

Multiple Drafts Model A Review

CS297

Presented To

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Science

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Phi Illusion Experiment

- Two colored lights flash in sequence with a short interval, leading to the perception that the first light moves and changes color
- Dennett questions how we perceive this change before seeing the second light, challenging conventional models of consciousness

Orwellian vs. Stalinesque Hypotheses

- **Orwellian:** The brain retrospectively alters the memory of an event based on later input (akin to Orwell's "Nineteen Eighty-Four")
- **Stalinesque:** The brain resolves conflicting perceptions before presenting them to consciousness (like Stalin's pre-determined show trials)

Cartesian Theatre Critique

- Both hypotheses assume a "Cartesian theatre" where unconscious processing becomes conscious at a specific moment, which Dennett denies
- He rejects the notion that there is a distinct time and place where experiences become conscious

Cartesian Materialism

- The idea that somewhere in the brain there is a "privileged neural media" or theatre where conscious experiences are represented
- Dennett argues against this, saying there is no specific place where conscious experience happens

Multiple Drafts Model

- Consciousness arises from multiple, ongoing interpretations of sensory inputs
- Perceptions are processed and discriminated at different times, and these "drafts" do not need to be presented at a central point
- There is no single "self" that observes or approves conscious experiences

Consciousness as Self-Organizing

- Consciousness is distributed across various neural processes and inputs that gain influence over behavior (e.g., actions, speech)
- It's a network without a central supervisor, where different parts assert control at different times

Consciousness as a Narrative

- Dennett describes the "self" as the "center of narrative gravity"—a story we tell ourselves
- There is no independent consciousness separate from behavior; instead, it can be studied through behaviors and dispositions (heterophenomenology)