

Sunday Zoom - August 17, 2025 - 12:30 PM ET - Topic: "All Sensations Are True"

Post by "Cassius" of August 18, 2025 at 11:32 AM

Lots of interesting history in that wikipedia link. Just like I wouldn't take medical advice from a professed Christian Scientist, I might well entertain adopting the rule that before I admit any credibility in anyone claiming to be an expert in "quantum weirdness" I would first want to know the writer's personal position on mysticism, determinism, and skepticism. And if he or she wasn't willing to lay their cards on the table on these issues, that would be a major red flag.

Quote

Many early quantum physicists held some interest in traditionally [Eastern metaphysics](#). Physicists [Werner Heisenberg](#) and [Erwin Schrödinger](#), two of the main pioneers of quantum mechanics in the 1920s, were interested in [Eastern mysticism](#), but are not known to have directly associated one with the other. In fact, both endorsed the [Copenhagen interpretation](#) of quantum mechanics.

[Olav Hammer](#) said that "[Schrödinger's](#) studies of Hindu mysticism never compelled him to pursue the same course as [quantum metaphysicists](#) such as [David Bohm](#) or [Fritjof Capra](#)." Schrödinger biographer Walter J. Moore said that Schrödinger's two interests of quantum physics and Hindu mysticism were "strangely dissociated".^[11]

In his 1961 paper "Remarks on the mind-body question", [Eugene Wigner](#) suggested that a conscious observer played a fundamental role in quantum mechanics,^{[12][13]} 93 a concept which is part of the [consciousness causes collapse](#) interpretation. While his paper served as inspiration for later mystical works by others,^[12] Wigner's ideas were primarily philosophical and were not considered overtly pseudoscientific like the mysticism that followed.^[14] By the late 1970s, Wigner had shifted his position and rejected the role of consciousness in quantum mechanics.^[15] Harvard historian Juan Miguel Marin suggests that "consciousness [was] introduced hypothetically at the birth of quantum physics, [and] the term 'mystical' was also used by its founders, to argue in favor of and against such an introduction."^[16]

Mysticism was argued against by [Albert Einstein](#). Einstein's theories have often been falsely believed to support mystical interpretations of quantum theory. Einstein said, with regard to quantum mysticism, "No physicist believes that. Otherwise he wouldn't be a physicist."^[16] He debates several arguments about the approval of mysticism, even suggesting [Bohr](#) and [Pauli](#) to be in support of and to hold a positive belief in mysticism which he believes to be false.