insanity".

Defense attorney Black joined the Ku Klux Klan after the trial. In the Klan, Black was a Kladd of the Klavern, which was an initiator of new Klansmen.

From The Volokh Conspiracy:

... Black was head of new members for the largest Klan cell in the South. New members of the KKK had to pledge their allegiance to the "eternal separation of Church and State."... Separation was a crucial part of the KKK's jurisprudential agenda. It was included in the Klansman's Creed...

Several years later, Black ran for U.S. Senate from Alabama. He barnstormed the state, campaigning on a virulent anti-Catholic platform and demanding "a wall of separation between church and state". His strongest support came from his Klan base, and he gave many anti-Catholic "wall of separation" speeches to Klan meetings across Alabama.

Black, a Democrat, won the Alabama senate seat in 1926, defeating his Republican opponent with 80.9 % of the vote. He easily won re-election in 1932, with 86.3 % of the vote. He was a staunch defender of FDR's New Deal and of Roosevelt's court-packing plan.

In 1937 Roosevelt appointed Black to the Supreme Court. Despite controversy about his Klan history, Black was easily confirmed. He quickly acquired a reputation for idiosyncratic interpretation of the Constitution.

In 1947, Justice Hugo Black wrote the majority opinion in *Everson v. Board of Education*, the landmark Establishment Clause Supreme Court decision that barred use of tax revenues to transport children to religious (Catholic) schools.

Justice Black wrote:

No tax in any amount, large or small, can be levied to support any religious activities or institutions, whatever they may be called, or whatever form they may adopt to teach or practice religion. Neither a state nor the Federal Government can, openly or secretly, participate in the affairs of any religious organizations or groups and vice versa. In the words of Jefferson, the clause against establishment of religion by law was intended to erect 'a wall of separation between Church and State.'" 330 U.S. 1, 15-16 [emphasis mine]

In 1962, Justice Hugo Black wrote the majority opinion in *Engel v. Vitale*, the landmark Establishment Clause Supreme Court decision that outlawed prayer in public schools.

Justice Black wrote:

The petitioners contend among other things that the state laws requiring or permitting use of the Regents' prayer must be struck down as a violation of the Establishment Clause because that prayer was composed by governmental officials as a part of a governmental program to further religious beliefs. For this reason, petitioners argue, the State's use of the Regents' prayer in its public school system breaches the constitutional wall of separation between Church and State. We agree with that contention since we think that the constitutional prohibition against laws respecting an establishment of religion must at least mean that in this country it is no part of the business of government to compose official prayers for any group of the American people to recite as a part of a religious program carried on by government. [emphasis mine]

Justice Hugo Black began his political career in the wake of his successful defense of a Klansman who murdered a Catholic priest. The modern application of the non-Constitutional doctrine "a wall of separation between church and state" derives from Black, a former Kladd of the Klavern of the Alabama Ku Klux Klan, who used his Klan base to secure a Senate seat and ultimately an appointment on the Supreme Court.

The phrase "a wall of separation between church and state" played little role in jurisprudence until the mid-20th century. The doctrine has long played a large cultural role, preserved by pervasive anti-Catholic bigotry through organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan, and became a 'Constitutional principle' through the jurisprudence of an anti-Catholic bigot. It is used today to suppress prayer and religious expression in all public schools in the United States.

Why is it that discussions of the "separation of church and state" don't generally include the

cultural and political history of the "doctrine"? Why is the central role that "separation" played in the political and judicial rise of Justice Black-- the father of modern Establishment Clause jurisprudence-- never seems to show up in New York Times Op-Ed columns or NPR's "All Things Considered"? Ever see a press release by Americans United for Separation of Church and State note the fact that "an eternal separation of church and state" was a part of the KKK's jurisprudential agenda and the Klansmen's Creed, and that one of those Klansmen jurists wrote the Supreme Court opinions establishing "separation of church and state" as the law under which we live?

<http://egnorance.blogspot.com/2011/10/hugo-black-and-real-history-of-wall-of.html>

"Separation of Church and State"? How a KKK creed became American Jurisprudence

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6qGCfnAKUw>

Charlie Daniels: Separation of Church & State Is Not About 'Religion'; It's a Battle Against Christianity By Charlie Daniels | September 18, 2017

Excerpt: **Many people think there is a section in the Constitution, or somewhere in the federal papers that demands separation of church and state, but there is no such terminology.**

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

Separation of church and state is part of a letter written by Thomas Jefferson, whose original intent was far from what the enemies of public displays of religion would have you believe.

