

# **Why The Mind Is Not The Brain**

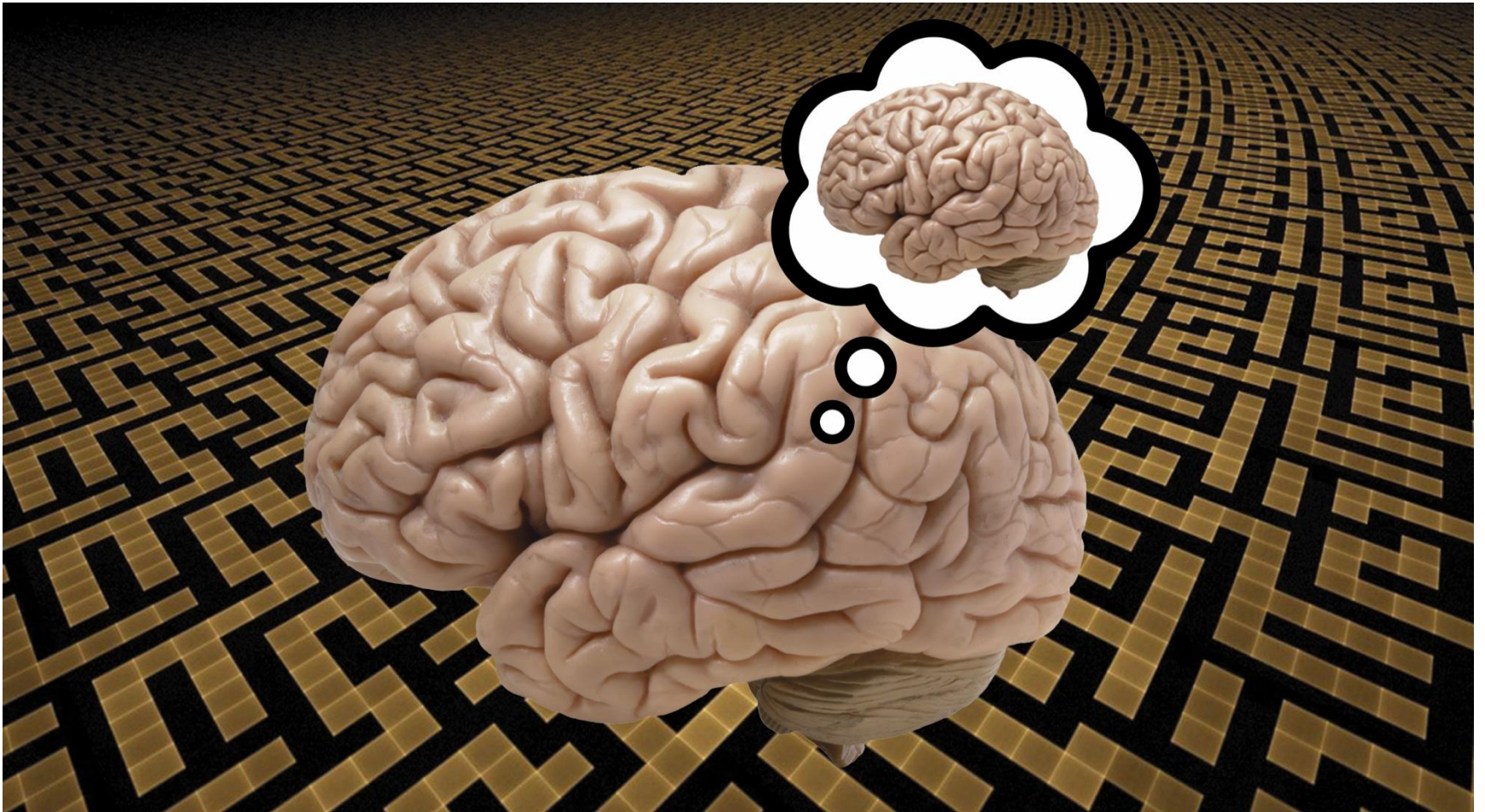
And why it matters

**Grant Bartley**





The mind and the brain are  
intimately connected



*A basic conclusion of  
neuroscience:*

**Every aspect of  
consciousness is  
correlated with brain  
activity**

***Our question:***

**What is the nature of the  
mind (which is known to  
be connected to the  
brain)?**



**All the contents of your mind are  
created through neuronal activity**



