

Editorial Note

The Relationship between Consciousness & Reality

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ABSTRACT

This Focus Issue features the work of Graham P. Smetham and Claus Janew on consciousness and reality. Again, our goals with this Focus Issue are: (1) bring broader awareness of Smetham and Janew's work by scholars and all genuine truth seekers; and (2) promote scholarly discussions of the same through commentaries and responses to commentaries in the future issues of JCER. In so doing, we hope that all of us may benefit in our endeavor to reach higher Consciousness within ourselves and build a genuine Science of Consciousness.

Key Words: Consciousness, reality, relationship.

Smetham's Work

Smetham's article in this Focus Issue is the seventh of his articles to appear in JCER. The overall theme of Smetham's analysis is how quantum mechanics verifies (or is consistent with) Buddhist philosophy/metaphysics. Indeed, Smetham has written a book entitled "Quantum Buddhism: Dancing in Emptiness - Reality Revealed at the Interface of Quantum Physics and Buddhist Philosophy" [1].

In his current article, Smetham illustrates the Buddhist "doctrine of the 'two truths', the ultimate truth of the 'emptiness' of all phenomena, and the deceptive nature of 'conventional' truths, or appearances" and the verifications of the 'two truth' by quantum mechanics. In essence, Smetham argues that: (1) the ultimate (deeper) reality is Buddhist concept of 'emptiness' – the 'emptiness' grounded in universal Consciousness; and (2) the apparent reality is Buddhist concept of 'bubble' created within the 'emptiness' by Consciousness. Thus, the apparent reality is deceptive and illusory and ultimate reality is 'empty' Mindnature.

To make his points on Buddhist philosophy, Smetham cites the work of Buddhist philosophers such as Dharmakirti and Nagarjuna. To support his points, Smetham cites extensively the work of well known quantum physicists such as Wheeler, Zurek, Zeilinger, Penrose & Stapp, just name a few.

One of the values of Smetham's work lies at the clear and penetrating expositions of the interconnections between Buddhist philosophy and quantum mechanics. Further, it may be said that, according to Smetham, the relationship between Consciousness and reality is that the ultimate reality of 'emptiness' is grounded in Consciousness and the apparent reality is created

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by Consciousness within the ‘emptiness’. However, to appreciate Smetham’s work fully, one has to read his articles.

Janew’s Work

Janew’s work presented in this Focus Issue consists of three Articles and one brief Essay. These pieces are summaries of his life-long study as an independent philosopher. The overall theme of his work is how consciousness creates reality. Indeed, Janew had written a book in German entitled “Die Erschaffung der Realität (The Creation of Reality)” [2] and these summaries are also self-published as “How Consciousness Creates Reality” [3].

The best way to summarize Janew’s work may be looking at his description of human consciousness: “our consciousness is inevitably connected to all others, and its dynamic in the widest sense is that of All That Is - the movement of one consciousness in different focuses and from individual to individual. The omnipresence of this dynamic requires an infinite velocity - the instant alternation between all realities, whereby our limited consciousness, as well as its corresponding experience of a [‘]slower[’] fluctuation, only becomes possible by skipping several phases.”

Janew defines [each] consciousness as “feedback and infinitesimality structure” which “are features of every form of existence” and at the same time form the “mechanism” leading to creative decisions which every consciousness therefore makes incessantly within its given possibilities. Reality means “a web of consciousnesses of infinite complexity which emerge as the cause and effect of universal creativity [of one consciousness] which is attuned yet relatively free.” Further, “[t]he infinite connection between all consciousnesses also enters into the infinitesimality structure of each one, so keeping the respective framework of possibilities open and contributing to the decision-making process without determining it completely.”

To comprehend Janew’s work, one needs understand his notions of: (1) relativity of existence; (2) the absolute universal continuum; (3) the logics of circumscription; (4) enfoldment and unfoldment; (5) the reality funnel; (6) the infinitesimality structure; (7) awareness; (8) All That Is; and (9) freedom to act; etc. Thus, there is no substitution than reading the Articles written by Janew.

References

1. Graham P. Smetham (2010), *Quantum Buddhism: Dancing in Emptiness - Reality Revealed at the Interface of Quantum Physics and Buddhist Philosophy*. Shunyata Press (ISBN: 978-1445294308).
2. Claus Janew (2009), *Die Erschaffung der Realität (The Creation of Reality)*. Dresden, Germany: Sumari.
3. Claus Janew (2009), *How Consciousness Creates Reality*. CreateSpace (ISBN: 978-1448669547)