



# The Elephant in the Room

## Investigating Consciousness Beyond Reductionism

February 21-23, 2024, University of Padova

Wednesday, February 21

Sala delle Edicole, Palazzo del Capitano

9:00 am - Opening Remarks

EGIDIO ROBUSTO | FILIPPO SCIANNA | COME CARPENTIER

### 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

### 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

### 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

Thursday, February 22

Aula N, Palazzo Liviano

### 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 GAMBARTO

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

### 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

Sala delle Edicole, Palazzo del Capitano

### 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 - Closing Remarks

ANMOL MAHAJAN | FRANCESCO TORMEN | MARCELLO GHILARDI

Discussants:

ANDREA GAMBARTO | 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  MEETaWORK

No reservation required

For information: [master.contemplativestudies@unipd.it](mailto:master.contemplativestudies@unipd.it)

Organized by:



In collaboration with:

