



# Consciousness: The Science of Subjectivity

By Antti Revonsuo

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## Consciousness: The Science of Subjectivity By Antti Revonsuo

The study of consciousness is recognized as one of the biggest remaining challenges to the scientific community. This book provides a fascinating introduction to the new science that promises to illuminate our understanding of the subject.

*Consciousness* covers all the main approaches to the modern scientific study of consciousness, and also gives the necessary historical, philosophical and conceptual background to the field. Current scientific evidence and theory from the fields of neuropsychology, cognitive neuroscience, brain imaging and the study of altered states of consciousness such as dreaming, hypnosis, meditation and out-of-body experiences is presented. Revonsuo provides an integrative review of the major existing philosophical and empirical theories of consciousness and identifies the most promising areas for future developments in the field.

This textbook offers a readable and timely introduction to the science of consciousness for anyone interested in this compelling area, especially undergraduates studying psychology, philosophy, cognition, neuroscience and related fields.

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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

"With *Consciousness: the Science of Subjectivity* Antti Revonsuo has written a wonderfully clear, very well-organized and insightful introduction to the philosophical and empirical study of consciousness. ... He employs a crystal clear language and organizes his paragraphs and introduction of very diverse philosophical and empirical theories in an explanatory order. The shortness of the paragraphs makes it easy to digest new information. This is further aided by the short summaries and enumeration of discussion questions at the end of each chapter and the glossary at the end of the book. All of this makes this an excellent introduction in the study of subjectivity for the beginning student, but equally so for the conference participants in the big interdisciplinary conferences on consciousness." - Fauve Lybaert, University of Leuven, in *Metapsychology Online Reviews*

"Everybody talks about consciousness, but hardly anyone has written a textbook about it that could be used as the basis for a survey course. Revonsuo's book closes that gap." - John F. Kihlstrom, Department of Psychology, University of California, Berkeley

"This book provides a major new discussion of consciousness, suitable for a wide range of readers. It is written in an admirably clear and scholarly way, and covers a wide range of issues thrown up by recent philosophical, psychological and neuroscientific research on consciousness. It would be excellent as a primary text for many introductory courses on consciousness, and I think this book will quickly become a major text in the area." - Steve Torrance, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Research in Cognitive Science, University of Sussex

Revonsuo's book is very well organized and as such offers a highly systematic approach to what is often a chaotic assembly of conflicting ideas. Students will particularly like the range and the inclusion of chapters on altered states, hypnosis and meditation, etc., particularly as some of this i

### About the Author

**Antti Revonsuo** is Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Skövde, Sweden, and Professor of Psychology at the University of Turku, Finland. He has been conducting research on consciousness and the philosophical mind-brain -problem since the early 1990s, focusing on dreaming and consciousness and on the neural correlates of visual consciousness. He has published two books on consciousness, *Inner Presence: Consciousness as a Biological Phenomenon* (MIT Press, 2006) and *Consciousness, The Science of Subjectivity* (Psychology Press, 2010). Revonsuo is also known for his evolutionary-psychological theory of dreaming, the threat-simulation theory.

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