

THEORIES OF CONSCIOUSNESS

By Dr. Alan Rosen

Presented at Tuscon Science of Consciousness Conference

1. The first generalization is that all the evidence points to the conclusion that all organic subjective consciousness-qualia phenomena, arising from any sensory-signal that is inputted to a NCC-circuit, is a Darwinian adaptation genetically designed into sentient organisms to enhance their survival in their environmental niche.

There are 2 corollaries:

a) The NCC-circuit serves as a sensory monitoring screen and the consciousness qualia phenomena is the way that the organism 'reads' the display on the monitoring screen.

b) The second corollary relates to epistemology (see note* regarding the physical reality domain of knowledge): The subjective consciousness-qualia data displayed on the monitoring screen, is the only data that the organism is aware of, or can make 'use of' to enhance its survival in its environmental niche. Note that all "thinking"-data associated with the physical reality domain knowledge, is displayed on that same screen (see note* at end).

2. The second generalization is that the existence and formation of the consciousness-qualia phenomena is a biological-scientific law of universal consciousness for all sentient organisms or robots.

All the evidence points to the conclusion that the qualia-consciousness phenomenon itself is a natural phenomena (an independent variable created by the universal-biological law of nature). It is generally created within a neuronal circuit or an electronic circuit within the 'brain/controller' that converts objectively-measurable physical signals into subjectively-immeasurable conscious qualia-like phenomena. Note that the immeasurable qualia-like phenomena is NOT a measureable physical signal, and cannot possibly be completely dependent on the physical signals associated with the neuronal electronic circuit. Note also that the neuronal circuit (mediated by physical signals) serves as a monitoring screen by which the organism views the external world, and the conscious qualia-like phenomena (not a physical signal) is the methodology by which data is displayed to the self of the organism.

There is one corollary that encapsulates the range of validity of this biological law of universal consciousness: Consciousness is a subjective experience of self-knowledge and awareness of yourself and the world surrounding you. It is a 'self' monitor that allows you to display to yourself all that you feel, see, hear, smell and taste. It is the dreams you dream at night, your feelings of pleasure, pain, love, hate, suffering, anger, rage and ecstasy. It is the essence of life itself. All agree that it is a subjective experience that only you may experience. And all agree that there is no proof of its existence other than an intelligent being's own admission and report of his/her experience of consciousness.