

The Conscious Illusion

[#conscious illusion](#) [#nature of reality](#) [#subjective experience](#) [#philosophy of mind](#) [#perception and truth](#)

Explore the profound concept of 'The Conscious Illusion,' a thought experiment delving into how our individual awareness shapes our perceived reality. This idea suggests that what we experience as objective truth might be a deeply personal, subjective illusion, challenging fundamental assumptions about the nature of reality and the intricate interplay between consciousness and perception.

Our digital textbook collection offers comprehensive resources for students and educators, available for free download and reference.

The authenticity of our documents is always ensured.

Each file is checked to be truly original.

This way, users can feel confident in using it.

Please make the most of this document for your needs.

We will continue to share more useful resources.

Thank you for choosing our service.

Thousands of users seek this document in digital collections online.

You are fortunate to arrive at the correct source.

Here you can access the full version The Conscious Illusion without any cost.

The Illusion of Conscious Will

A novel contribution to the age-old debate about free will versus determinism. Do we consciously cause our actions, or do they happen to us? Philosophers, psychologists, neuroscientists, theologians, and lawyers have long debated the existence of free will versus determinism. In this book Daniel Wegner offers a novel understanding of the issue. Like actions, he argues, the feeling of conscious will is created by the mind and brain. Yet if psychological and neural mechanisms are responsible for all human behavior, how could we have conscious will? The feeling of conscious will, Wegner shows, helps us to appreciate and remember our authorship of the things our minds and bodies do. Yes, we feel that we consciously will our actions, Wegner says, but at the same time, our actions happen to us. Although conscious will is an illusion, it serves as a guide to understanding ourselves and to developing a sense of responsibility and morality. Approaching conscious will as a topic of psychological study, Wegner examines the issue from a variety of angles. He looks at illusions of the will—those cases where people feel that they are willing an act that they are not doing or, conversely, are not willing an act that they in fact are doing. He explores conscious will in hypnosis, Ouija board spelling, automatic writing, and facilitated communication, as well as in such phenomena as spirit possession, dissociative identity disorder, and trance channeling. The result is a book that sidesteps endless debates to focus, more fruitfully, on the impact on our lives of the illusion of conscious will.

The Illusion of Conscious Will, New Edition

A new edition of Wegner's classic and controversial work, arguing that conscious will simply reminds of us the authorship of our actions. Do we consciously cause our actions, or do they happen to us? Philosophers, psychologists, neuroscientists, theologians, and lawyers have long debated the existence of free will versus determinism. With the publication of The Illusion of Conscious Will in 2002, Daniel Wegner proposed an innovative and provocative answer: the feeling of conscious will is created by the mind and brain; it helps us to appreciate and remember our authorship of the things our minds and bodies do. Yes, we feel that we consciously will our actions, Wegner says, but at the same time, our actions happen to us. Although conscious will is an illusion ("the most compelling illusion"), it serves as a guide to understanding ourselves and to developing a sense of responsibility and morality. Wegner was unable to undertake a second edition of the book before his death in 2013; this new edition adds a foreword by Wegner's friend, the prominent psychologist Daniel Gilbert, and an introduction by Wegner's colleague Thalia Wheatley. Approaching conscious will as a topic of psychological study,

Wegner examines cases both when people feel that they are willing an act that they are not doing and when they are not willing an act that they in fact are doing in such phenomena as hypnosis, Ouija board spelling, and dissociative identity disorder. Wegner's argument was immediately controversial (called "unwarranted impertinence" by one scholar) but also compelling. Engagingly written, with wit and clarity, *The Illusion of Conscious Will* was, as Daniel Gilbert writes in the foreword to this edition, Wegner's "magnum opus."

Illusionism

Illusionism is the view that phenomenal consciousness (in the philosophers' sense) is an illusion. This book is a reprint of a special issue of the *Journal of Consciousness Studies* devoted to this topic. It takes the form of a target paper by the editor, followed by commentaries from various thinkers, including leading defenders of the theory such as Daniel Dennett, Nicholas Humphrey, Derk Pereboom and Georges Rey. A number of disciplines are represented and different viewpoints are discussed and defended. The collection is tied together with a response to the commentaries from the editor.

