



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of*  
**WISCONSIN**  
MADISON

# Consciousness:

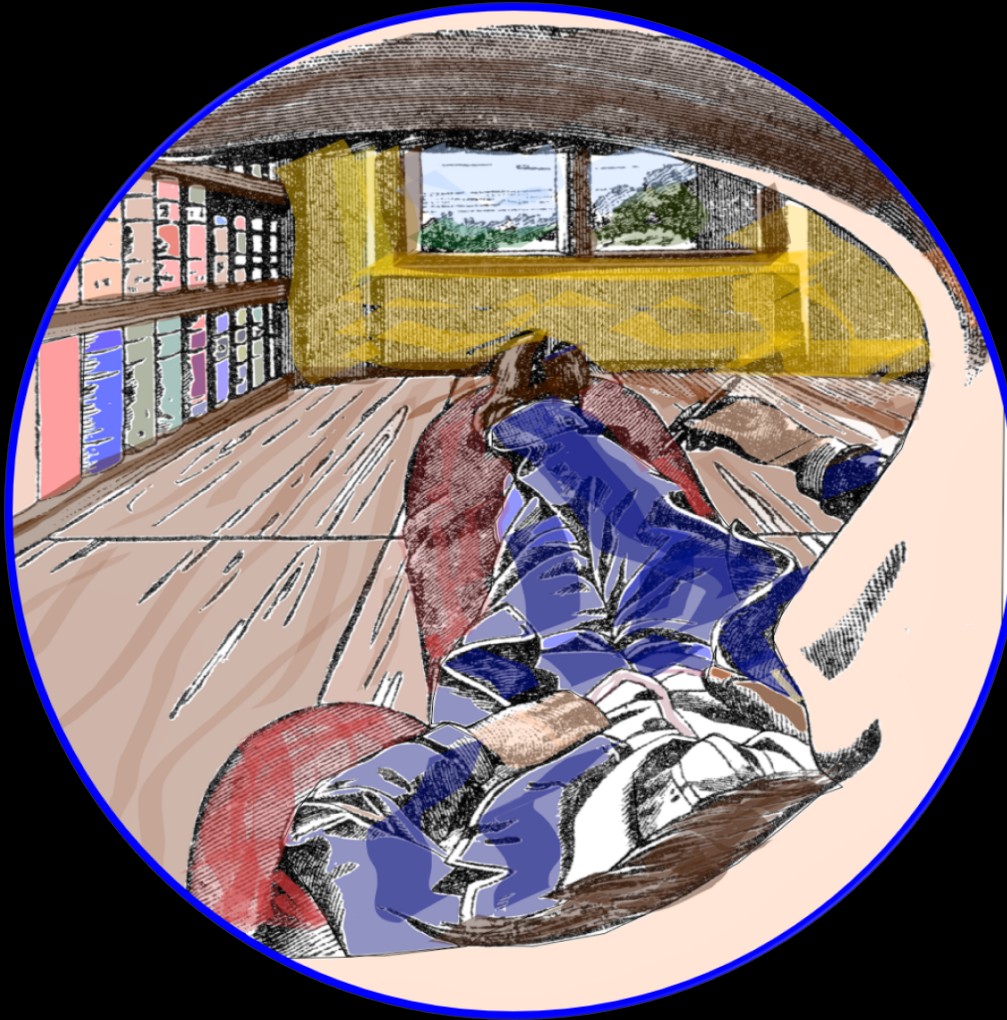
## From theory to practice

### Introduction to integrated information theory

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*05/24/17 – Larissa Albantakis*

