



Panconsciousness: A Quantum Leap To Ancestor-Simulation-Program

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Panpsychism holds that the universe is a web of consciousness – an empty stage in which everything that exists has somehow come into being in order to act out the great drama of life. Panpsychism may soon be replaced by Panconsciousness, if a new paper written by a team of scientists from the *Los Angeles-based Quantum Gravity Research Theoretical Physics Institute* passes academic, peer-reviewed muster. This will mean mankind's whole conception of who we are and how we got here, will take a quantum leap forward. The study is entitled *The Self-Simulation Hypothesis Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics*. To say it is ground-breaking is an understatement. In simple terms, it proposes that our physical universe consists of what is called a "strange loop."

*Who are we and how did we get here?
(By stockphotokae / Adobe Stock)*

Universe: An Ancestor-Simulation Programme

The paper begins by employing a relatively well-known theory about what is regarded as reality. It might be a kind of computer program. This idea has been considered and argued for a few years now. It is usually couched in speculations that the universe is, in effect, an ancestor-simulation program being run by post-human, vastly more evolved members of our own species, who are experimenting with different scenarios and "what if" questions. According to Nick Bostrom, one of the authors of the new study, *"The process of evolution itself could just be a mechanism by which future beings are testing countless processes, purposefully moving humans through levels of biological and technological growth. In this way they also generate the supposed information or history of our world. Ultimately, we wouldn't know the difference."*



Other proponents even wonder if advanced lifeforms from elsewhere in the multiverse are behind the whole simulation. But this paper suggests a simpler answer. In short, it says that our universe might be a “mental self-stimulation.” In other words, according to this theory, “mind” is at the root of everything, and the material universe perceived by our senses and, by extension, the tools of our science, is a manifestation of that mind, which has created a “body” for itself. That body is nothing less than the physical universe. If that alone is not enough, the theory utilizes advanced ideas about quantum mechanics to speculate that our universe is only one of many possible universes, all of which are created by “Mind” itself. In the words of physicist David Chester: *“In a sense, the mental construct of reality creates spacetime to efficiently understand itself by creating a network of subconscious entities that can interact and explore the totality of possibilities.”*



Lifeforms in the Multiverse are behind the Simulation (zeleniy9 / Adobe Stock)

Animism: Conscious Intelligent Spirits

Right away, one can see how objections might arise. If we substitute the word “God” for “Mind,” for instance, the theory sounds suspiciously similar to religious beliefs that have been held for thousands of years. Most modern scientists would probably not take kindly to the idea that all they have done is to redefine, using scientific vocabulary, the idea that, *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,”* and eventually made humankind in God’s image. The Quantum Gravity Research team puts it more delicately: *“We must critically think about consciousness and certain aspects of philosophy that are uncomfortable subjects to some scientists.”*

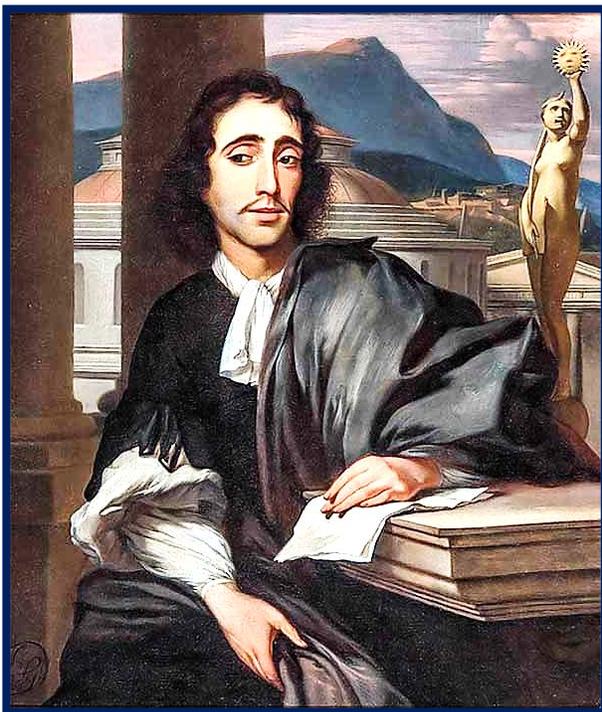
That aside, however, and looking only at the scientific evidence, without resorting to any religious terminology, *The Self-Simulation Hypothesis Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics* seems to be a revolutionary new way of interpreting an age-old system of belief that has at its roots what might be the oldest religion embraced by humans. Today we call that religion, Animism.



In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Kristi Linton / Adobe Stock)

To summarize this philosophical/religious concept, we need to briefly review its 40,000-year journey that began in the ancient, painted caves of western Europe, India, and Africa. Animism represents the earliest way ancient humanity tried to understand their existence. Its adherents did not call it by that name of course, and never produced any written treatise to define it. All they did was create enigmatic, symbolic art which suggests how they were thinking. It was just a part of their daily life. They appear to have believed that everything was "animated" by conscious, intelligent spirits. Eventually, those spirits were recognized as gods.