The Great Illusion

"The Great Illusion' takes a scientific look at the brain itself, presenting research that supports the naturalistic stance that the mind is identical to the brain. Singh argues that if we take seriously the idea that the mind is the brain then it follows logically that free will must be an illusion, that there can be no consciousness independent of the brain, and that there can be no substantial self that exists independently from the brain. He further argues that there can be no such thing as absolute moral responsibility"--Back cover.

The Illusion of Will, Self, and Time

Discusses how William James's work suggests a world without will, self, or time and how research supports this perspective. William James is often considered a scientist compromised by his advocacy of mysticism and parapsychology. Jonathan Bricklin argues James can also be viewed as a mystic compromised by his commitment to common sense. James wanted to believe in will, self, and time, but his deepest insights suggested otherwise. "Is consciousness already there waiting to be uncovered and is it a veridical revelation of reality?" James asked shortly before his death in 1910. A century after his death, research from neuroscience, physics, psychology, and parapsychology is making the case, both theoretically and experimentally, that answers James's question in the affirmative. By separating what James passionately wanted to believe, based on common sense, from what his insights and researches led him to believe, Bricklin shows how James himself laid the groundwork for this more challenging view of existence. The non-reality of will, self, and time is consistent with James's psychology of volition, his epistemology of self, and his belief that Newtonian, objective, even-flowing time does not exist.

The Self Illusion

Most of us believe that we are unique and coherent individuals, but are we? The idea of a "self" has existed ever since humans began to live in groups and become sociable. Those who embrace the self as an individual in the West, or a member of the group in the East, feel fulfilled and purposeful. This experience seems incredibly real but a wealth of recent scientific evidence reveals that this notion of the independent, coherent self is an illusion - it is not what it seems. Reality as we perceive it is not something that objectively exists, but something that our brains construct from moment to moment, interpreting, summarizing, and substituting information along the way. Like a science fiction movie, we are living in a matrix that is our mind. In *The Self Illusion*, Dr. Bruce Hood reveals how the self emerges during childhood and how the architecture of the developing brain enables us to become social animals dependent on each other. He explains that self is the product of our relationships and interactions with others, and it exists only in our brains. The author argues, however, that though the self is an illusion, it is one that humans cannot live without. But things are changing as our technology develops and shapes society. The social bonds and relationships that used to take time and effort to form are now undergoing a revolution as we start to put our self online. Social networking activities such as blogging, Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter threaten to change the way we behave. Social networking is fast becoming socialization on steroids. The speed and ease at which we can form alliances and relationships is outstripping the same selection processes that shaped our self prior to the internet era. This book ventures into uncharted territory to explain how the idea of the self will never be the same again in the online social world.

Illusionism

Illusionism is the view that phenomenal consciousness is an illusion. This book is a reprint of a special issue of the *Journal of Consciousness Studies* devoted to this topic. It takes the form of a target paper by the editor, followed by commentaries from various thinkers representing various academic disciplines.

Free Will and Consciousness

In recent decades, with advances in the behavioral, cognitive, and neurosciences, the idea that patterns of human behavior may ultimately be due to factors beyond our conscious control has increasingly gained traction and renewed interest in the age-old problem of free will. In this book, Gregg D. Caruso examines both the traditional philosophical problems long associated with the question of free will, such as the relationship between determinism and free will, as well as recent experimental and theoretical work directly related to consciousness and human agency. He argues that our best scientific theories indeed have the consequence that factors beyond our control produce all of the actions we perform and that because of this we do not possess the kind of free will required for genuine or ultimate responsibility. It is further argued that the strong and pervasive belief in free will, which the author considers an illusion, can be accounted for through a careful analysis of our phenomenology and a proper theoretical understanding of consciousness. Indeed, the primary goal of this book is to argue that our subjective feeling of freedom, as reflected in the first-person phenomenology of agentive experience, is an illusion created by certain aspects of our consciousness.

The User Illusion

Explores how the "user illusion" of the computer world applies to our own consciousness, and encourages readers to find a better understanding of the consciousness and to celebrate the joys of the world.

