

Consciousness and the Mind's I: Loops & systems between perception and action

Under the auspices of the National Committee for the Psychological
Sciences and the Royal Academies for Sciences and the Arts of Belgium

This symposium is dedicated to one of the most important scientific challenges today, namely, understanding how the activity of the brain produces conscious experience. The symposium will cover some of the research threads that elicit the most interest today: (1) the respective influences and interactions of top-down and bottom-up processes in shaping conscious experience, (2) the putative existence

of separate, independent systems in driving implicit (unconscious) vs. explicit (conscious, metacognitive) performance, and (3) the nature and neural underpinnings of voluntary action and free will. Each thread features outstanding international speakers who will debate these questions together with a Belgian scientist so as to foster interactions and showcase local talent.

09:00 – 09:30 Registration and coffee / tea
09:30 – 10:00 Welcome address

10:00 – 11:40 **Session 1 : Volition and Free Will**

Patrick Haggard University College London
“Learning To Experience Oneself As a Voluntary Agent”
Jonathan Schooler USCB
“What Science Tells Us About the Belief In Free Will”
Discussant Marcel Brass Universiteit Gent

11:40 – 13:00 Poster session and lunch

13:00 – 14:40 **Session 2: Metacognition and Consciousness**

David Shanks University College London
“Investigating Unconscious Cognition: Research Methods for the Next Decade”
Steve Fleming University College London
“Perception, Action and Confidence: Understanding Metacognitive Computation in the Human Brain”
Discussant Axel Cleeremans ULB

14:40 – 15:00 Coffee / tea break

15:00 – 16:40 **Session 3: Interactions Between Top-down and Bottom-up Factors in Conscious Perception**

Catherine Tallon-Baudry École Normale Supérieure Cognitives
“Towards a Biological Account of Subjectivity: Visceral Inputs, Brain Dynamics and Consciousness”
Simon van Gaal Universiteit van Amsterdam
“The Role of Consciousness in Cognitive Control and Decision Making”
Discussant Eva Van den Bussche VUB

16:40 – 17:00 Concluding remarks
17:00 Closing reception

