

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

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I am delighted that the authors have joined the recent efforts to understand better the nature of human consciousness. The manuscript addresses indeed, a very timely topic. First, I need to briefly explain where I think the debate on this issue stands. This explanation seems essential for the grasp of my comments.

The nature and location of the human mind have been debated over two and half thousand years. Over two hundred years ago, Franz Gall, an accomplished neuroanatomist, postulated that the human mind is located exclusively in the brain and that different mental functions have specialized locations within it.

Over time, this assumption has become the dominant theory of human consciousness, presented in different formulations. It has been supported by innumerable correlations based on the dysfunction of certain mental activities after a brain is damaged by illness or accident. And since then, it has been successfully utilized to diagnose various brain disorders.

However, correlation and causation are not the same thing. For instance, it would be difficult to figure out the nature of a television program simply by removing or destroying different components of your receiver. In any case, following the above concept, enormous knowledge has been acquired by neuroscience and neuropsychology about the movements of cognitive processes throughout the brain.

Localizations in the brain became further complicated recently with the discovery of the brain's neuroplasticity. But the mystery of consciousness remains – it has never been localized in the human brain. Let's say no so far.

In addition, many carefully carried experiments and observations demonstrate that more than the brain is involved in generating subjective experiences. These include, for example, neurobiological investigations of abnormal moods, observations of near-death experiences, well-documented experiments of psi phenomena such as remote viewing and memories stored in the body organs. I appreciate that the experiments are sometimes not widely distributed because they contradict the dominant but outmoded paradigm. But they are locatable in the literature.

From this angle, and in my opinion, the strengths of Brodziak et al. text are innovative ideas, extended and comprehensive covering of the subject and the courage to publish radically new ideas. As I understand, this manuscript grew out of the previous publication suggesting that self-awareness presumably results from the interaction of the feeling of qualia, the recurrent activity of neural circuits realizing the self-image and the formation of the brain's electromagnetic

field important for the sense of subjectivity.

The weaknesses of the paper are adhering to the outmoded idea that consciousness is located in the brain and bringing into the text too many peripheral ideas and speculations. The manuscript is well written but not sufficiently weeded out of peripheral ideas. This abundance in the text does not make it practically possible to comment on a number of points. Presenting the ideas in a more focused, concise way would be preferable.

Because of the over-inclusiveness of the text, I can best comment on the concise section where they offer testing their hypothesis. They propose to observe how information circulates globally and scrutinize worldwide patterns and communal actions. This is, in fact, already proven when close to one hundred random number generators have been placed globally and followed for years. They responded in a highly significant manner to emotionally charged events that simultaneously influenced millions of people's consciousness. The results are available in several publications by, for example, Dean Radin. So such evidence is already here. What I am missing is the authors explaining what observations specifically would disprove their hypothesis. I think this is important in any hypothesis testing.

I also struggle with the statement that planetary consciousness probably incites transcendental feelings. Multiple descriptions of transcendental experiences usually reach further than just our planet.

I feel their contributions to this challenging area are conceptually important.