

## **The illusion of free will**

Susan Blackmore

University of Leiden, Netherlands, 21 April 2017

The more we learn about the neuroscience of consciousness, and how the brain constructs a sense of self and volition, the less plausible is the traditional idea of free will. But if free will is an illusion, how should we live our lives? Many philosophers and psychologists still believe in free will. Others claim that we must live 'as if' we have it, to avoid terrible disasters befalling us, our societies or our legal systems. I disagree and will discuss the challenges of living without the illusion.