<https://www.cnsnews.com/commentary/charlie-daniels/charlie-daniels-separation-church-state-not-about-religion-its-battle>

Wallbuilder's David Barton tells Glenn Beck about the Christian Heritage and Faith of the American Founding Fathers. (March 2010) – video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=uODn4bRvI4g#t=172s

Part2

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XwYUvz3YppQ>

Part3

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OauNPiyzUjE>

The Freedom From Religion Foundation: Getting the Founding Fathers wrong - VJ Torley - July 9, 2013

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/the-freedom-from-religion-foundation-getting-the-founding-fathers-wrong/>

The Declaration of Independence Part of American Law

Excerpt: The Declaration of Independence Part of American Law

Professor John Eidsmoe writes: "The role of the Declaration of Independence in American law is often misconstrued. Some believe the Declaration is simply a statement of ideas that has no

legal force whatsoever today. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Declaration has been repeatedly cited by the U.S. Supreme Court as part of the fundamental law of the United States of America. “The United States Code Annotated includes the Declaration of Independence under the heading ‘The Organic Laws of the United States of America’ along with the Articles of Confederation, the Constitution, and the Northwest Ordinance. Enabling acts frequently require states to adhere to the principles of the Declaration; in the Enabling Act of June 16, 1906, Congress authorized Oklahoma Territory to take steps to become a state. Section 3 provides that the Oklahoma Constitution ‘shall not be repugnant to the Constitution of the United States and the principles of the Declaration of Independence.’ (Christianity and the Constitution, pp. 360-361),,,

<https://nccs.net/blogs/articles/the-declaration-of-independence-part-of-american-law>

Indeed, The Declaration of Independence Is the Moral and Legal Foundation of America

The Declaration of Independence Is the Moral and Legal Foundation of America

Timothy Sandefur July 2, 2018

Excerpt: The Declaration of Independence is law. It was voted on and approved by the Continental Congress—the governing body of the nation at that time—and it had, and still has, legal effect. It’s codified in the United States statutes, today, at page 1, volume 1, of the Statutes at Large and in a supplemental volume of the U.S. Code. The Constitution refers to the Declaration directly (it was signed “in the Year . . . of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth”) and indirectly, as when it refers to “the people of the United States”—the same “one people” identified in the opening line of the Declaration. In fact, the Declaration of Independence is a precedent to the U.S. Constitution and, as such, an understanding of the Declaration is vital to interpreting the Constitution.

For instance, the Declaration announces the principles on which national sovereignty is based. Its pronouncements that all men are created equal, and that they create government to secure their rights, reserving always the right to alter or abolish it, serve as the foundations for the Constitution. Indeed, these principles are why the people had any right at all to create a constitution (a point James Madison made in Federalist No. 40).

The Declaration also answers the question of whether sovereignty ultimately rests with the nation as a whole or with the states. Was the sovereignty that was seized from Great Britain in the Revolution inherited by the American nation or by the states separately? If sovereignty rests with the states, must they abide by the Constitution or the principles of liberty and equality that undergird it? These were crucial questions in the years surrounding the Civil War.

But that wasn’t the first time that such questions arose or that such debates raged. Even during the writing of the Constitution, when Maryland delegate Luther Martin claimed the states were sovereign, he was soundly rebuffed by Pennsylvania delegate James Wilson. The states, Wilson observed, had declared independence “not Individually but Unitedly,” and they had never engaged in “the great and distinguishing acts of Sovereignty,” such as foreign relations.

Siding with Wilson, the authors of the Constitution created a system that ensured that the “one people” of America were the basic source of political authority—and that such authority would be limited by the moral principles of equality and liberty as laid down in the Declaration.

<https://www.theobjectivestandard.com/2018/07/the-declaration-of-independence-is-the-moral-and-legal-foundation-of-america/>

My understanding of the founding fathers sentiment towards God is quite different from yours:

A Few Declarations of Founding Fathers and Early Statesmen on Jesus, Christianity, and the Bible

Excerpt: John Adams

Signer Of The Declaration Of Independence; Judge; Diplomat; One Of Two Signers Of The Bill Of Rights; Second President Of The United States

"The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity. I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God."1,,,

George Washington

Judge; Member Of The Continental Congress;

Commander-in-chief Of The Continental Army;

President Of The Constitutional Convention;

First President Of The United States; "father Of His Country"

