

Review of: "Planetary consciousness incites probably transcendent feelings and deepens the polarization of worldviews"

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The Sagan standard is that "extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence".

In this article the authors make extraordinary claims that are not supported by extraordinary evidence. For example, why is the release of chatGPT (or social media etc.) a proof that a planetary consciousness comes into existence? The argument focuses too much on information mediated by in silico computers, which may baffle many people but is still, in terms of information context, neglectable compared to e.g. horizontal gene flow or other natural forms of information exchange.

This is not to say that the general idea of an information processing system beyond human brains and societies is not of interest. In the way that a human body is made up of complex cells that collaborate and specialize to form a higher, multicellular, system that exhibits self awareness, consciousness etc., one could think of humans (and other) life forms that collaborate, specialize to form a higher system that exhibits self awareness, consciousness etc. In fact this idea is rather trivial, to be expected to be imagined by any smart high school student. The actual challenge is to provide solid arguments and reasons for such a higher order system, a task that this manuscript, unfortunately, fails to deliver.

The chapter "Transcendent feelings, apparitions, miracles and unusual geophysical - phenomena - from a rational standpoint" suggests that such miracles are caused by the planetary consciousness. How this is supposed to be from a rational standpoint is unclear. One could replace planetary consciousness with "God" or the "Flying Spaghetti Monster" and the argument would be still as valid (or rather invalid). (To be clear, this means: the argument is poor.)

The authors have a moment of true rationality when they state *"In the face of this hypothesis, one can formulate doubts resulting from the fact that transcendent feelings have been perceived since the dawn of human existence. This objection does not refute the hypothesis, but at most points to the possibility that the transcendent sensations depend on the permanent existence of the electromagnetic component of the phenomenon."*

In other words, how did Unusual Geophysical Phenomena such as earthquake lights could arise before Twitter and chatGPT?

The manuscript should be rejected on this single point alone (although there are many reasons to do so).

The article then jumps to conclusions on how we should manage polarized worldviews by drawing an analogy between a human brain and an alleged planetary brain. This is a wild idea and lacks substance, to say the least.

The chapter about “Considerations for testing the proposed hypothesis” does very poorly on providing a blueprint on testing the proposed hypothesis. So the hypothesis remains a vaguely formulated idea that lacks the potential for rigorous testing and the possibility of being falsified.

The whole manuscript seems to be a representation of science meets esotericism, underpinning esoteric ideas with “scientific arguments” to make them seem more plausible. They do not.