

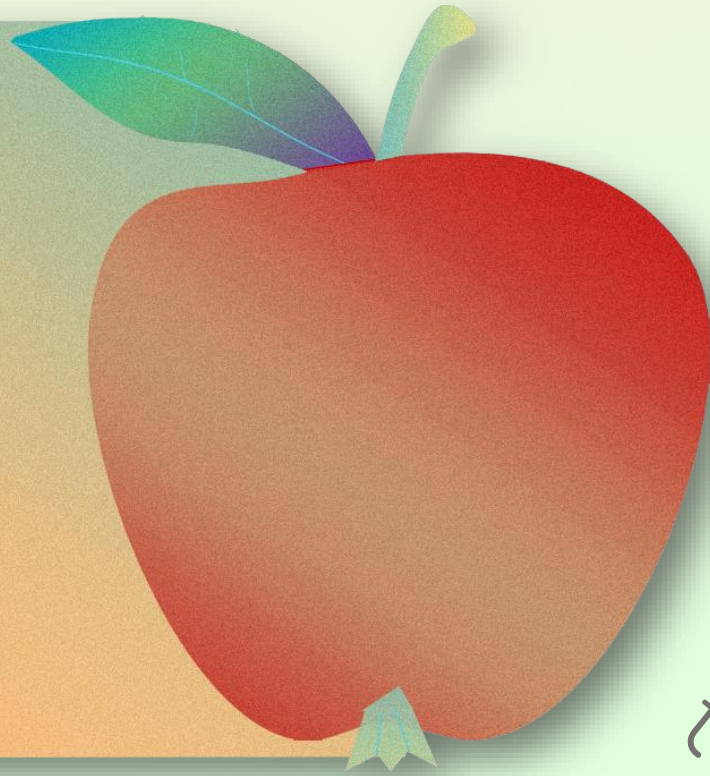
The Hard Problem of Consciousness

Benjamin Stucky

Consciousness
=
Qualia
(phenomenal experience)