Consciousness

Consciousness, the last great mystery for science, remains a hot topic. How can a physical brain create our experience of the world? What creates our identity? Do we really have free will? Could consciousness itself be an illusion? Exciting new developments in brain science are continuing the debates on these issues, and the field has now expanded to include biologists, neuroscientists, psychologists, and philosophers. This controversial book clarifies the potentially confusing arguments, and the major theories, whilst also outlining the amazing pace of discoveries in neuroscience. Covering areas such as the construction of self in the brain, mechanisms of attention, the neural correlates of consciousness, and the physiology of altered states of consciousness, Susan Blackmore highlights our latest findings. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press

contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

Perception, Hallucination, and Illusion

In this book, the author develops a comprehensive disjunctive theory, incorporating detailed accounts of the three core kinds of visual experience--perception, hallucination, and illusion--and an explanation of how perception and hallucination could be indiscriminable from one another without having anything in common.

The Illusion of Us

In the Second Edition of *The Illusion of Us*, we travel down the rabbit hole of knowledge to uncover the secrets behind consciousness and the intelligent design behind reality itself. How did we become so lost and disconnected to the world and universe around us? Perhaps the answer can be found by understanding our multidimensional consciousness and true identity. Could humanity have complete amnesia of a past Golden Age due to cataclysms on Earth which wiped out most of the evidence from a lost time period? The renowned philosopher Plato leaves behind compelling evidence for this theory in both the *Timaeus* and *Critias*, linking the lost civilization of Atlantis and its destruction. It's time to finally discover all that we have forgotten and piece together the incredible history that preceded us. Were the gods of mankind simply myth or are we missing an important piece of the puzzle that connects all the way back to the stars... From the guarded writings of the Nag Hammadi Library to the cuneiform tablets of the *Enuma Elish* and *Atrahasis*, *The Illusion of Us* connects the entire story and provides a way to free the shackles from Darwin's Cave. The truth will set you free.

From Bacteria to Bach and Back

'Required reading for anyone remotely curious about how they came to be remotely curious' Observer
'Enthralling' Spectator
What is human consciousness and how is it possible? These questions fascinate thinking people from poets and painters to physicists, psychologists, and philosophers. This is Daniel C. Dennett's brilliant answer, extending perspectives from his earlier work in surprising directions, exploring the deep interactions of evolution, brains and human culture. Part philosophical whodunnit, part bold scientific conjecture, this landmark work enlarges themes that have sustained Dennett's career at the forefront of philosophical thought. In his inimitable style, laced with wit and thought experiments, Dennett shows how culture enables reflection by installing a profusion of thinking tools, or memes, in our brains, and how language turbocharges this process. The result: a mind that can comprehend the questions it poses, has emerged from a process of cultural evolution. An agenda-setting book for a new generation of philosophers and thinkers, *From Bacteria to Bach and Back* is essential for anyone who hopes to understand human creativity in all its applications.

Conscious Will

This dissertation, "Conscious Will: Illusion or Reality?" by Kelly, Inglis, was obtained from The University of Hong Kong (Pokfulam, Hong Kong) and is being sold pursuant to Creative Commons: Attribution 3.0 Hong Kong License. The content of this dissertation has not been altered in any way. We have altered the formatting in order to facilitate the ease of printing and reading of the dissertation. All rights not granted by the above license are retained by the author. DOI: 10.5353/th_b4501542 Subjects: Will Free will and determinism

The Labyrinth of Time

Time is one of life's great mysteries. From sand passing through an hourglass to 'time's winged chariot hurrying near', we often perceive it as an unrelenting force which exists outside of ourselves. And yet anyone who remembers the long summers of childhood or has sat watching an agonisingly slow ticking clock feels that time is elastic. So which is it? Anthony Peake puts forward an incredible hypothesis about the relationship between time and consciousness. His theory explains many enigmatic phenomena, including déjà vu, precognition, near-death experience and altered states. Building upon the ideas of his groundbreaking *Is There Life After Death?* and drawing upon a remarkable breadth of science, philosophy and literature, his utterly compelling theory may change the way you view your life forever. Praise for Anthony Peake "Peake has the gift to explain complex theories in simple words" - Evelyn

Elsaesser-Valarino, author of *Lessons from the Light*. "I found Peak's theory to be as thought-provoking an exhilarating as a great film" - Colin Wilson, author of *The Outsider*.

Psychological Illusions

The central illusion is that we "know self." People think that they possess capacities which in reality they do not. Primary illusions concern the faculties of consciousness, the unity of I, the possession of will (the capacity to do) and the existence of the soul. The fourth way psychology begins with a study of humans as they are under the conditions of mechanical life and describes the psychology of man's possible evolution. Humans can awaken, experience higher states of consciousness, achieve a unity of "I" and will, and attain the soul. If we understand our illusions, then there is a chance of escape, of awakening and evolution. According to Beelzebub, the central character in G.'s *Tales*, the three-brained beings on planet Earth are microcosmoses or "similitudes of the Whole." As such, they have the possibility of not only serving local cosmic purposes, feeding the earth and moon as part of organic life on earth, but of experiencing sacred being-impulses, attaining levels of objective reason and individuality and even of "blending again with the infinite." (1950) A human being can potentially coat higher being-bodies for the life of the soul, instinctually sense cosmic truths and phenomena, and maintain existence within the subtle realms of being after death-achieving different levels of immortality. Unfortunately, humankind came to exist only in waking sleep states of automated consciousness, perceiving reality topsy-turvy, conditioned by pleasure and self love, and wasteful of their sacred sexual substances. Human beings no longer realize their deeper cosmic purposes and possibilities, or attain real "I." *Psychological Illusions* explores the psychology, metaphysics and cosmology of the fourth way teaching. This includes material on the Ray of Creation, the fundamental cosmic laws, the alchemical crystallization of higher being-bodies and the miraculous possibilities existing for the evolution of the individual human being.

The Self Illusion

Most of us believe that we possess a self - an internal individual who resides inside our bodies, making decisions, authoring actions and possessing free will. The feeling that a single, unified, enduring self inhabits the body - the 'me' inside me - is compelling and inescapable. This is how we interact as a social animal and judge each other's actions and deeds. But that sovereignty of the self is increasingly under threat from science as our understanding of the brain advances. Rather than a single entity, the self is really a constellation of mechanisms and experiences that create the illusion of the internal you. We only emerge as a product of those around us as part of the different storylines we inhabit from the cot to the grave. It is an ever changing character, created by the brain to provide a coherent interface between the multitude of internal processes and the external world demands that require different selves.

Breaking the Illusion

This creative book of awareness exercises presents the reader with invaluable tools for generating expanded states of consciousness, having freed the self from the illusions and projections that lead to limited and painful realities.

The Grand Illusion

The Grand Illusion synthesizes the best consciousness research with decades of cutting-edge discovery and hard science, empowering you with an intelligent new paradigm and new direction for humanity. This acclaimed book destroys the materialist notion of humans as "meat computers" and lays the foundation for a scientifically-based metaphysics.

The Brain, Consciousness & Illusion of Truth

...How do we know that something is true or false? How does the brain discern the truth? What kind of mechanism allows the brain to interpret the information received in the shape of electrical and chemical impulses to which it is constantly exposed? Is it the case that our brains are endowed with appropriate algorithmic rules for discriminating between truth and untruth, alongside certain rules for handling, say, optical information? Is it the case that the brain produces illusions of truth like it does illusions of vision? My answer is in the positive, and this is what I shall be seeking to show in this essay. An essay in style, *The Brain, Consciousness and Illusion of Truth* is a valuable addition to the literature on the mind/body

problem and an engrossing account of the human brain with its services and disservices to the self. Karol Ondrias is one of the 'disturbing' authors who will not stop at taboos. Problems he addresses here are of our postmodern era, when people, still tightly controlled by their ancestral genetic code and ethnocentric cultural stereotypes, are acquiring an awareness of this and trying to review the authenticated behavioral patterns and preconceived ideas still shaping their lives. The notion of the distorted and manipulated reception of the world cuts through the whole of the essay. ...The human race, the author argues, cannot afford any longer remain content with the illusory certainties provided by the 'selfish' genes and by parochial cultures (however dear to the cockles of our heart the latter might be). But isn't it just another illusion - to try and free the self from the comfortable bondage of biological and cultural forces? The essay will take you to the further and farther reaches of human nature and this may be part of the answer.

