

# Sequential conscious identities

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*January 18, 2021*

## **Abstract**

This is hypothesis about an aspect of consciousness which the identity of the mind that is conscious. Our life from the moment we are become conscious (which is probably before birth, but it's not relevant) until the present moment seems like thread belonging to the same conscious mind. I will try to explain here that this can only be an illusion as far as I can understand and in fact each conscious moment in time belongs to a different conscious identity or exactly the same way your conscious mind is different than that of some other person.

## **1. Introduction**

The important ideas this supposition is based on are the 5 minute hypothesis and the exploration of what would happen if we could create a perfect clone of an original person, that has all the memories of the original

## **2. 5 minute Universe**

If we think about the “five minute hypothesis” [1] that says the universe came into existence five minutes ago exactly as we see it and we have the memories of a long past and everything looks as if there was a long past. The hypothesis I propose is that a similar thing happens to our conscious experience. The complex neural network of the brain generates a conscious experience based on what it sees, what memories it gets access to, on what instincts exist and based on a result of a computation. But the brain may generate a series of instances of conscious experiences. Can you identify yourself with the continuous series of instances? The claim here is that you can't. Every instance of time there is a new conscious entity born but every separate entity feels it is the same person that was born many years ago.

## **3. Restarting the brain**

Imagine inventing a drug that is able to completely stop neural activity of a person. What will happen to the mind? Time becomes irrelevant for it . At that point the neural networks doesn't generate consciousness anymore, it vanishes it doesn't exist. Then it could stay like that an arbitrary amount of time. But then when the brain activity is resumed it will generate consciousness again and the person will

wake up ... but is it still the same? Physically it's the same and will remember everything from the past that will make it behave exactly as before like nothing happened. But is it the same conscious entity that was alive a while ago? Or it's a clone that knows everything what happened before? It won't feel anything strange happened. What if we could create a perfect clone of that person? Then you choose to wake up the clone or the same person.

#### **4. The clone problem**

What if we could create a perfect clone of that person? Physically there will be no difference. Then you can choose to wake up the clone or the original. What's the difference? The hypothesis says there are all different, including the original person in terms of conscious minds. But the implications of that is every moment of time the brain generates, for every-one of us, a new conscious identity. Basically, it's like making a physical clone of the brain every fraction of a second. The new conscious mind always remembers the past as if nothing happens, it doesn't realize it is actually the first time it lives then a fraction of a second later it dies without any objection of course and a new "lucky" one emerges.

#### **5. Conclusions**

For consciousness to occur, a certain configuration of the brain is needed because in some people with dissociative identity disorder the brain produces several conscious minds in the same brain. That means if it was easy to happen we would all have multiple conscious identities, but normally it only produces one.

The meaning of identity exactly what it means when we talk about DID (dissociative identity disorder). The brain produces one conscious mind but, one at a moment of time not one during the whole life of the brain so because of the clone problem it must be generating a new identity every fraction of a second, every iteration. The last identity always thinks it had lived since the brain was born but that's only because it has access to the memory of the brain then it thinks it will continue to live but it vanishes quickly. The clone problem has to do with the fact that you could in principle make a clone of a person and still it will not be the same conscious identity as the original but if you stop the brain activity and resume it, it's the same as making a clone so it's going to be the same, a new identity. But if you stop the activity then resume it, the person will feel the same, it will not feel anything weird happened just as we wouldn't either if a new identity was generated every moment. Then the neurons fire at a single frequency and it doesn't seem possible to have something continuous therefore these interruptions are like turning off and on the brain quickly, although it feels continuous. The memories ensure the continuity of thought by the next identity

## References

[Omphalos hypothesis - Wikipedia](#)

[1] *Omphalos hypothesis*, [Omphalos hypothesis - Wikipedia](#)