The universe was visualized as a platform upon which animated entities played their part in a great, unfolding drama called life. There was a "spirit" of the trees, a "spirit" of the rocks and mountains, a "spirit" of the waters. Eventually the idea arose that those spirits might like to be appeased - perhaps even bribed. The concept of sacrifice soon followed. It represented the birth of religion.



This kind of belief system is quite different than that which says the universe *itself* was the author of a play in which everything, even spirit, participated. Animism visualized the universe as a stage upon which the play, written by an unknown and unknowable author, was performed.

Portrait of a Man, thought to be Baruch de Spinoza by Barend Graat (1666) (Public Domain)

Pantheism: All Is One

In 1709, the idea of Pantheism was first employed to describe the theory that everything, collectively, is God. But it did not actually define the nature and distinctiveness of mind versus individual entities that make up creation, so it stopped short of the new theory.



Baruch Spinoza, the great Jewish-Dutch Sephardic philosopher, espoused something close to this when he explained his belief that God and the cosmos

Animism Believes Spirit Is In Everything (freshidea / Adobe Stock)

were “one.” But even he did not speak about the nature of mind itself. Panentheism was developed in 1828 to explain that God *penetrates* everything. According to this theory, a single, unified God was omnipresent as spirit *in* all things. But the concept of God *within* something downplays the notion of the thing itself being a whole and unique expression of universal mind.

These are subtle distinctions, and the average layperson can be forgiven if he or she considers them to be simply academic semantics. But they express complex ways of thinking about the world. A true scientist/philosopher considers specifics to be very important. If all things are an *expression* of a mind-like quality, as in Pantheism, or if all things *possess* a mind-like quality, as in Animism and Panentheism, minute differentiations are important. Animism, Pantheism, and Panentheism all drew a dividing line, however thin it may have been, between an outside presence, called the Creator, and the creation itself.

All Creation Is Mind

With that in mind, we come now to the latest evolving chapter in the story. *The Self-Simulation Hypothesis Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics* erases any line between Creator and creation completely. It proposes that spirit, or mind, does not exist *in* everything, or that the universe is the empty stage upon which materialistic “stuff” evolves and develops. It says that Mind *itself* is the creator of it all – that everything in the physical world, and possibly even the non-physical world, is the direct result of Mind seeking to express, or maybe even understand, itself in an infinite number of ways. There is no difference between Creator and creation.



*Entering into Dream Life
(markoaliaksandr/ Adobe Stock)*

Perhaps an illustration closer to home might help. Think, for instance, of a normal dream life, especially when it comes to the idea of lucid dreams. These are dreams in which one has the conscious

understanding that the dream is real, but can be controlled and manipulated by the dreamer. In these types of dreams, one can imagine one's own story as it unfolds, becoming, in effect, the creator of a specific reality. The dreamer is "outside" the dream, but feels as though the dream, and all its characters, are real, thinking beings, who are capable of a range of emotions. The dreamer thus dreams a story in which he or she takes part, seemingly in full consciousness.

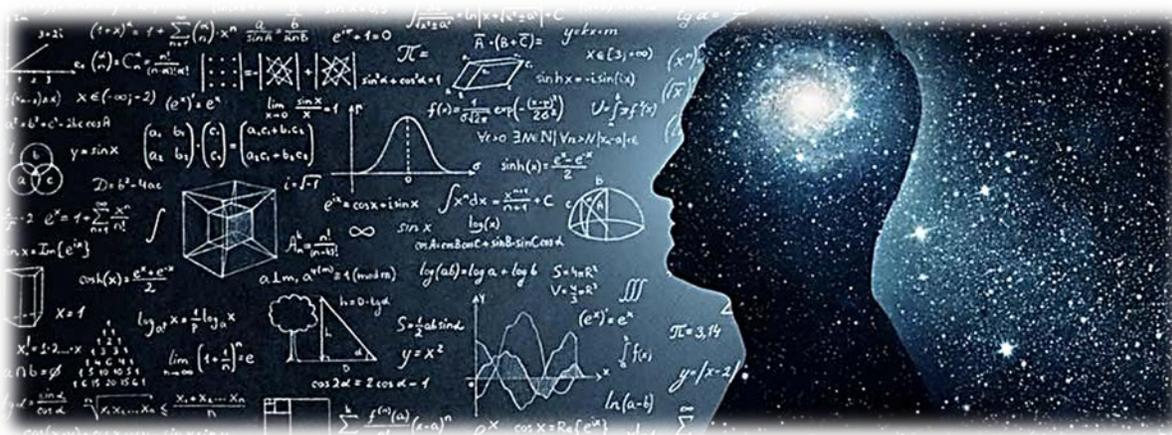
Now, project this common dream technique far into a future in which the art of dreaming has grown to be much more substantive and creative. If a person can dream his or her own reality into existence right now, imagine how much more real the whole experience might be if humans someday discover how to manipulate the process to a far greater extent? Then shall come to pass the truth of a familiar song, "Life is but a dream."