The Conquest of Illusion: An Exploration of Human Consciousness and the Reality of Life Through Yoga (Hardcover)

The Conquest of Illusion is an outstanding investigation of reality and how our perceptions shape it, by author, theosophist and yogi J. J. Van Der Leeuw. This edition contains his original illustrations. An eclectic work which cites relevant works of both Eastern and Western philosophy, The Conquest of Illusion aims to teach those in the modern world - an existence dominated by physical things and technological achievement - of a consciousness which has and will always exist. This essential mystery, scarcely penetrated by most human beings, is this book's central theme. Rather than be an intensive book of dense and philosophically rich arguments, Van Der Leeuw instead opts to inform the reader of his own experiences as a yoga practitioner. These intense experiences result in the book you hold in your hands, which aims to prove that what we outwardly perceive as real and tangible are quite different from the inner truths of time and space that underpin every moment of our existence.

The Phase

All my life I sought an elegant solution to one odd riddle. I sought it from Siberia to California, from the field of neurophysiology to quantum physics, and in illegal experiments on thousands of people. But the answer I found sent me into shock and changed my entire perception of reality. Unlike others, I offer not only a new perspective on the world, but also step-by-step practices that can shake the pillars of your limited reality, and give you revolutionary new tools for obtaining information, self-healing, travel, entertainment, and much more. By the Phase Research Center

TABLE OF CONTENTS: Part I: What is the Phase? Chapter 1 – The Enigma Chapter 2 – The Search for an Answer Chapter 3 – The Answer Part II: How to Enter the Phase Today Part III: The Phase Practitioner's Practical Encyclopedia Chapter 1 – General Background Chapter 2 – The Indirect Method Chapter 3 – The Direct Method Chapter 4 – Becoming Conscious While Dreaming Chapter 5 – Non-Autonomous Methods Chapter 6 – Deepening Chapter 7 – Maintaining Chapter 8 – Primary Skills Chapter 9 – Translocation and Finding Objects Chapter 10 – Application Chapter 11 – Useful Tips Chapter 12 – A Collection of Techniques Chapter 13 – Putting a Face on the Phenomenon Chapter 14 – Final Test Chapter 15 – The Highest Level of Practice Chapter 16 – Real Examples of Phase Experiences Appendix (Version 3.0, 2015)

Conscious Will

The scientists have proposed that the universe came into existence by accident. And due to a series of coincidences, life and consciousness evolved from inert matter. Different religions express faith that God created this universe, and He is controlling it from heaven. In this book it is propounded that both the views do not stand careful scrutiny. It is argued, in a systematic way, that the universe, comprising of space, time, matter, human body, ego, mind and intellect, is not real. Consciousness is the only reality behind this illusory appearance of the world. Everything else is a superimposition on this Consciousness. Removal of ignorance, through self-knowledge, is the only solution for all the ills facing the society. It is beyond caste, creed, race, religion and nationality. This book is meant for all age groups. The young will learn how to lead a happy life, and the old will learn how to die peacefully.

Consciousness Is Truth

The Conquest of Illusion is an outstanding investigation of reality and how our perceptions shape it, by author, theosophist and yogi J. J. Van Der Leeuw. This edition contains his original illustrations. An eclectic work which cites relevant works of both Eastern and Western philosophy, The Conquest of Illusion aims to teach those in the modern world - an existence dominated by physical things and

technological achievement - of a consciousness which has and will always exist. This essential mystery, scarcely penetrated by most human beings, is this book's central theme. Rather than be an intensive book of dense and philosophically rich arguments, Van Der Leeuw instead opts to inform the reader of his own experiences as a yoga practitioner. These intense experiences result in the book you hold in your hands, which aims to prove that what we outwardly perceive as real and tangible are quite different from the inner truths of time and space that underpin every moment of our existence. This edition contains all of the diagrams, drawings and tables that help illustrate visually the points Van Der Leeuw sought to make. Whether you are a yoga practitioner wishing to gain a refreshing perspective on gaining awareness, a spiritual seeker yearning for insights, or simply a reader with a philosophical interest in human perception and the world around us - *The Conquest of Illusion* contains much of value. One of the greatest and most succinct insights of the book is expressed in this quotation: "The mystery of life is not a problem to be solved, it is a reality to be experienced."