"You do well to wish to learn our arts and ways of life, and above all, the religion of Jesus Christ. These will make you a greater and happier people than you are." 121,,,

<https://wallbuilders.com/founding-fathers-jesus-christianity-bible/>

Of related interest as to defending the integrity of David Barton's work, David Barton defends, from several critics, his scholarship for a book he wrote suggesting Thomas Jefferson held beliefs that were far more friendly to Christianity than many historians have been portraying his beliefs to be to the general public:

The Jefferson Lies: Taking On The Critics - David Barton - July 2012

Excerpt: **Significantly, in the chapter on Jefferson's religious beliefs, I document that Jefferson went through several religious phases during his life. In the first half of his life, he held orthodox Christian views, and in his "Notes on Religion, 1776," he consistently expounded what orthodox Christians still believe today. In middle life, his faith faltered when his beloved wife unexpectedly died, but he eventually retained his orthodox beliefs. But many decades later in the last years of his life, he embraced what was known as Christian Restoration or Christian Primitivism, which promoted Unitarianism and called into question some orthodox Christian doctrines, thus reversing his beliefs of earlier decades.**

But Crawford, ignoring Jefferson's many writings documenting his changing religious phases, instead asserts that Jefferson was a Unitarian for his entire life. On what grounds does he claim this? – on the basis of any Jefferson writing? No. Rather, he says it is because "many historians believe . . ." So, like the other critics, Crawford refuses to

allow Jefferson to speak for himself but instead believes that only modern academics like himself can speak for Jefferson.

<http://www.wallbuilders.com/LIBissuesArticles.asp?id=118208>

David Barton responds to critics during interview with Glenn Beck on GBTV - Aug, 2012

<http://t.co/FPk503pp>

On the other hand, and as David pointed out in his lecture, the SAT scores for private Christian schools have consistently remained at the top, or near the top, spot in the world. You can see the dramatic difference, of the SAT scores for private Christian schools compared to public schools, at this following site;

Aliso Viejo Christian School – SAT 10 Comparison Report

http://www.alisoviejochristianschool.org/sat_10.html

CognitiveGenesis

http://www.cognitivegenesis.org/?page_id=1228

July 2021 - And if you are thinking about pulling your child from the failing public school system in America to enroll them in a private Christian school, might I suggest a private Christian school that teaches “Classical, Christian Education”

<https://uncommondescent.com/philosophy/the-slow-descent-of-science-as-in-trust-the-science/#comment-734805>

Classical, Christian Education: Higher SAT Scores Than All Other School Types “Without Even Trying”

– Tom Owens on Jan 17, 2020

One of the distinguishing features of classical education is we refuse to “teach to the test.” Instead, we immerse students in the great conversation of Western, Christian Civilization, exposing them early and often to the best minds humanity has ever produced. We seek the intellectual, moral, and spiritual development of our students above all, but when it comes to the standardized tests obsessed over in conventional schools, we are content to “let the chips fall where they may.”

Yet, in following the wisdom of the ancients in our approach, the results speak for themselves. Member schools of the Association of Christian & Classical Schools (ACCS) produce students whose SAT scores are, on average, 325 points higher than public schools, 191 points higher than conventional religious schools, and 138 points higher than secular private high schools. How does this happen when most classical schools don’t formally prep for the SAT as part of the curriculum? Why does it seem like ACCS students easily handle the SAT “without even trying?”

[https://www.dominionschool.com/dominion-blog/classical-christian-education-higher-sat-scores-t
han-all-other-school-types-without-even-trying](https://www.dominionschool.com/dominion-blog/classical-christian-education-higher-sat-scores-than-all-other-school-types-without-even-trying)

2018 SAT Results Released

The College Board recently released performance results from the SAT for the class of 2018. According to the College Board, the mean total scores for 2018 graduates who took the SAT was 1068, a slight increase over last year's class average of 1060. For the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section (ERW), the mean score was 536, whereas last year's was 533. The Math section score was 531, just above 2017's 527.

Private School Data

According to data provided to CAPE by the College Board, results varied significantly by the type of school students attended, with college-bound seniors in religious and independent schools scoring substantially higher than the national average. Specifically, the average combined score of students in independent schools was 1188, or 120 points above the national mean, while the average for religious school students was 1153, which was 85 points above the mean. Public school students scored 1049, 19 points below the mean. The scores make clear that students in private schools help lift the national average.

