

CONSCIOUSNESS 2. It appears consciousness - as a dualistic entity - is one with mind in one respect and one with soul in another. There is debate whether the soul exists at all - from a scientific viewpoint, there is no evidence for its existence. Nevertheless, it is scientific research that now indicates consciousness may be an entirely independent entity.

Over centuries - in fact since Socrates' days - there have been accounts of near-death, out-of-body or reincarnation-related experiences. People were brought back from the brink of death minutes after - in some cases as long as an hour after - life functions had ceased. It is perplexing to read accounts of what seems to be beyond the apparent conclusion of someone's physical life.

Many people discount such experiences as 'the mind playing tricks' and adhere to the notion that consciousness and mind dissolve at the time of death. They are likely to disbelieve or ignore incidents that seem to hint at consciousness as an entity separate of mind; incidents where someone clinically died - then came back and described the goings-on that occurred in the meantime, from a viewpoint other than their position in the physical reality.*

Or the case where someone reported encountering - after their clinical death and subsequent return - an individual they did not know, and could not have known while alive, whose existence nevertheless is documented;** or a returnee able to describe accurately a place s/he had never been to.

There are many unexplained propensities of consciousness; it plausibly is an entity outside our comprehension and beyond science's reference points.

**In hospitals and at crash sites many experiences have been reported where returnees said they hovered above the scene looking down; a great deal of them later accurately described their revival process.*

***A boy died and was revived. He said he had visited a beautiful garden where he met a kind man, who sent him back to his mum. The man he described was his late father, whom he had never met.*

*For more on Near Death Experiences, go to www.near-death.com or try the book *Closer to the Light*, by Dr Melvin Morse*

According to The Human Consciousness Project some researchers propose that consciousness may indeed constitute a separate, so far undiscovered entity that is independent from functions of the brain.

www.mindbodysymposium.com/

Human-Consciousness-Project/human-consciousness-project.html

"One could take a realist view of consciousness, where it's more on a par with electromagnetic fields than with life. Electromagnetic fields are regarded as real and independent parts of our physical world."

*Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy:
Consciousness as an Entity*

"Consciousness has a hidden structure that lies beyond both phenomenology and physiology and while this hidden structure could bridge the gap, it is probably forever inaccessible to us."

*Colin McGinn, as he is quoted in
Consciousness Explained by Daniel C. Dennet*

As I talk of consciousness, I talk in the context of philosophy & spirituality about mind & self and its relationship to universal consciousness. This investigation is in contrast to scientific analyses of consciousness.

*For a scientific sense of what consciousness is and how to define it in the context of physics, biology and neuroscience, go to the TED talk by Anil Seth and Sam Harris' podcast *Consciousness and the Self*.*

see also my blog 886 as well as KNOW YOUR SELF