

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

INVESTIGATING CONSCIOUSNESS BEYOND REDUCTIONISM

February 21-23, 2024, University of Padua – Padua, Italy

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024
(SALA DELLE EDICOLE, PALAZZO DEL CAPITANIO)

9:00 am - **Opening Remarks** (EGIDIO ROBUSTO | FILIPPO SCIANNA | COME CARPENTIER)

9:30 am - **INSIGHTS FROM CONTEMPLATIVE TRADITIONS**

Chair: MARCELLO GHILARDI

- 9:30 am - ERVIN LASZLO, *Combining Scientific Outsight With Spiritual Insight. The Nature of the Evolved Consciousness*
- 10:00 am - SANGEETHA MENON, *Binding the Elusive Consciousness With the Self: Why AI Will Not Become Sentient?*

10:30 am - Coffee Break

Chair: ILARIA MALAGUTI

- 11:00 am - BRUNO NERI, *Neurophenomenology: Report from a Tibetan Monastery in India*
- 11:30 am - BINDU M. KUTTY, *Brain Oscillations and Its Functional Correlates – A Gateway to Explore the Concept of Consciousness*

12:00 pm - Discussion

1:00 pm - Lunch

2:30 pm - **BEYOND DUALITY**

Chair: SILVIA CAPODIVACCA

- 2:30 pm - CATHERINE PRUEITT, *Apoha as a Solution to the Decomposition Problem*
- 3:00 pm - ZORAN JOSIPOVIC, *Consciousness Itself*

3:30 pm - Coffee Break

4:00 pm - **CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PHYSICS AND MATHEMATICS**

Chair: FABIO GRIGENTI

- 4:00 pm - CHETAN PRAKASH, *Polytopes, Conscious Dynamics and Physics*
- 4:30 pm - DONALD D. HOFFMAN, *Spacetime Is a Headset: Conscious Dynamics Beyond Spacetime and Quantum Theory*
- 5:00 pm - FEDERICO FAGGIN, *Consciousness Is About Meaning*

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Discussion

8:00 pm - Social Dinner

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024
(AULA N, PALAZZO LIVIANO)

9:00 am - **PHILOSOPHICAL AND EPISTEMOLOGICAL INQUIRIES**

Chair: CHIARA MASCARELLO

- 9:00 am - KATHINKA EVERS, *The Elephant in the Room: Normative Obstacles to Understanding Consciousness*
- 9:30 am - JUAN ARNAU, *Out of the Text. Erotism and Blindness of Data*
- 10:00 am - RICCARDO MANZOTTI, *The Hypothesis of the Identity Between Consciousness and the Physical Objects (MOI). Consciousness Is Not Inside the Brain*

10:30 am - Coffee Break

Chair: ANDREA GAMBAROTTO

- 11:00 am - SEBASTJAN VÖRÖS, *Snakes All the Way Down: Varela's Path From Life to Experience, and Back Again*
- 11:30 am - PHILIP GOFF, *Free Will and the Evolution of Consciousness*

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Discussion

1:00 pm - Lunch

2:30 pm - **NEUROSCIENTIFIC HYPOTHESES ON CONSCIOUSNESS**

Chair: NICOLA DE PISAPIA

- 2:30 pm - GEORG NORTHOFF, *How to Connect Brain and Mind - Temporo-Spatial Theory of Consciousness (TTC)*
- 3:00 pm - BERNARD BAARS, *Points of Scientific Consensus*
- 3:30 pm - GIUSEPPE PAGNONI, *What Does the Free-Energy Principle Offer Us for Understanding Meta-Awareness, Self, and Consciousness?*

4:00 pm - Coffee Break

Chair: FRANCESCO TORMEN

- 4:30 pm - STEVEN LAUREYS, *The Neurology of Consciousness: From Coma and Near-Death Experiences to Meditation and Hypnosis*
- 5:00 pm - CHRISTOF KOCH, *Integrated Information Theory and Consciousness in Nature*

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Discussion

8:00 pm - Social Dinner

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024
(SALA DELLE EDICOLE, PIAZZA CAPITANIATO, 3)

9:30 am - **FURTHER INSIGHTS FROM NEUROSCIENCE**

Chair: FEDERICO ZILIO

- 9:30 am - RAVINDRA P. NAGENDRA, *Sleep: A Model to Explore Neuroscientific Hypothesis on Consciousness?*
- 10:00 am - SRINIVASAN NARAYANAN, *Temporal Consciousness*
- 10:30 am - ELENA ANTONOVA, *The Importance of Staying With the Question*

11:00 am - Coffee Break

11:30 am - 12:15 pm Discussion

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm - **Closing Remarks** (ANMOL MAHAJAN | FRANCESCO TORMEN | MARCELLO GHILARDI)

Discussants: ANDREA ALTOBRANDO | ANDREA GAMBAROTTO | EMANUELA MAGNO |
ILARIA MALAGUTI | ARIANNA PALMIERI | FEDERICO ZILIO
EMMA LAVINIA BON | FRANCESCO MARIA CATANZARO | JACOPO CECCON | ALBERTO
MERZARI | ELISA PALUAN | BIANCA VENTURA

Scientific and Organizing Committee: SILVIA CAPODIVACCA | COME CARPENTIER |
MARCELLO GHILARDI | CHIARA MASCARELLO | FRANCESCO TORMEN

Event Manager: EMMA BANO, in collaboration with MEET AND WORK