„there is
something it is
like to be“
- Thomas Nagel

Qualia Sensory



seeing

hearing

smell

touch

taste

Qualia Moods

disgust

joy

surprise

anger

fear

sadness

anticipation



Qualia Sensations

movement

tickling

vibration

heat

blanace

itching



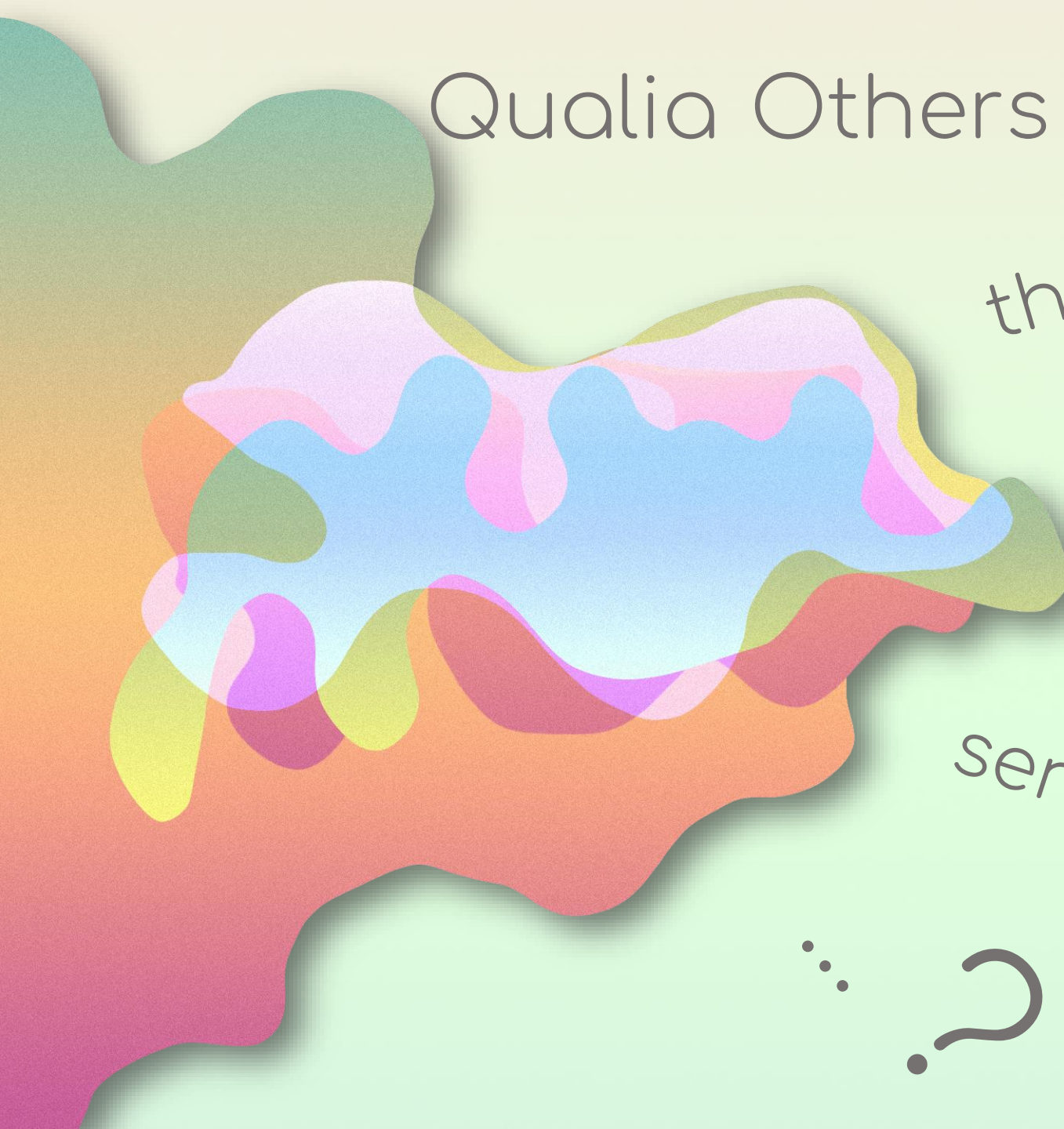
Qualia Others

thoughts

memory

sense of self

... ?



How is your qualia experienced right now:

separate,

one

or

inbetween

?



Problem of Phenomenal Unity



blob 2



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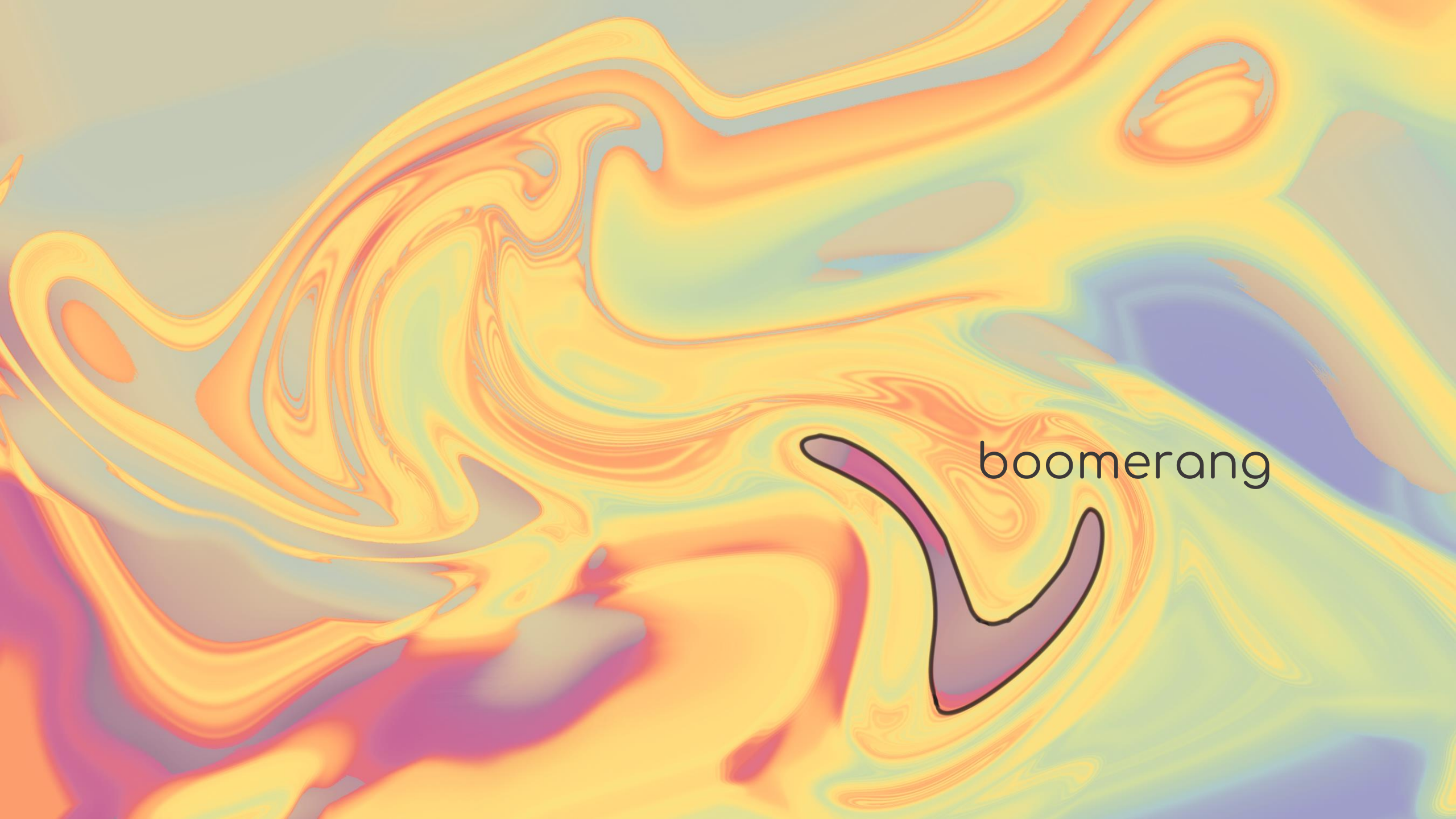