<https://www.lcs.education/4198-2/>

As the preceding SAT results clearly indicate, (scores that have remained remarkably high for private Christian schools ever since prayer was removed from public schools and the public schools scores then dropped dramatically for 18 years straight), perhaps the government should, instead of pouring billions upon billions of dollars into our failing public school systems to no substantial effect, instead put prayer back in schools? Just a practical thought. (i.e. Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results)

Moreover, besides the devastating educational and moral impact on society at large when prayer was removed from public school, the secular mandate that only Darwinian Evolution can be taught in public schools has also had a significant detrimental moral impact for society at large. Richard Weikart, author of "From Darwin to Hitler", states that, "Only in the late nineteenth and especially the early twentieth century did significant debate erupt over issues relating to the sanctity of human life, especially infanticide, euthanasia, abortion, and suicide. It was no mere coincidence that these contentious issues emerged at the same time that Darwinism was gaining in influence."

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/the-junk-science-of-the-abortion-lobby/#comment-672367>

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/the-junk-science-of-the-abortion-lobby/#comment-672365>

What Lies Behind Growing Secularism by William Lane Craig - May 2012 - podcast (steep decline in altruism of young people since early 1960's)

<http://www.reasonablefaith.org/what-lies-behind-growing-secularism>

The following article points out the flaw in a 2007 study that found equality in education between public schools and private schools by 'correcting' the test scores upwardly for public schools:

Do private schools educate children better than public schools?

Excerpt: **The results of education testing seems to show mixed results on the question of whether private schools educate children better. The results of the 2000 National Assessment of Educational Progress tests showed that private school students achieved higher scores at all three grade levels tested. However, a 2007 Center on Education Policy study found that once socioeconomic factors are corrected when assessing test results, private school students didn't perform any better than public school students. Basically, this study says that students who did well on the standardized tests would have done well regardless of whether they attended a private or public school. However, moving past the dueling tests and studies, what's clear is that private school students have better SAT scores, and better college admission and graduation rates, regardless of socioeconomic level.**

<http://curiosity.discovery.com/question/private-schools-educate-public-schools>

Harvard Study Reveals Religious Upbringing Better for Kids' Health, Well-Being - 2018

<https://stream.org/new-study-reveals-religious-upbringing-better-kids-health-well/>

Here is a critique, by two different atheists, of a 2013 meta-study that purported to show that atheists are smarter than Christians:

Fearless scholar Frank Furedi takes on claims that religious people are less intelligent than atheists - August 18, 2013

Excerpt: At most, this analysis shows that because smart people spend more time in education and because universities tend to be secular institutions, they will produce proportionally more atheists.

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/religion/fearless-scholar-frank-furedi-takes-on-claims-that-religious-people-are-less-intelligent-than-atheists/>

Before We Make Too Much of the Intelligence and Religiosity Study - August 2013

Excerpt: From what I have read so far, these include but are not limited to the narrow definition of intelligence used by the authors,,, **and the inclusion of studies that have been criticized by other researchers in the data set.**

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/religion/fearless-scholar-frank-furedi-takes-on-claims-that-religious-people-are-less-intelligent-than-atheists/#comment-468501>

The following video is very suggestive to a 'spiritual' link in man's ability to learn new information in that the video shows that almost every, if not every, founder of each discipline of modern science was a devout Christian:

Christianity Gave Birth To Science - Dr. Henry Fritz Schaefer - video

<http://vimeo.com/16523153>

Atheism cannot ground Morality or Science

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ov3GNroapS12eg3rH0RxvIOdAXiFGaf436IPg5W2ids/edit>

It is also very interesting to point out that even though Christianity has a incredible track record of being very conducive for scientific progress, and also being very helpful to the education of children, Christianity is, in spite of this unmatched track record in education and scientific progress, treated with severe prejudice in higher education.

Majority of American University Professors have Negative View of Evangelical Christians – 2007
Excerpt: **According to a two-year study released today by the Institute for Jewish & Community Research (IJCR), 53% of non-Evangelical university faculty say they hold cool or unfavorable views of Evangelical Christians – the only major religious denomination to be viewed negatively by a majority of faculty.**

Only 30% of faculty hold positive views of Evangelicals, 56% of faculty in social sciences and humanities departments hold unfavorable views. Results were based on a nationally representative online survey of 1,269 faculty members at over 700 four-year colleges and universities. Margin of error is +/- 3%. ,,,

Only 20% of those faculty who say religion is very important to them and only 16% of Republicans have unfavorable views of Evangelicals; the percentages rise considerably for faculty who say religion is not important to them (75%) and among Democrats (65%),,,

“This survey shows a disturbing level of prejudice or intolerance among U.S. faculty towards tens of millions of Evangelical Christians,,,

One-third of all faculty also hold unfavorable views of Mormons, and among social sciences and humanities faculty, the figure went up to 38%. Faculty views towards other religious groups are more positive: Only 3% of faculty hold cool/unfavorable feelings towards Jews and only 4% towards Buddhists. Only 13% hold cool/unfavorable views of Catholics and only 9% towards non-Evangelical Christians. Only 18% hold cool/unfavorable views towards atheists.