*To be conscious is to have an experience*



*Consciousness is what goes away  
when one falls into dreamless sleep*



*Seurat: Le dormeur*

# *Consciousness is not just self-reflection*



*Rodin: Le penseur*

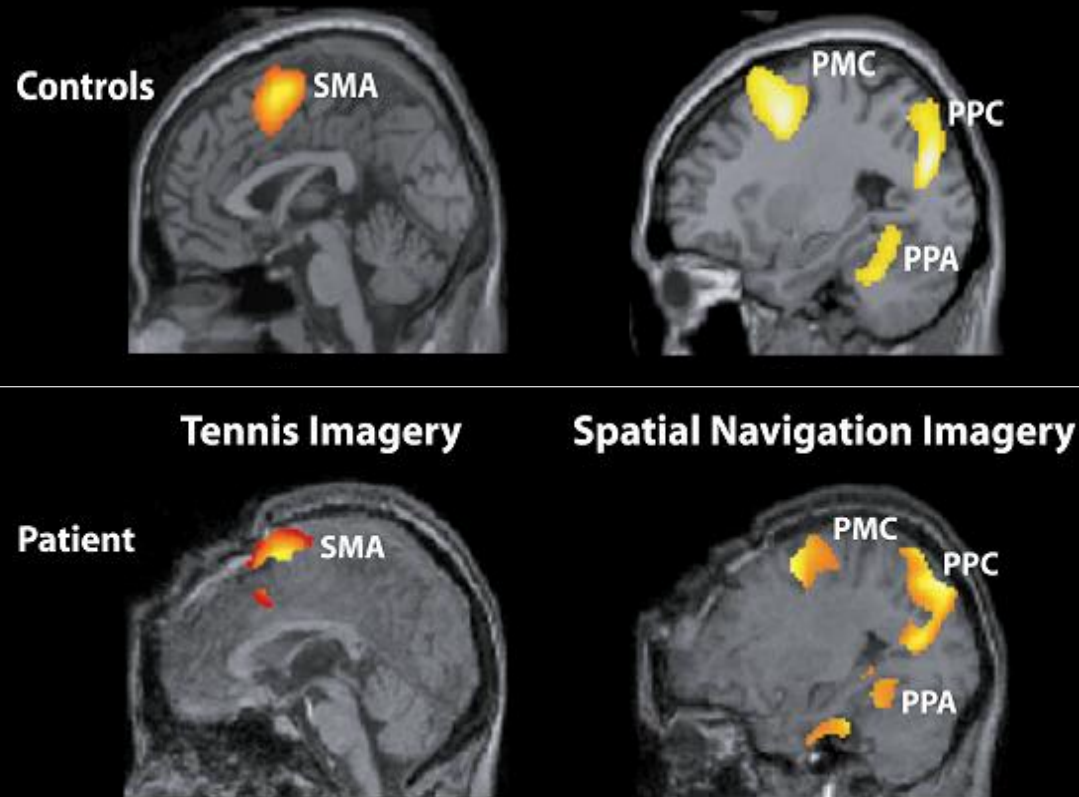


# *Consciousness is not just of the environment*



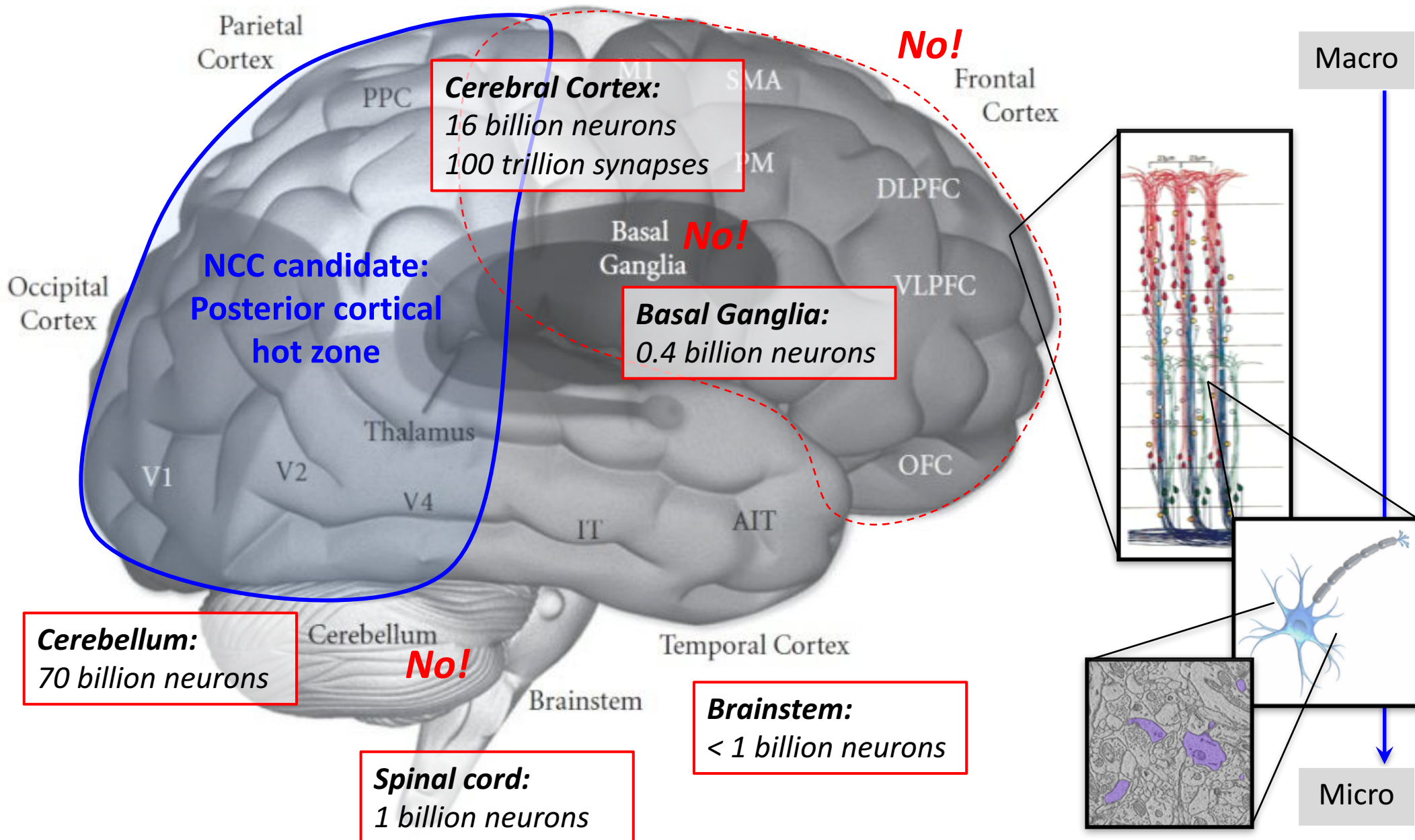
*Magritte: Le dormeur temeraire*

