

An outline of an alternative view of conscious perception

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I present an alternative view of direct conscious perception which supposes the occurrence of a unity between neural activity in the brain and external world events. This unity is a physical process which I refer to as the onphene. I use the perception of the rainbow as first example. Eventually the same rationale is extended to the perception of colours, objects and movements. According to this hypothesis, the conscious experience of the world is not an internally generated domain, but it is that part of the environment (extended in time and space) which is causally active thanks to the relevant sensory-motor-neural structures of the conscious agent. The same rationale is used to explain dreams, illusions, memory, non veridical perception, and phosphenes. The view presented here is a variant of some form of neo-realism and externalism and it could be seen as a form of radical externalism.