A significant majority – 71% of all faculty – agreed with the statement: “This country would be better off if Christian fundamentalists kept their religious beliefs out of politics.” By comparison, only 38% of faculty disagreed that the country would be better off if Muslims became more politically organized.

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/archive/ldn/2007/may/07050808>

Frank Turek - Intellectual Predators - video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TeBn-TP-yds&list=PLxhOdbmDO0te3DMjptgywalBvLOTA5QD&index=9>

Slaughter of the Dissidents - Dr. Jerry Bergman - video lecture

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_ygt_mqzO8

Apparently tolerance in academia only means tolerating those who are no real threat to your preferred worldview of atheistic materialism. This severe prejudice against professing Christians simply should not be so. Indeed, colleges should be fighting over recruiting the brightest Christian high school students instead of despising them.

The most and least educated U.S. religious groups

Excerpt: By far, Hindus and Unitarian Universalists have among the largest share of those with a college degree – 77% and 67% respectively. Roughly six-in-ten Jews (59%) have college degrees, as do similar shares in both the Anglican church (59%) and the Episcopal Church (56%).

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/11/04/the-most-and-least-educated-u-s-religious-groups/>

Misconceptions of science and religion found in new study - David Ruth – February 16, 2014

Excerpt: **The public's view that science and religion can't work in collaboration is a misconception that stunts progress, according to a new survey of more than 10,000 Americans, scientists and evangelical Protestants. The study by Rice University also found that scientists and the general public are surprisingly similar in their religious practices.,,**

The study also found that 18 percent of scientists attended weekly religious services, compared with 20 percent of the general U.S. population; 15 percent consider themselves very religious (versus 19 percent of the general U.S. population); 13.5 percent read religious texts weekly (compared with 17 percent of the U.S. population); and 19 percent pray several times a day (versus 26 percent of the U.S. population). ,,,

Other key findings:,,,

,,,Nearly 36 percent of scientists have no doubt about God's existence.

<https://news2.rice.edu/2014/02/16/misconceptions-of-science-and-religion-found-in-new-study/>

Which was surprising to find out since atheists are fond of saying 95% of scientists are atheists. The root of the false myth that 95% of scientists don't believe in God, was based on a severely biased study, and is exposed here:

More Scientists Believe In God Than Atheists Want (You) to Think

<http://christiancadre.blogspot.com/2011/10/more-scientists-beleieve-in-god-than.html>

Thus, as with practically every other claim from atheists, we find the truth is actually the opposite of what the atheists tell us:

Of related note:

The History of Christian Education in America

Excerpt: **The first colleges in America were founded by Christians and approximately 106 out of the first 108 colleges were Christian colleges. In fact, Harvard University, which is considered today as one of the leading universities in America and the world was founded by Christians. One of the original precepts of the then Harvard College stated that students should be instructed in knowing God and that Christ is the only foundation of all "sound knowledge and learning."**

http://www.ehow.com/about_6544422_history-christian-education-america.html

In His Farewell Address, President Obama Misrepresented the American Founding - January 11, 2017

Excerpt: **"One thing he said about the American founding was especially troubling. Mr. Obama traced "the essential spirit of innovation and practical problem-solving that guided our Founders" to the Enlightenment. It was that movement, which he defined as "a faith in reason, and enterprise, and the primacy of right over might, that allowed us to resist the lure of fascism and tyranny during the Great Depression" and build a world order based on "the rule of law, human rights, freedoms of religion, speech, assembly, and an independent press."**

This spin is common in the leftist canon, but it is historical revisionism of the highest rank.,,,

The wisdom of the Bible and the clarity of natural law gave the founding generation the guidance they needed to frame a government suitable for an imperfect but dignified humanity characterized by moral self-restraint and "a firm reliance on Divine Providence."