# *Consciousness $\neq$ Responsiveness*

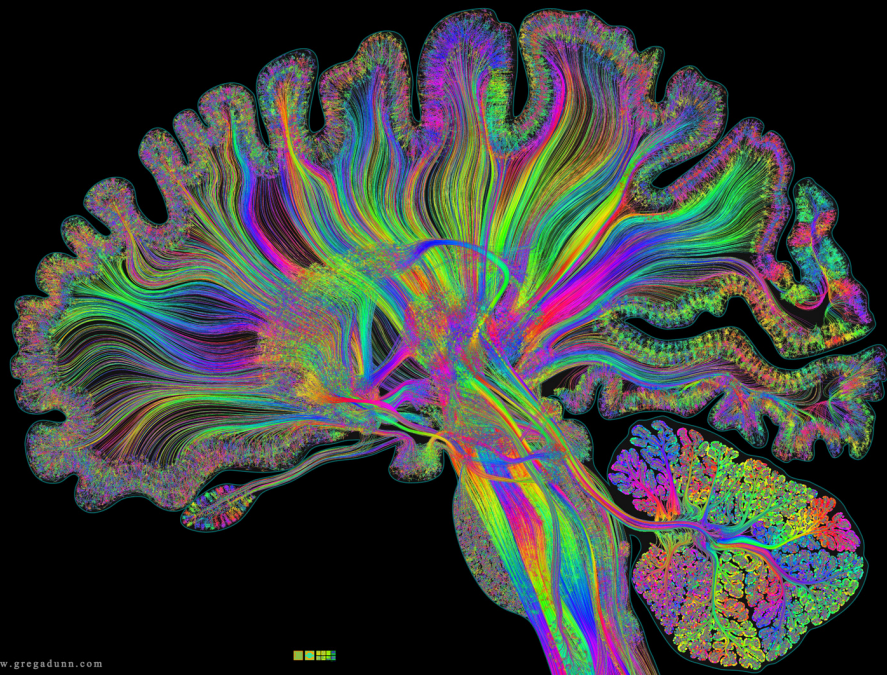


*Imagine playing tennis in the ‘vegetative state’*

# The neural substrate of consciousness?

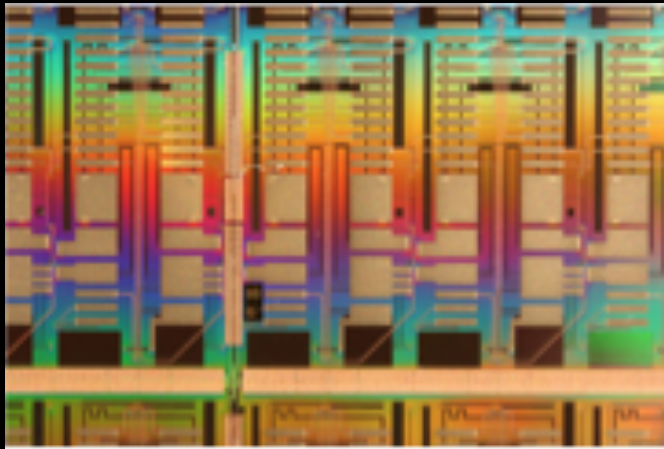






*“Furthermore, we must confess that perception and what depends on it, is inexplicable in terms of mechanical reasons, that is through shapes and motions. And if we imagine that there is a machine, whose structure makes it think, sense, have perceptions; we could conceive it enlarged, keeping the same proportions, so that we could enter into it, as into a mill. Assuming that, when inspecting its interior, we will find only parts that push one another, and never anything from which we could explain a perception”*