The Conquest of Illusion

Most of us believe that we are an independent, coherent self--an individual inside our head who thinks, watches, wonders, dreams, and makes plans for the future. This sense of our self may seem incredibly real but a wealth of recent scientific evidence reveals that it is not what it seems--it is all an illusion. In *The Self Illusion*, Bruce Hood reveals how the self emerges during childhood and how the architecture of the developing brain enables us to become social animals dependent on each other. Humans spend proportionally the greatest amount of time in childhood compared to any other animal. It's not only to learn from others, Hood notes, but also to learn to become like others. We learn to become our self. Even as adults we are continually developing and elaborating this story, learning to become different selves in different situations--the work self, the home self, the parent self. Moreover, Hood shows that this already fluid process--the construction of self--has dramatically changed in recent years. Social networking activities--such as blogging, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter--are fast becoming socialization on steroids. The speed and ease at which we can form alliances and relationships are outstripping the same selection processes that shaped our self prior to the internet era. Things will never be the same again in the online social world. Hood offers our first glimpse into this uncharted territory. Who we are is, in short, a story of our self--a narrative that our brain creates. Like the science fiction movie, we are living in a matrix that is our mind. But Hood concludes that though the self is an illusion, it is an illusion we must continue to embrace to live happily in human society.

The Self Illusion

In this volume, originally published in 1978, the authors survey the historical and contemporary research literature pertaining to two-dimensional visual-geometric illusions. They bring together much of the known data, summarising and evaluating theories that have been offered to explain these phenomena. Coren and Girgus provide a new conceptual framework that suggest that visual illusions are not unitary phenomena. Within this framework, illusions do not represent a breakdown in normal perceptual processing. Rather, it is proposed that each illusion is produced by a number of mechanisms operating at different levels in the visual information processing system. The book contains an extensive collection of illusion figures. It will be essential reading for all of those concerned with vision and visual perception, since it integrates the study of illusions into the main body of psychological and perceptual theories at the time.

Seeing is Deceiving

There is a scepticism about whether the world "out there" really is as we perceive it. A new breed of hyper-sceptics now challenge whether we even have the perceptual experience we think we have. This title presents a collection of essays which explore the reliability of visual perception.

Is the Visual World a Grand Illusion?

If you have ever asked yourself these questions, this is the book for you. What is the meaning of life? Why do people suffer? What is in control of my life? Why is life the way it is? How can I stop suffering and be happy? How can I have a successful life? How can I have a life I like to have? How can I be the person I like to be? How can I be wiser and smarter? How can I have good and harmonious relations with others? Why do people meditate to achieve enlightenment? What is the true meaning of spiritual practice? Why all beings are one?

Truth Vs Illusion: What Is Life About?

Sam Harris, bestselling author of *THE END OF FAITH* takes on one of today's liveliest issues: whether or not we actually have free will.

Free Will

Beginning with the latest science on the near-death experience, this resource explores the passage through physical death to the states of conscious being beyond. Traditional sources are compared with findings of science and medicine, and psychology from Jung and Piaget to Wilber.

Death, Our Last Illusion

This volume is aimed at readers who wish to move beyond debates about the existence of free will and the efficacy of consciousness and closer to appreciating how free will and consciousness might operate. It draws from philosophy and psychology, the two fields that have grappled most fundamentally with these issues. In this wide-ranging volume, the contributors explore such issues as how free will is connected to rational choice, planning, and self-control; roles for consciousness in decision making; the nature and power of conscious deciding; connections among free will, consciousness, and quantum mechanics; why free will and consciousness might have evolved; how consciousness develops in individuals; the experience of free will; effects on behavior of the belief that free will is an illusion; and connections between free will and moral responsibility in lay thinking. Collectively, these state-of-the-art chapters by accomplished psychologists and philosophers provide a glimpse into the future of research on free will and consciousness.

