



# **The Origin of Consciousness**

Awareness, Thought, Human Experience

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## The Hard Problem

The “easy problems” of consciousness involve **explaining cognitive and behavioral functions** such as perception, memory, and decision-making through mechanistic or functional accounts.

**“Hard Problem of Consciousness”** refers to the challenge of explaining **why and how physical processes in the brain give rise to subjective experiences (qualia)**: —the “feels like” aspect of being conscious.



David Chalmers introduced this concept in his 1995 paper: *Facing Up to the Problem of Consciousness* and expanded it in his book *The Conscious Mind* (1996).

## General statements/perceptions about consciousness:

Intelligence\* >< Consciousness

The brain produces consciousness

The brain is like a (computational) machine

If we know precisely how the brain works, we will understand what consciousness is

Consciousness is another biological system

It is the *informational processes* that connect consciousness to the brain

**There's a LOT we don't know about in our "world"/universe**

Mass

Electrical charge

Time

Gravity

. . . maybe consciousness is just another fundamental phenomenon

Niels Bohr said:



**Niels Bohr**  
**(1885-1962)**

We must accept that the  
fundamental principle of  
the universe is consciousness  
and not matter!



It is the *informational processes* that connect consciousness to the brain

