

Peer Review

Review of: "Awareness at the Crossroad of Illusion and the Soul"

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This is a very interesting manuscript discussing awareness and consciousness as subjective experiences derived from objective mental processes. The author is in favour of awareness as a cognitive construct and rejects views that awareness is an illusion. The next issue is the role of awareness in self-perception and decision-making. I would also like to mention that there is a new theory which suggests that awareness, cognition, and consciousness are co-terminous with life based on living cells. This evolutionary, reductionistic, bottom-up cellular-based concept of the origins of sentience and consciousness could also be discussed if the author decides to do so.

Baluška F, Reber A. (2019) Sentience and consciousness in single cells: How the first minds emerged in unicellular species. *BioEssays* 41:e1800229

Baluška F, Miller WB Jr, Reber AS. (2023b) Cellular basis of cognition – from protists and fungi, up to animals, plants and root-fungal networks. In: *Evolution 'On Purpose': Teleonomy in Living Systems*. Corning PA et al. (eds.), Vienna Series in Theoretical Biology, pp 33–58), MIT Press.

Baluška F, Miller WB Jr, Reber AS. (2024) Sentient cells as basic units of tissues, organs and organismal physiology. *J Physiol* 602:2491–2501. doi:10.1113/JP284419.

Reber AS, Baluska, Miller WB Jr. (2023) *The Sentient Cell: The Cellular Foundations of Consciousness*. Oxford University Press

<https://academic.oup.com/book/51668>

<https://thebcreview.ca/2024/06/24/2211-maigon-reber-baluska-miller/>

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.