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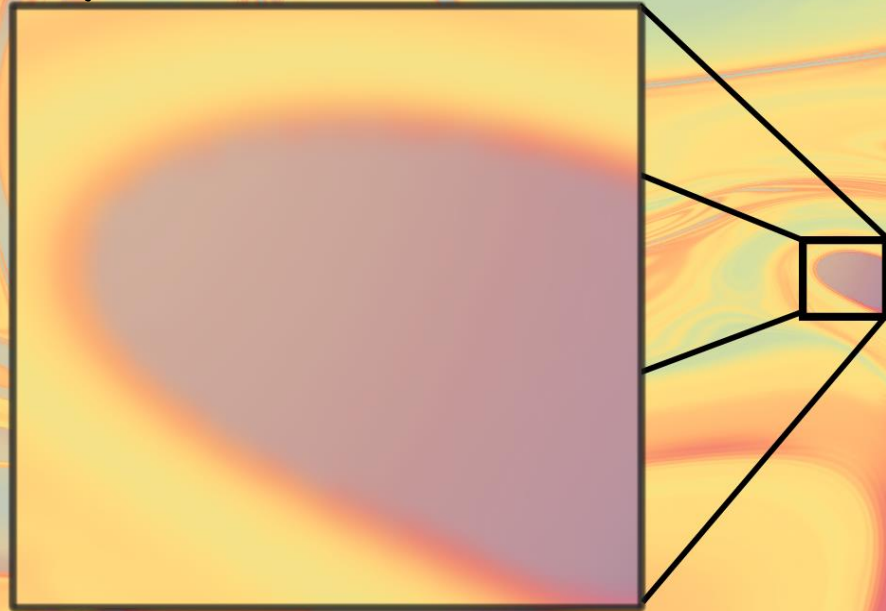
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boomerang

e.g.
synesthesia





Ποταμοῖς τοῖς αὐτοῖς ἐμβαίνομέν τε καὶ
οὐκ ἐμβαίνομεν, εἶμέν τε καὶ οὐκ εἶμεν.

„We both step and do not step
in the same rivers. We are and
are not.“

- Heraclitus



Where are the borders to your experience
?

What is/has
no qualia

?

if we define
consciousness
as qualia, the felt
experience, can an
“observer”, without being
in that state, even infer
if something has no
consciousness