Free Will and Consciousness

Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book. Sample Book Insights: #1 The fact that you are reading this book is an example of your will. You decided to read this book and begin reading. You consciously willed what you are doing. You have a profound sense that you consciously will much of what you do, and you experience yourself willing your actions many times a day. #2 The idea of conscious will and the idea of psychological mechanisms have never been properly reconciled. The mechanistic approach is the explanation preferred for scientific purposes, but the person's experience of conscious will is important to them and must be understood scientifically as well. #3 Conscious will is often understood in two major ways. It is commonly referred to as an experience, when we perform an action and feel as if we are willing that action. However, it is also a causal force between our minds and our actions. #4 The experience of will is essential for the occurrence of consciously willed action. It is not always present when actions appear to be willed, and it can be absent altogether in cases of alien hand syndrome, in which a person experiences one hand as operating with a mind of its own.

Summary of Daniel M. Wegner's *The Illusion of Conscious Will*

This book is a critical re-evaluation of Jean-Paul Sartre's phenomenological ontology, in which a theory of egological complicity and self-deception informing his later better known theory of bad faith is developed. This novel reinterpretation offers a systematic challenge to orthodox apprehensions of Sartre's conceptualization of transcendental consciousness and the role that the ego plays within his account of pre-reflective consciousness. Heldt persuasively demonstrates how an adequate comprehension of Sartre's theories of negation and reflection can reveal the world as it appears to human consciousness as one in which our reality is capable of becoming littered with illusions. As the foundation upon which the rest of Sartre's philosophical project is built, it is essential that the phenomenological ontology of Sartre's early writings be interpreted with clarity. This book provides such a reinterpretation. In doing so, a philosophical inquiry emerges which is genuinely contemporary in its aim and scope and which seeks to demonstrate the significance of Sartre's thought, not only as significant to the history of philosophy, but to ongoing debates in continental philosophy and philosophy of mind.

Immanence and Illusion in Sartre's Ontology of Consciousness

The following essay is an effort towards the freeing of our consciousness from the limitation in which it habitually dwells, and which exists only by means of certain illusions that are common to all men. To encounter illusions which are universal and which are practically unanimously accepted, is a task of great difficulty; it has, therefore, seemed both excusable and necessary to relate, as illustrations to the essay, various experiences. These experiences have come to a psychic sometimes

in dream-consciousness and sometimes in trance-consciousness; they have been given under the guidance of a teacher or Master, evidently to make dear the illusions under which man labours. In the case of such guidance as this it is easy to turn the pages of the records of the past and therein again experience events which have occurred long since, and by this means obtain enlightenment. Man is so engrossed in that which is happening, when it happens, that he is unable to realize the methods by which events are brought about, and the relations existing between the visible and the invisible. If he could do so at the time it would be possible for him at any moment of acute experience to attain knowledge and freedom from illusion; but it is not possible because his whole being is absorbed either in pain or pleasure, and in desire. In the schools of the psychic world the history of each incarnation is used for reference, and as each spirit begins to acquire knowledge it is shown pages in its own past which illustrate and confirm that knowledge.

Illusions

The Grand Illusion (TGI) synthesizes the paranormal with today's hard science, seeking to initiate a dramatic reempowering of humanity. You'll no longer consider yourself just a powerless little "meat computer" destined for total annihilation at life's biological end; that outmoded worldview is firmly buried by the material set out within. Here, new and expansive vistas of possibility are laid bare; the forces and energies produced by our consciousness that act on the world around us are blown open for your understanding. Did you know that modern neuroscience considers the brain as a receiver of consciousness rather than the generator of it? Get ready for an introduction to the mysterious "fifth force" known to science—a virtually unshieldable "carrier wave" of consciousness that can travel at speeds far exceeding light. With the knowledge that we are incredible and immortal spiritual beings temporarily inhabiting a dream-like, multidimensional, holographic reality, we can indeed begin to turn life on this planet—which, for many, is a virtual nightmare—into The Grand Illusion. Are you ready to meet yourself? "A masterpiece. If The Grand Illusion were merely paradigm-destroying, which it certainly is for rearguard scientific 'Funda-materialists,' it would be a satisfying read. Fortunately, for those of us dedicated to establishing a new civilization of consciousness, Brendan Murphy's fascinating, inspiring and seminal work also opens the door to a world of new creative possibilities. ... The Grand Illusion is mind-blowing." -Sol Luckman, author of Potentiate Your DNA

