

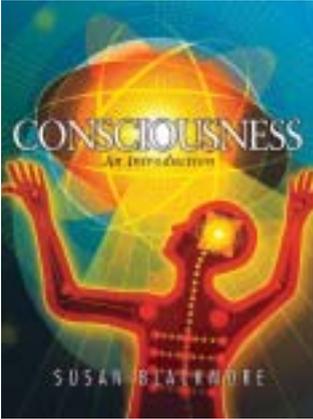
CONSCIOUSNESS

An Introduction

Susan Blackmore

*Is there a theory that explains the
essence of consciousness?*

Or is consciousness itself just an illusion?



About Susan Blackmore

After gaining one of the first PhDs in parapsychology in Britain, Sue Blackmore became increasingly sceptical of all paranormal claims and eventually abandoned the subject.

For 10 years she was a lecturer in psychology at the University of the West of England, Bristol, and taught consciousness courses both there and at the University of Bristol. She has written an autobiography, as well as books on out-of-body and near death experiences, and her controversial bestseller *The Meme Machine* (OUP, 1999) has been translated into ten languages.



The 'last great mystery of science', consciousness is a topic that was banned from serious research for most of the last century, but is now an area of increasing popular interest, as well as a rapidly expanding area of study for students of psychology, philosophy and neuroscience. This ground-breaking new book by best-selling author Susan Blackmore is the first of its kind to bring together all the major theories of consciousness studies, from those based on neuroscience to those based on quantum theory or Eastern philosophy.

The book examines topics such as how subjective experiences arise from objective brain processes, the basic neuroscience of consciousness, altered states of consciousness, out of body and near death experiences, and drugs, dreams and meditation. It also explores the nature of self, the possibility of artificial consciousness in robots, and the question of whether animals are conscious.

For all those intrigued by popular science, and what it means to exist, this book could radically transform their own consciousness.

- Fascinating, expert and accessible to general readers and students alike. The most readable and compelling contribution to popular science writing for years
- The first book to cover the full range of theories and ideas on consciousness - provides a comprehensive survey of this complex area
- Humorous illustrations and introspective 'thought experiments' are woven throughout *Consciousness*

**SPECIAL
INTRODUCTORY
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***Consciousness* by Susan Blackmore is available from all good booksellers**