

## Mechanism for Awareness after Death 12 23 2022

### Summary

The only processes that could correlate to awareness that go on after brain-death are quantum processes. These processes contain information. But in quantum mechanics *information is never lost*. Therefore this information goes on after death and the awareness will still be correlated to it. Therefore awareness goes on after death.

### Section 1

Here is a plausible mechanism for how awareness can continue (indeed *must* continue) after death.

1. From Near Death Experiences it is widely reported that awareness goes on after ‘physical death’ (Long, 2014). (Strictly speaking, this is repeatable and falsifiable, and so should part of the scientific cannon.) If these reports are veridical, there is a question. In such a state the neurons in the brain have stopped sending and receiving electrical and chemical signals.

So what would be the physical substrate that that awareness is correlated to?<sup>1</sup> But that’s easy: even when neurons have stopped their processes there is still a cauldron of quantum fields permeating the brain.<sup>2</sup> So it is a good hypothesis that subjective awareness is correlated to these quantum fields.

2. These field processes might be amenable to characterization by their information.

3. And here’s the point: in quantum mechanics *information is never lost* (Zyga 2011).

4. The information in the fields before death will continue to exist after death. It follows that *the awareness that was correlated to the information before death will continue to be correlated to that information after death*.

5. This remains so as the information then ripples out into the body and skull around the brain, as it ripples out into the casket around the body, as it expands into the dirt around the casket, as it expands out into the earth below that dirt and the atmosphere above that dirt, and as it then expands out into the quantum fields beyond the atmosphere.<sup>3</sup>

That awareness goes on as its substrate expands out into the universe.

### References

Long, J. (2014) Near-Death Experiences Evidence for Their Reality, *Mo Med*. Sep-Oct; 111(5): 372–380, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6172100/>

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1 Awareness is taken to not be contingent on the particular sensory physiology. For example, one might lose one’s eyes and so lose visual information but minimal awareness could still go on.

2 Of course any quantum process that is correlated to awareness will do (not necessarily a cauldron of fields).

3 The same applies to cremation with irrelevant differences.

Zyga, L. (2011) Quantum no-hiding theorem experimentally confirmed for first time, Phys.org, March 7,

<https://phys.org/news/2011-03-quantum-no-hiding-theorem-experimentally.html#:~:text=In%20the%20quantum%20world%2C%20however,and%20the%20no%2Ddeleting%20theorem.>