

Discussion of Blog Post: The Continuing Vitality of Epicurean Physics

Post by “DaveT” of May 3, 2026 at 9:50 AM

[Don](#) I read the take down of Dawkins that you linked above. One thing it and the other comments here made me think about was the question of the types of consciousness that exist. Can we agree that there are different types or levels? For instance, within the human family, is a child as conscious of itself as an "mature" older person? Setting aside the obvious points of argument that the older has more experience and opportunities to be self aware, to me there is a different level(s).

Isn't there an awareness among pet dogs that the other dog it is sniffing is like itself? To me, there is a sub-human level of consciousness there. And beyond that, can we say a dog "knows" that if it obeys its master it will be given food? Yet this is not a human level of consciousness, right?

I've read how an AI can change its responsiveness to questions if it senses that it is being tested by researchers. So, I'm okay accepting the possibility (opinion, surely, and worth less than absolute proof) that an AI has a sub-human level of self awareness if not now, certainly in the very near future. And I suspect the degree of sub-humanness will decrease over time with improved technology.

That leaves the question whether it is possible to be more self conscious than humans?

Anyway, this subject intrigues with its potentials.