Inference about experiential character of other organisms may be impossible



- Nagel Thomas: „What is it like to be a bat?“



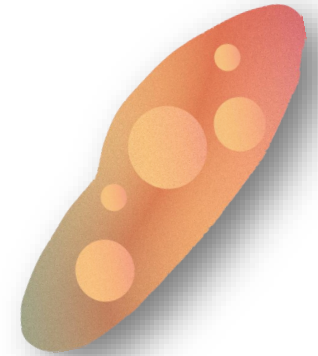
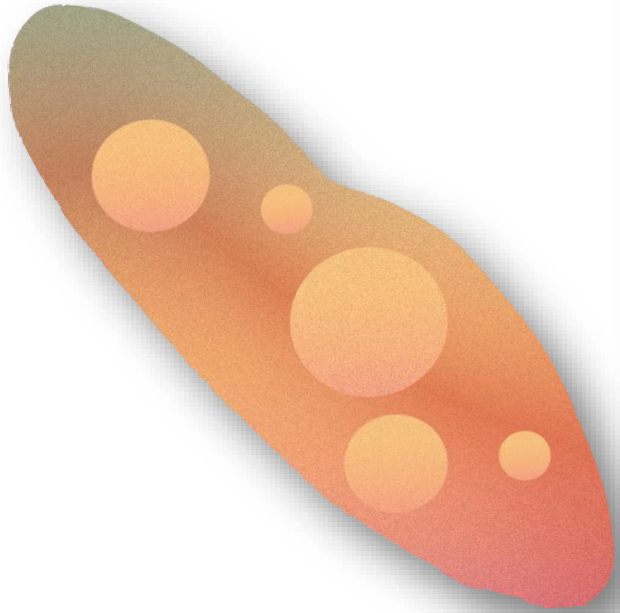
Plant Behaviour

Elhakeem N. et al. Aboveground mechanical stimuli affect belowground plant-plant communication, 2018

Trewavas A. What is plant behaviour? Plant Cell and Environment, 2009

Paramecium Learning

Alipour A. et al. Possible Molecular Mechanisms for Paramecium Learning. *Journal of Advanced Medical Sciences and Applied Technologies*, 2017



„We might not be able to
communicate a conscious state to
ourselves and others.“

- Kastrup Bernardo

Easy Problems of Consciousness

“explanation of
cognitive abilities and
[neurophysiological]
functions”

- David Chalmers

Hard Problem of Consciousness

“Why should physical
processing give rise to
a rich inner life at all?”
- David Chalmers

“The hard question could have been formulated quite easily in a neutral way as ‘how experience co-varies with physical features of the world’ ”

- Matthijs Cornelissen

“Why should physical processing give rise to a rich inner life at all?”

- David Chalmers

Each one of us is potentially Mind at Large. But [...] our business is at all costs to survive. To make biological survival possible, Mind at Large has to be funneled through the reducing valve of the brain and nervous system.

- Aldous Huxley (The Doors of Perception)

Is the
problem of
experience
hard

If so, what
makes it
hard

?

A large, black question mark is centered in the upper right portion of the image. Below it, the background transitions into a vibrant, abstract landscape with a textured, painterly appearance. The colors are a mix of warm tones like yellow, orange, and red, and cooler tones like green and blue, creating a sense of depth and complexity. A vertical dashed line separates the text on the left from this visual area.

Philosophical Zombie

- Kripke 1972, Chalmers 1996

From a world made of matter and governed by laws, a copy of you is conceivable without having any qualia.



Inverted Qualia

- Locke 1690

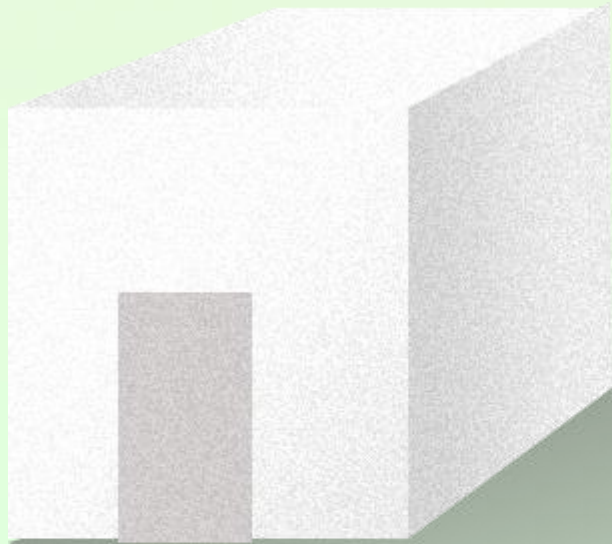
Similarly,
a copy of you is
conceivable with
inverted qualia.



Knowledge Argument

- Jackson 1982

Mary is enclosed in a white room, has never seen color but learns every detail about the visual system. Then she is set free and sees color for the first time. Will she *learn* more?



Problem of Mechanism

- Feigl 1958 Autocerebroscope



Even if we would live stream the brain, thus placing the subjective and objective in close proximity, we wouldn't know why a neuron, network, property, workspace or information configuration is accompanied with qualia