The Grand Illusion

In an impassioned defence of the importance of our own thoughts, feelings and experiences, the renowned philosopher Mary Midgley shows that there's much more to our selves than a jumble of brain cells. Exploring the remarkable gap that has opened up between our understanding of our sense of self and today's science, Midgley argues powerfully and persuasively that the rich variety of our imaginative life cannot be contained in the narrow bounds of a highly puritanical materialism that simply equates brain and self. Engaging with the work of prominent thinkers, Midgley investigates the source of our current attitudes to the self and reveals how ideas, traditions and myths have been twisted to fit in, seemingly naturally, with science's current preoccupation with the physical and material. Midgley shows that the subjective sources of thought – our own experiences – are every bit as necessary in helping to explain the world as the objective ones such as brain cells. *Are You an Illusion?* offers a salutary analysis of science's claim to have done away with the self and a characteristic injection of common sense from one of our most respected philosophers into a debate increasingly in need of it. This Routledge Classics edition includes a new Foreword by Stephen Cave.

Are You an Illusion?

"A first-class intellectual adventure." —Brian Greene, author of *Until the End of Time* Illuminating his groundbreaking theory of consciousness, known as the attention schema theory, Michael S. A. Graziano traces the evolution of the mind over millions of years, with examples from the natural world, to show how neurons first allowed animals to develop simple forms of attention and then to construct awareness of the external world and of the self. His theory has fascinating implications for the future: it may point the way to engineers for building consciousness artificially, and even someday taking the natural consciousness of a person and uploading it into a machine for a digital afterlife.

Rethinking Consciousness: A Scientific Theory of Subjective Experience

A radically new view of the nature and purpose of consciousness How is consciousness possible? What biological purpose does it serve? And why do we value it so highly? In *Soul Dust*, the psychologist

Nicholas Humphrey, a leading figure in consciousness research, proposes a startling new theory. Consciousness, he argues, is nothing less than a magical-mystery show that we stage for ourselves inside our own heads. This self-made show lights up the world for us and makes us feel special and transcendent. Thus consciousness paves the way for spirituality, and allows us, as human beings, to reap the rewards, and anxieties, of living in what Humphrey calls the "soul niche." Tightly argued, intellectually gripping, and a joy to read, *Soul Dust* provides answers to the deepest questions. It shows how the problem of consciousness merges with questions that obsess us all—how life should be lived and the fear of death. Resting firmly on neuroscience and evolutionary theory, and drawing a wealth of insights from philosophy and literature, *Soul Dust* is an uncompromising yet life-affirming work—one that never loses sight of the majesty and wonder of consciousness.

Soul Dust

Biocentrism shocked the world with a radical rethinking of the nature of reality. But that was just the beginning. In *Beyond Biocentrism*, acclaimed biologist Robert Lanza, one of TIME Magazine's "100 Most Influential People in 2014," and leading astronomer Bob Berman, take the reader on an intellectual thrill-ride as they re-examine everything we thought we knew about life, death, the universe, and the nature of reality itself. The first step is acknowledging that our existing model of reality is looking increasingly creaky in the face of recent scientific discoveries. Science tells us with some precision that the universe is 26.8 percent dark matter, 68.3 percent dark energy, and only 4.9 percent ordinary matter, but must confess that it doesn't really know what dark matter is and knows even less about dark energy. Science is increasingly pointing toward an infinite universe but has no ability to explain what that really means. Concepts such as time, space, and even causality are increasingly being demonstrated as meaningless. All of science is based on information passing through our consciousness but science hasn't the foggiest idea what consciousness is, and it can't explain the linkage between subatomic states and observation by conscious observers. Science describes life as a random occurrence in a dead universe but has no real understanding of how life began or why the universe appears to be exquisitely designed for the emergence of life. The biocentrism theory isn't a rejection of science. Quite the opposite. Biocentrism challenges us to fully accept the implications of the latest scientific findings in fields ranging from plant biology and cosmology to quantum entanglement and consciousness. By listening to what the science is telling us, it becomes increasingly clear that life and consciousness are fundamental to any true understanding of the universe. This forces a fundamental rethinking of everything we thought we knew about life, death, and our place in the universe.

Beyond Biocentrism