Leibniz

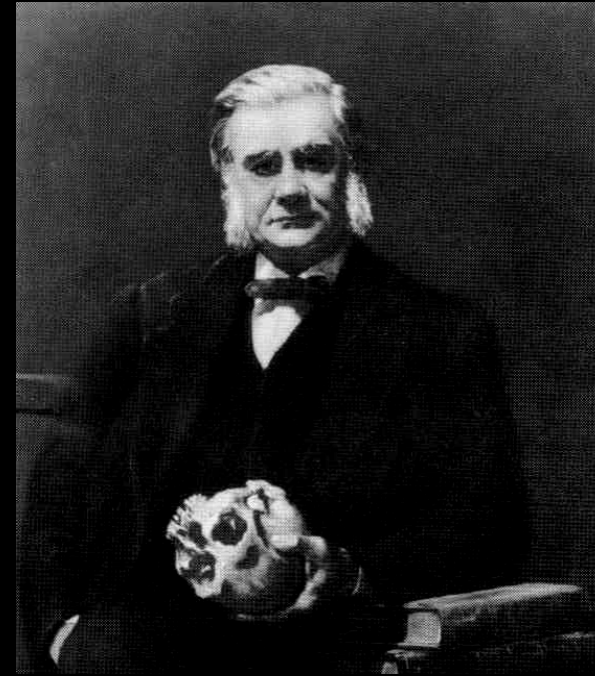
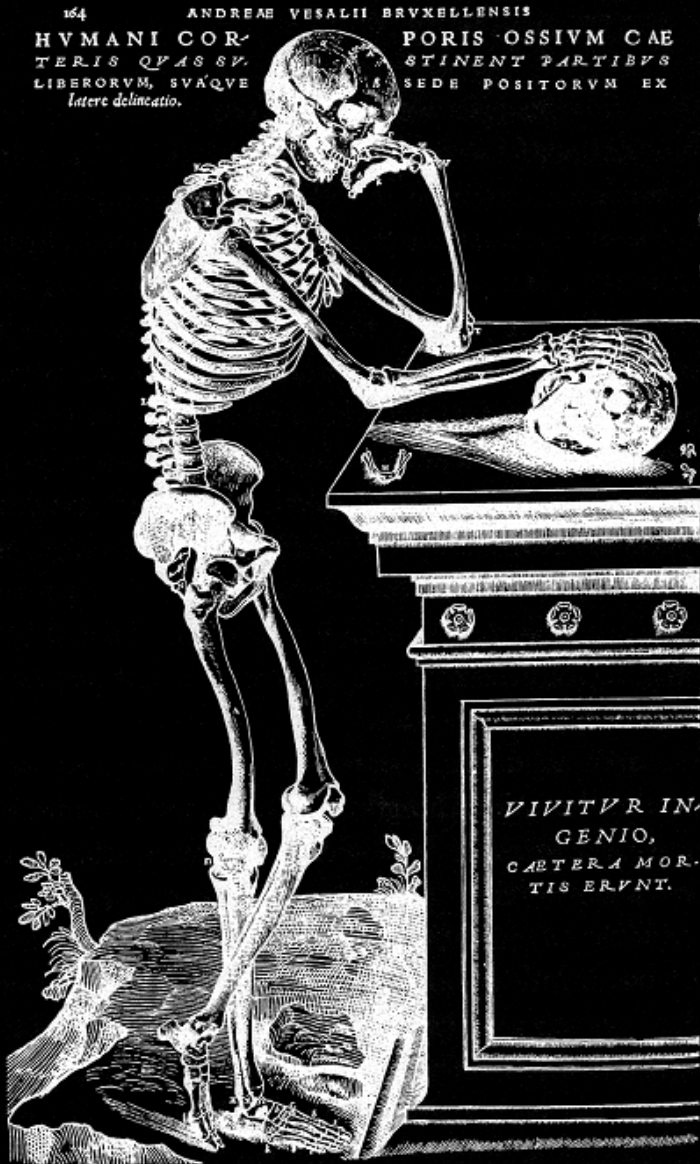


