

Peer Review

# Review of: "Emergence ex Machina: Correlates of Consciousness"

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As a broad overview of ideas, approaches, theories, models, and arguments related to the general topic of “conscience/sentience,” the article presents a thorough and very broad reflection on the current state of thought on the subject, both philosophical and in empirical science. It can serve as a useful, approaching encyclopedic breadth source or catalogue to check for and/or about a specific approach or theory, and the logical taxonomy with respect to the type of the correlate is both meaningful and helpful for orientation in such an expansive field.

One perspective or point I would see as needing clarification if I were writing an essay on a similarly very broad and seemingly ubiquitous subject is whether it attempts to recite and record in a broad way anything that is being produced focused sufficiently close on certain terms such as “consciousness/sentience”; if that was the intent of the study, perhaps mentioning it early on would be helpful.

Otherwise, the subject of the research would need to be, if not formally defined, then at least described to some level of unambiguity. What is the phenomenal area/field delineated and described by the term? The ability of reflection/metacognition/awareness of one's states and actions? Complex, detailed, and fluent information models of the sensory environments? Subjective perceptions and experiences? and so on. There's no assurance based on objective arguments other than an assumption, perhaps based on an individual experience, that different facets and characteristics of a very sophisticated and advanced form of the “term” are closely interrelated in their essence and origin, as examining a tightly tangled bundle of colored laces may not necessarily produce much insight about each of them.

Both approaches have their advantages and downsides, and making it clear what direction is taken can be helpful in setting the context and following the logical flow of the study. Overall, I find the work

informative and useful.

## **Declarations**

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.