

Past, Present, and Future of Scientific Research on Consciousness

We are sad to announce that this will be the last issue of Psyche, at least for now. The ASSC has decided that Psyche has fulfilled its role and that now it cannot and should not compete against the diversity of multiple publishers out there. The world of scientific publishing is changing. More than ever before, there is an abundance of journals, electronic media and other formats. Information is created, transformed and disseminated at ever increasing speeds. This is in stark contrast to the situation when the first issue of Psyche came about circa a decade ago.

Many people have made Psyche possible and there is no space to name all of them. We would like to thank all of those who participated in this effort in different ways. We are all particularly indebted to Patrick Wilken and to Tim Bayne, two key players in this effort. Back in those days when it was not considered "appropriate" to talk about consciousness research in so-called serious academic circles, they pushed through and managed to spread the word and help pioneer the transformation of consciousness research into mainstream science.

Some may wrongly assume that the most difficult challenges have been overcome already. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Now that the discussion about consciousness has commenced and that this has even labeled one of the biggest challenges of our times by Science, we need to make scientific progress towards understanding how consciousness can emerge from the activity of neurons and their interactions. The road ahead is no doubt going to be full of challenges and difficult problems but it is also going to be full of adventure and discovery. We feel that Psyche has played a key role in starting along this path, a winding and exciting road towards solving one of the biggest scientific dilemmas ever.

In line with a long-standing Psyche tradition, the present issue of Psyche presents a book review on "The Phenomenological Mind". This book review highlights, and discusses how "the resources and perspectives from the phenomenological tradition illuminate various issues in philosophy of mind and cognitive science in particular". Finally, we present 5 interesting articles and one hypothesis that address the hard problem of consciousness from a wide variety of perspectives.

To All of You who have supported /support the Scientific Studies of Consciousness:

Thank YOU!

Gabriel Kreiman & Stephanie Ortigue