

What's the consensus on transhumanism/brain uploading?

Post by "EPicuruean" of November 28, 2025 at 2:55 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Is there is some theoretical barrier or insuperable obstacle that will always be impossible to overcome no matter what the technology?

I think so. The whole premise seems to me to be akin to "stealing someone's soul" simply dressed up in techno-babble and wishful thinking. The idea that one could "upload" one's consciousness to a computer is based on the idea that a person's being is reducible to some kind of (let's say Aristotelian) essence, usually thought of as some kind of electrical signal that can be read and copied into some kind of a computer-like machine. Or think of a Star Trek transporter that "reads" the individual's construction, breaks it down into a signal, and reconstitutes that person at a distance. For one thing there, it's not necessarily the same "person." See this video:

<https://youtu.be/nQHBAAdShgYI?si=LtXVnU3vABsmrTL>

The video also brings up the idea of "What is consciousness?" Which is really what this question of uploading for immortality purposes hinges on. To upload one's consciousness means we have to define consciousness itself. Good luck with that! One intriguing idea is the embodied cognition theory:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Embodied_cognition?wprov=sfla1

Nevertheless, as Epicureans, we insist the mind and body depend on each other. The mind does not exist independent of the body and both die together. In light of this, the mind cannot exist separate from the body, so the mind (our essence) is not able to be uploaded or separated from the body. There's no "me" without my body and mind working together. Giving into the idea of some future technology being able to do this can be fun, but ultimately it's dangerous to our life here and now because it literally denigrates this physical flesh as lesser than some fanciful pure mental existence that is somehow better than our current way of living. That smacks of heaven-talk and a better next world which is anathema to Epicurean philosophy.

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I can see your point. I don't have much to argue about. However, I think you oversimplify the mind-body idea.

Our current understanding of the mind is that it is just brain activity. Something akin to a computer program (or an analog circuit if you're more familiar with electronics). It seems that our experience is directly produced by neural activity. So, science indicates that our mind specifically is the electrical activity in our body (our brain more specifically). That's what we call our "conscious experience." It's electrical activity. Computation maybe.

So, yes, we ARE our body, just a specific part of it. We don't die or stop experiencing when we lose our foot, but we do die and stop experiencing when we lose our brain.

To say that brain uploading is possible is not a denial of the inherently materialistic nature of consciousness, rather it's an embrace of the idea. If consciousness or experience is material, then through proper interfacing with a computer that eventually replicates the brain activity entirely, the same individual who once experienced their existence in a body of flesh could eventually experience it in a body of silicon. Just like how the same computer program that once ran on a clockwork computer can be made to run on an electronic one.