

Review of: "Growing Confidence and Remaining Uncertainty About Animal Consciousness"

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In this article, the author addresses the issue of the concept of consciousness. There are both certainties and uncertainties regarding the functioning of consciousness in both humans and animals. The author conducts a review of the different aspects that can define consciousness, as well as the neural and biological requirements necessary for its occurrence.

The theme is very interesting, complex, and informative. However, based on the title, I expected the focus of the theme to be more specifically on animal consciousness. Nevertheless, I have the impression that the human aspect takes center stage.

I have some comments that may help clarify the article and facilitate understanding for readers who do not belong to the fields of psychology or neuroscience.

Review

- **The Ontological Issues (page 2)**

I am not familiar with ontological concepts. Could you develop it in further detail?

- **Focused Attention (page 3)**

William James' definition of attention is given. However, I would like to know if this same concept can be extrapolated to the animal kingdom. I.e., what is focusing attention on an animal? Responding to a stimulus? Establishing eye contact? In short, it would be nice to add what is attention to animals. Are there different types of attention in animals?

- "been considered a major feature of consciousness"

There are also studies that indicate that attention is not necessary for consciousness

Tononi et al., 2016; Lamme 2010.

Update references: Dehaene and Changeaux 2011.

- **Mental Unity (page 3)**

Please, could you elaborate further on this section? I don't understand what this has to do with the main theme of the

article.

- **Mental Causation (page 3)**

“The extent to which other animals do so is unclear, though the parallel evolution of imaginative consciousness among different vertebrates seems evident (Zachs et al., 2022)

How is it evident? Please, try to dedicate one or two lines to explain this statement.

- **Sense of Self (page 4)**

“Animal evolution produced... subjectivity and agency. It also produced animals who handle their dealings with the world in a way that includes a tacit sense of self.”

I would like to have an example of this statement. If animals have "self" how. Have you studied or demonstrated it?

- **The evolutionary Imperative (page 6)**

“Credible arguments in fact have been advanced for some level of consciousness in all other vertebrates as well...”

In this paragraph, you indicate that some level of consciousness in other vertebrates has advanced: birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes. However, it is not clear to me only adding references. In my opinion, it would be better to include some short lines explaining the main idea of why these types of species have some level of consciousness.

- **The Neurological Correlates of Consciousness (NCCs) (page 8)**

“The GNW model is particularly attractive in view of the unitary and multimodal nature of phenomenology”

If I understood in a good manner, explaining the GNW theory you indicate how consciousness occurs. However, in the aforementioned statement, you asserted that GNW is a commendable framework for addressing the phenomenological aspect of consciousness. It is important to note, however, that GNW explains only the existence of access consciousness, while the phenomenal component of consciousness occurs only when access consciousness occurs. Then, GNW theory states that phenomenal consciousness does not exist (Mashour et al., 2020; Naccache, 2018). If you use “nature of phenomenology” in another manner, try to develop it in further detail.

- **Bridging the Gap Between Mechanism and Phenomenology (page 10)**

Improperly cited reference

(P.S. Churchland, 1982; P.S. Churchland and Sejnowski, 1988; P.M. Churchland, 2013)