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Leibniz



# The “hard problem”

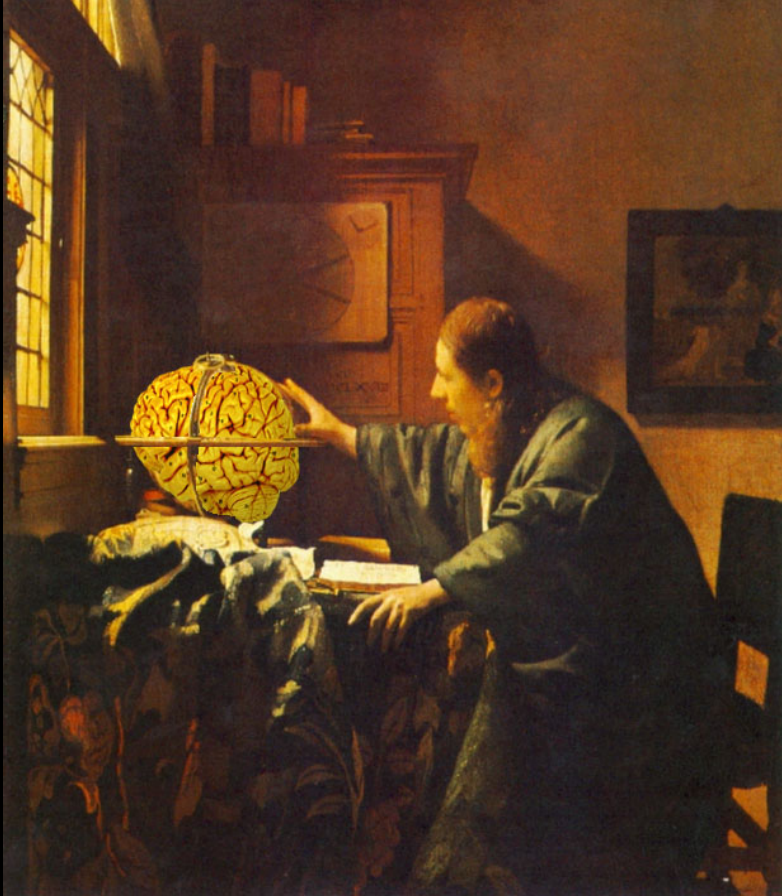


*“How it is that anything so remarkable as a state of consciousness comes about as a result of irritating nervous tissue, is just as unaccountable as the appearance of Djin when Aladdin rubbed his lamp”*

*Huxley, 1860; Chalmers, 1995*



*One cannot start from matter  
and “squeeze” consciousness out of it*



PHYSICS

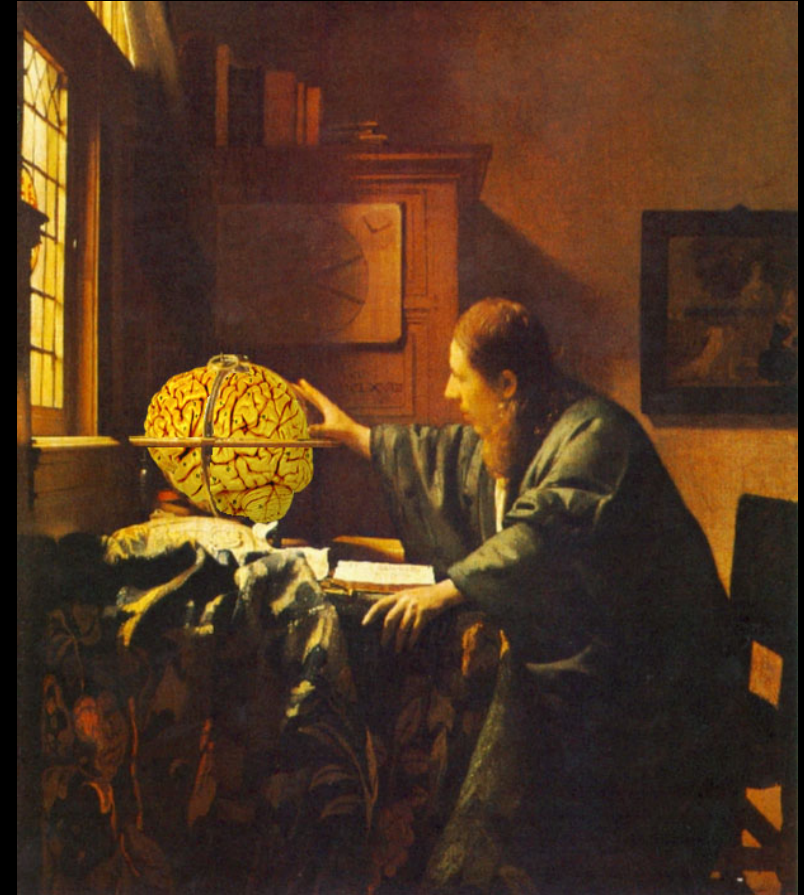


PHENOMENOLOGY

*But one can start from consciousness itself  
and ask what physical system could account for its properties*



PHENOMENOLOGY



PHYSICS