

From inner perception to embodied cognition: a window to consciousness

The present issue of Psyche aims to emphasize the work of some of the researchers who contributed a large amount of valuable work on consciousness research during the past academic year. First, we present an article written by the 2009 William James prize winner, Joel Pearson. In his article titled "the inner vision", he discusses whether or not "imagining a visual pattern involve the same mechanisms as actually seeing that pattern". Joel Pearson's work provides strong evidence "that imagery involves mechanisms closely resembling those of normal visual perception."

Then, we present the Top 5 articles of the ASSC Essay Contest. Together these five articles shed new light on consciousness research in the framework of philosophical, and scientific theories of auditory/visual perception.

Finally, we present 5 interesting articles that address the hard problem of consciousness from a wide variety of perspectives. First, Gallace and Spences review the role of early sensory areas in the awareness of tactile information in humans. Results from their review highlight the crucial role played by the primary somatosensory cortex (SI) in mediating our awareness of tactile information. Critically, their review shows that "the activation of SI is necessary, but not sufficient, for the awareness of touch". Thus the authors propose a "neurocognitive model that provides a conceptual framework in which to interpret the results of the literature regarding tactile consciousness". Then Rensik discusses several key issues concerning consciousness and human vision. Smith discusses perceptual of introspection. Nachev proposes a conceptual framework that permits the re-evaluation of the tasks used to study voluntary action and free choice. Finally, Kotchoubey discusses how behavioral actions can attain their intended results from "embodied freedom to the escape from uncertainty."

We hope that some of these articles will accompany you during this Summer 2010.

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