The shout of defiance in the President's farewell address, that man can be made perfect through human cooperation with the "arc of history," runs counter to the philosophy of the founding of our country and the text of the Constitution."

<https://stream.org/in-his-farewell-address-president-obama/>

How Dwight Eisenhower Found God in the White House - August 2018

Excerpt: The close bond between Christianity—evangelical Protestantism, in particular—and the American presidency began to form in the 1950s. That decade was a time of extraordinary religious revival: Church membership rose from 49 percent of Americans in 1940 to 69 percent in 1960. And President Dwight D. Eisenhower—along with Graham—played an important part in encouraging this spiritual devotion. In fact, Eisenhower played a very personal role in popularizing religious faith in America.

On February 1, 1953, just 10 days after his inauguration, Eisenhower was baptized and welcomed into the National Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Edward Elson. Eisenhower remains the only president ever to have been baptized while in office, and his work to link faith and American identity has influenced political debate in the country for half a century since.,,,

<https://www.history.com/news/eisenhower-billy-graham-religion-in-god-we-trust>

Of note, Finland now has the best education system in the world, and not so surprisingly Finland

also has a very strong prayer ethic,,,

Finland is much more:

Excerpt: **The main Lutheran and Orthodox churches are constitutional national churches of Finland with special roles in ceremonies and often in school morning prayers.,,, Over half of Finns say they pray at least once a month, the highest proportion in Nordics,,,**

http://www.democraticunderground.com/discuss/duboard.php?az=show_mesg&forum=214&topic_id=170263&mesg_id=170358

Also of note: The I.Q. tests, that have shown supposed large differences in the intelligence between races of humans, are all shown to be biased by overlooked environmental factors:

Myth: The black/white IQ gap is largely genetically caused.

Fact: Almost all studies show the black/white IQ gap is environmental.

(i.e. children from an enriched learning environment always perform equally well on I.Q. tests, no matter what their race may be.)

<http://www.huppi.com/kangaroo/L-IQgapgenetic.htm>

Dr. Ben Carson is a prime example of overcoming strong peer pressure from fellow African Americans trying to tell him to neglect his education:

Gifted Hands – The Benjamin Carson Story – movie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDfS3chUOi8>

The Racism Inherent in Darwinism and The Genetic Superiority Of Africans compared to caucasians

<http://www.uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/but-they-never-mention-the-racism-why-not/#comment-567901>

<https://www.facebook.com/philip.cunningham.73/posts/998274843518782>

MAAFA 21 [A documentary on the history of eugenics and genocide aimed at African Americans]

<https://youtu.be/0eWxCRRReTV4?t=342>

Maafa 21 documents every statement it makes (which is rare for modern documentaries, since most are merely propaganda pieces making unfounded, undocumented assertions). It makes clear the direct, unbroken link between eugenics, racism, the Nazis and modern “family planning” organizations. And makes clear they are more racist than ever.

8 Horrific Times People Groups Were Denied Their Humanity - July 02, 2014

Excerpt: According to Ernst Fraenkel, a German legal scholar, the Reichsgericht, the highest court in Germany, was instrumental in depriving Jewish people of their legal rights. In a 1936

Supreme Court decision, "the Reichsgericht refused to recognize Jews living in Germany as persons in the legal sense."

Nazis described Jews as Untermenschen, or subhumans to justify exterminating them.

http://www.personhood.com/8_horrific_times_people_groups_were_denied_their_humanity

Unborn children as constitutional persons. - 2010

Excerpt: In Roe v. Wade, the state of Texas argued that "the fetus is a 'person' within the language and meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment." To which Justice Harry Blackmun responded, "If this suggestion of personhood is established, the appellant's case, of course, collapses, for the fetus' right to life would then be guaranteed specifically by the Amendment." However, Justice Blackmun then came to the conclusion "that the word 'person,' as used in the Fourteenth Amendment, does not include the unborn." In this article, it is argued that unborn children are indeed "persons" within the language and meaning of the Fourteenth and Fifth Amendments.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20443281>

The unborn child is considered a person by law:

Women have been arrested for killing their unborn child during an attempted suicide – also harming or killing their unborn child by using illegal drugs during pregnancy. Many states that have the death penalty prohibit the pregnant mother from being put to death until the child is born. People have been convicted of double homicide for killing women who are a few weeks pregnant. There are laws against violence to pregnant women and their unborn children.

Unborn children can be beneficiaries of trusts and estate settlements.

In all these cases, the unborn child is considered a person, abortion is the exception.