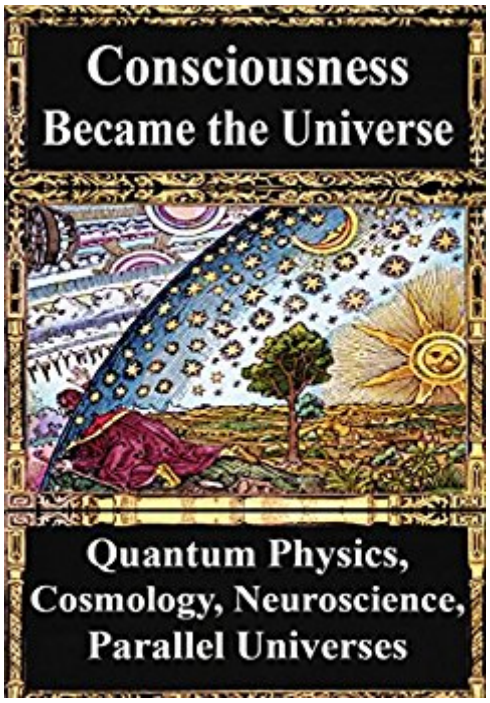
How Consciousness Became The Universe:: Quantum Physics, Cosmology, Relativity, Evolution, Neuroscience, Parallel Universes



Synopsis

Contents I: How Consciousness Became the Universe 1. How Consciousness Becomes the Physical Universe 2. Perceived Reality, Quantum Mechanics, and Consciousness 3. Quantum Reality and Mind 4. Space, Time and Consciousness 5. Does the Universe have Cosmological Memory? Does This Imply Cosmic Consciousness? 6. Cosmological Foundations of Consciousness 7. What Consciousness Does: A Quantum Cosmology of Mind 8. Detecting Mass Consciousness: Effects of Globally Shared Attention and Emotion II: Neuroscience, Cosmology and the Evolution of Consciousness of the Universe 9. Paleolithic Cosmic Consciousness of the Cosmos 10. The Brain and Consciousness: Dynamics and Evolution 11. Quantum Physics and the Multiplicity of Mind: Split-Brains, Fragmente Minds, Dissociation, Quantum Consciousness 12. Many Mansions: Special Relativity, Higher-Dimensional Space, Neuroscience, Consciousness and Time 13. Brain, Consciousness, and Free Will 14. Consciousness in the Universe: Neuroscience, Quantum Space-Time Geometry and Orch OR Theory III. Consciousness, Quantum Physics, Relativity, Retrocausation, Precognition, Multiple Dimensions, Entanglement, and Time 15. The Theory of MindTime 16. Consciousness Vectors 17. The Time Machine of Consciousness. Past Present Future Exist Simultaneously. Entanglement, Tachyons, Relative Time, Circle of Time, Quantum Time, Dream Time, PreCognition, Retrocausation, Deja Vu, and Premonitions 18. The ObserverÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Now, Past and Future in Physics from a Psycho-Biological Perspective 19. Synchronicity, Entanglement, Quantum Information and the Psyche 20. Consciousness, the Paranormal and Higher Dimensions IV. Uncertainty Principle, Parallel Universes, Wave Functions, Entanglement, Violations of Causality, and Paradoxes of Time Travel 21. Multiverse Scenarios in Cosmology: Classification, Cause, Challenge, Controversy, and Criticism 22. Classical Anthropic Everett Model: Indeterminacy in a Preordained Multiverse 23. Cosmology, The Uncertainty Principle, Wave Function, Probability, Entanglement, and Multiple Worlds 24. Logic of Quantum Mechanics, Parallel Worlds and Phenomenon of Consciousness V: THE AFFECT OF CONSCIOUSNESS OBSERVING THE UNIVERSE 25. Consciousness and Quantum Physics: A Deconstruction of the Topic 26. Consciousness and Quantum Measurement 27. A Quantum Physical Effect of Consciousness 28. The Conscious Observer in the Quantum Experiment 29. Does Quantum Mechanics Require A Conscious Observer? 30. Quantum Physics, Advanced Waves and Consciousness

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Customer Reviews

This book is a compendium of articles written on the subject of the relation between human consciousness and the universe we inhabit. Let’s be clear that this is no "easy read". A background of physics, biology, and cosmology are assumed. I however found it to be an eye-opening journey into a region of science that borders philosophy, metaphysics, and - yes-science!. I do recommend the book to those who are seriously interested in the issues relating our existence in the is universe.

Quite detailed papers about various topics related to quantum physics; some of them describe connections with the metaphysical and paranormal phenomena from a scientific standpoint and most include descriptions of relationships with consciousness. There’s a lot of mind-blowing stuff in these papers about time and how quantum physics necessarily means there can be future events affecting the present and the past and the observer’s role in time perspectives, etc. I certainly did not understand everything but I did read it all and many of the scientific explanations are intriguing. There are conflicting theories and many present redundant views; one very lengthy paper was admittedly quite circuitous and the author kept repeating himself, which could have been edited down to a much shorter version. This book is a collection by numerous authors, who all present numerous references.I would not classify this as light reading and many readers may not enjoy this

sort of book. It was obviously written for other than the layperson so be prepared to not understand a lot of this if you are not a not a classical physicist but I don't think you have to understand all the physics completely in order to enjoy the implications of many of the theories. Maybe some of this actually narrows the span between the individual and the cosmos, between the metaphysical and the scientific, between the material and the spiritual. Maybe, if even some of this is true, we might, in fact, be connected to everything else, to something larger than ourselves, and maybe there is somewhere to be found the elusive theory of everything that Einstein and others have quested for for so long.

It is quite detailed. Shows many aspects of consciousness. It has many confusing chapters linking multiple universes and consciousness. Shows how there can be more than one consciousness aspect occurring in a divided brain. It ties entanglement and consciousness with quantum physics.

What was done well: (1) An extensive coverage of the history of the different approaches to quantum mechanics and the attempts to integrate them into general relativity. (2) And in later chapters the coverage of recently published results in the application of an updated version of the wave function, which allows retro-causation, to explain the many verified and repeatable examples of retro-causation in human consciousness.Not so well done: Typos and errors in usage and syntax. Microscopic equations.Scott Benson

Very interesting, but not easy to read. I will have to read it again... and again. I have to explore more what I saw as contradictions at my first reading.

Offers clear concise overview and more obscure essays as well. It is thus far the most comprehensible book I have yet found on the subject with clear lines drawn between the scientific area, the theoretical and the metaphysical that are often smashed together in a mess.

Chopra is to be applauded for bringing together a diverse group of thinkers and scientists to tackle the topic of consciousness as the ground for the emergence of the universe. Unfortunately the arguments both for and against that notion are now getting worn. What the proponents of consciousness as the ground of all being tend to do is pick and choose the elements and findings of quantum physics that correlate with their views about the place of consciousness in the universe. The opponents likewise pick and choose the arguments of those physicists that militate against

consciousness being anything other than an epiphenomenon of brain function. In this 31 chapter book there are also plenty of chapters that do some toe-dipping into either science or logic, but are not really serious chapters at all, and lengthy expositions of the authors' opinions that don't rise much above the level of thoughtful drivel. The most disappointing shortcomings were that: 1) there was no effort to unify these diverse chapters, or give a sort of consensus statement or even an overview; 2) None of the chapters developed detailed models of the relationship between consciousness and the world that could be described mathematically. With regard to the latter it is disappointing and puzzling that Chopra (I assume as editor) did not include a chapter from Donald D. Hoffman.

Beginners (UNITEXT for Physics)