*Mind has created for itself a body for its dream
(Sergey Nivens / Adobe Stock)*



On its simplest level, this was predicted by the great physicist James Hopwood Jeans, who early in the 20th century said: “*The universe begins to look more like a great thought than a great machine.*” To build on his ideas, *The Self-Simulation Hypothesis Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics* proposes that the universe is not just self-aware, as earlier theories speculated. Instead, the universe is a physical manifestation of Mind itself, which has created, for lack of a better term, a “body” for its dream. In this scenario, the universe is not *penetrated* by conscious mind. It does not *possess* consciousness. It is, itself, conscious mind.

For thousands of years, Wisdom Masters have said that everything is one, so it is by no means a new idea that everything is connected in some way. But to give the concept official, scientific labels such as “entanglement” and “proto-consciousness fields” is revolutionary. It indicates that two separate lines of inquiry, metaphysics and science, have officially merged onto one superhighway.



The Universe Within (Tryfonov / Adobe Stock)

Emergentism: Brain Produces Mind

If this new theory can produce repeatable observations that lead to fully-developed scientific theories about the nature of a universe that intentionally produced us, it might help us understand the ancient origins of biological entities which are able to comprehend and become conscious of themselves as separate and individual beings. And it will do so by circumnavigating all the various disciplines that seek to explain our origins by studying the various stages of biological evolution.

The traditional methods of studying the origin of life are lumped together in a theory called *Emergentism*. It recognizes a distinction between mind and brain. According to this set of theories, mind exists in the brain. Brain is the producer of mind. Thus, there can be no mind without a brain. When the brain dies, mind ceases to exist. A mindless universe came first. Mind somehow emerged from it, evolving within a biological entity at a later, unknown time. Mind is therefore a product of evolution. Chance rules the universe, and we are the lucky beneficiaries of that chance. This is the primary view held today in the halls of academia, but the theory is infested with many problems, all variations on the same theme.

It is very difficult, for example, to explain how mind managed to emerge in biological entities. Legs, arms, and various things such as ears and eyes are simply genetic reconfigurations of preexisting appendages and organs that had already evolved in prototypes. According to Dr. Oné Pagán, author of *The First Brain: The Neuroscience of Planarians*, “Offspring inherit them from their biological parents, and when populations are exposed to specific environments, those genes that contribute to the survival of the organism are conserved through natural selection among other evolutionary mechanisms.” But when does a brain become a thinking mind, capable of both reason and insight? No one knows for sure.



When does the Brain become a thinking Mind ? (Tryfonov /Adobe Stock)

Eternal Emergentism

We live in a complex world, which can seem overwhelming at times when we put forth the effort to contemplate our existence. But *The Self-Simulation Hypothesis Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics* presupposes that we are the current vanguard of a process that began 13.8 billion years ago, is evolving with purpose and direction, and unites the universal play with its eternal Author. It predicts what is now being called *Eternal Emergentism*. This differs from classic theories in that mind predates the universe itself, rather than arising from the vagaries of evolutionary biology. Universal Mind has been and always will be in charge of the process. It does not spring from without, but from within.

If all these ideas are remotely true, we can begin to conceive of the universe, and our experience of it, in terms of planes of specific consciousness, or higher perceived realities. Other phrases could be used here, and undoubtedly will. Some might call it a higher state of being, or a place of elevated frequency. But these are metaphysical terms, and are not permissible within the realm of scientific protocols. The authors of this new study seek to express their ideas in scientific terms, utilizing methods that can be reproduced and studied by other scientists, subject to the procedures of the scientific method.



Cosmic Stairway
(SmileToBeFree / Adobe Stock)

There is a central problem of tackling problems of existence in the modern court of science. In the world subject to our perceptions, consisting of three physical dimensions and time, it is

not possible for us to have a normal experience of complete unity, such as exists in the reality of universal mind. In other words, what we experience is not *real* love, completeness, unity, or even separation. What we experience is an *illusion* of love, unity, and all the rest. This leads, of course, to what we call feelings. We *feel* these states rather than actually entering into them in a physical way. But how does one measure a feeling with test tubes and microscopes, let alone mathematics?

To put it another way, low frequency emotions of feelings are *reactionary* impulses, rather than first-hand impulses. If we are Universal Mind, created to experience itself, we can never say "This is what it *is*." We can only say, "This is what it is *like*."

The difficulties seem insurmountable right now. But whatever the future of physics may be, either couched in terms of super-string theory, gravitational theory, or any of the latest and best ideas of some really great scientific thinkers, if *The Self-Simulation Hypothesis Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics* proves to be a viable, reproducible, scientific theory, it might unite ancient wisdom with state-of-the-art science. If that happens, any resulting Grand Unification Theory might prove to be grand, indeed!

Top Image: Psychology (BillionPhotos.com/Adobe Stock)

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