

Seminar

Consciousness in the Universe

Stuart Hameroff, MD

Professor, Anesthesiology and Psychology
Director, Center for Consciousness Studies
University of Arizona, Tucson

Sunday, June 2nd 2013, 18:00

Università della Svizzera Italiana, Room A11, Via Buffi 13, Lugano



Did consciousness emerge during evolution from complex computation among brain neurons, as modern science and philosophy assert? Or has consciousness, in some sense, been in the universe all along, as implied in spiritual approaches?

The Penrose-Hameroff 'Orch OR' theory suggests both are correct. In Orch OR, consciousness depends biologically on fine scale processes within brain neurons - quantum computations and vibrational resonances in protein lattices called microtubules.

These quantum vibrations connect brain biology to fundamental spacetime geometry, casting consciousness as ripples in the ultimate structure of the universe. Implications for altered states, free will, medicine, healing and the possibility of 'non-local' consciousness will be discussed.



Stuart Hameroff M.D. is an anesthesiologist and professor at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Hameroff studies how the brain produces consciousness, and how anesthetics act to prevent it. In the mid-1990s, he teamed with British physicist Sir Roger Penrose on the famous and controversial 'Orch OR' theory in which consciousness derives from quantum computations inside brain neurons connected to the fine-scale structure of the universe. Hameroff co-organizes the conference series 'Toward a Science of Consciousness', has written or edited 5 books and hundreds of scientific articles, and appeared in the film 'What the Bleep?' as well as numerous TV shows on BBC, PBS, Discovery, OWN and History Channel.