**The cat is black**

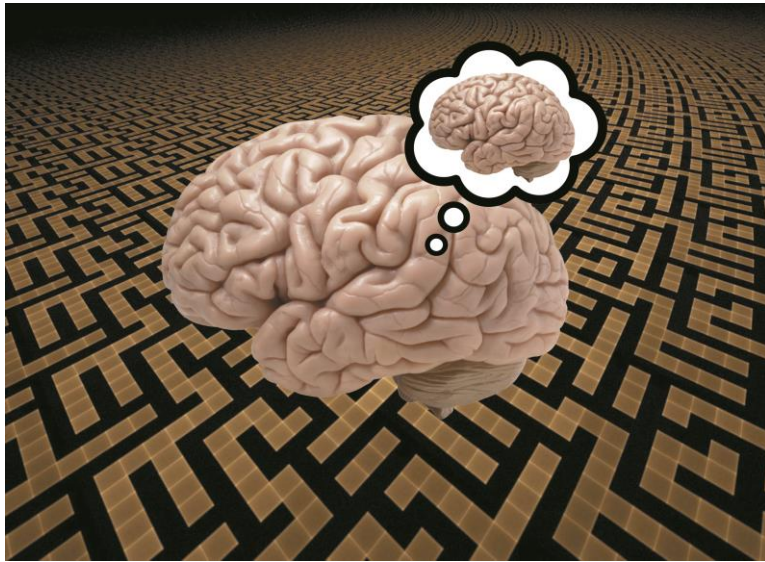


**The cat is not black**

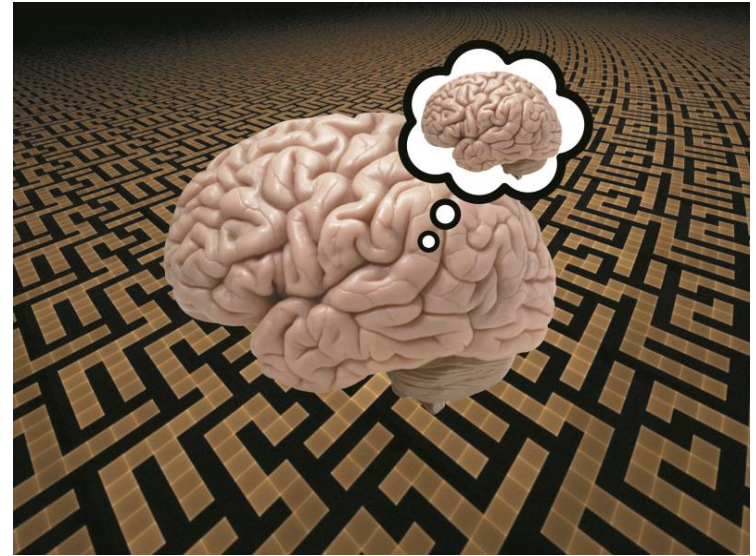




**The mind is the  
brain**



**The mind is not the  
brain**



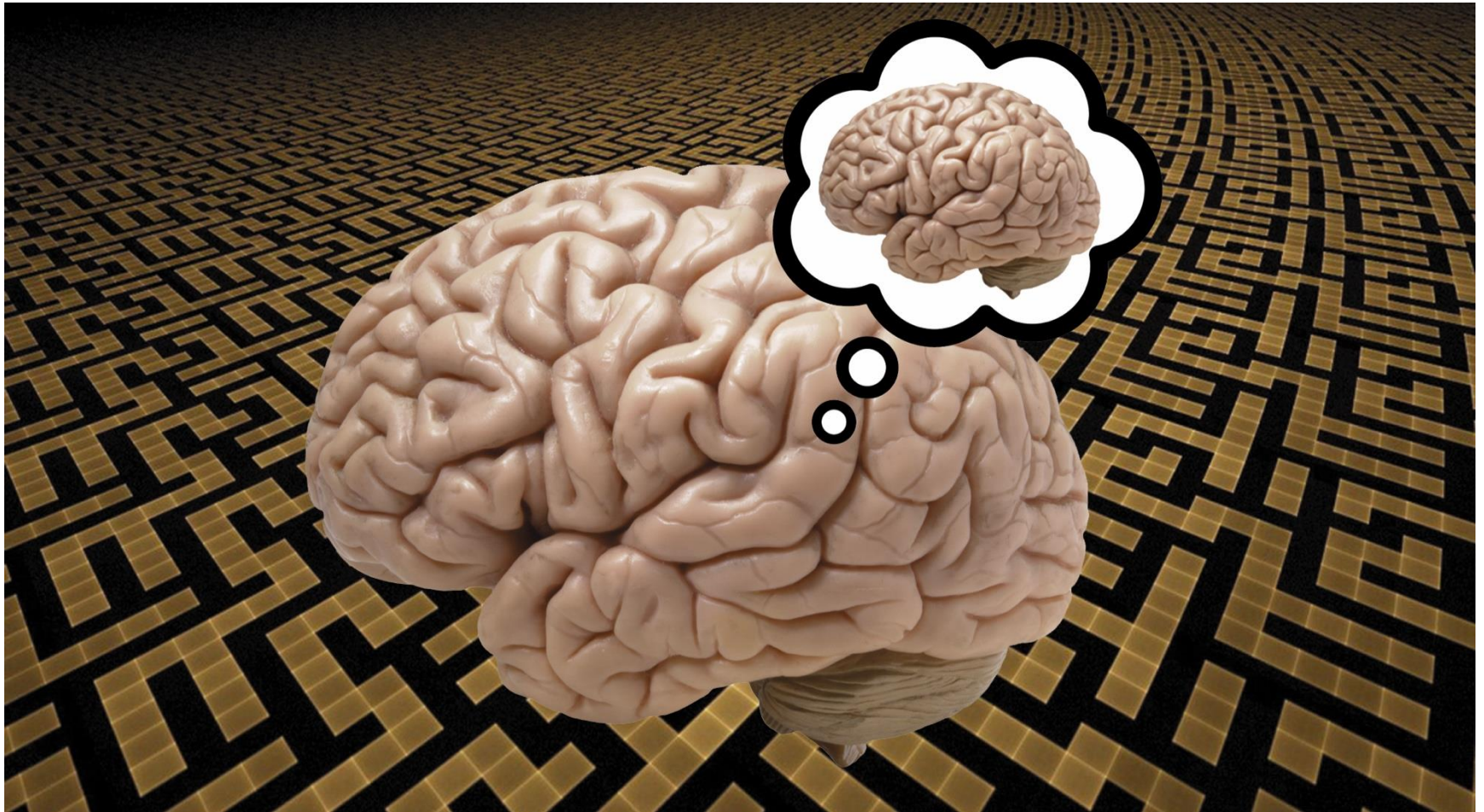
***Physicalism:*** the only things  
that exist are matter and  
energy

***Materialism:*** the only thing  
that exists is matter

# ***Materialism/physicalism in the philosophy of mind***

**Experiences and the  
minds that  
experience them are  
PHYSICAL THINGS**

There are physical things  
There are also mental things





If your world doesn't  
include both *physical stuff*  
and distinct *mental*  
*contents,*  
Your description is missing  
**half of reality**

Two importantly different sources of psychopathology: **brain damage** and **traumatic experience**



# Some interneuronal electrochemical signalling



# *Eliminative materialism*

Minds and experiences  
DON'T EXIST

**There are only brains  
and their physical  
activities**



# *The consequences of eliminative materialism*



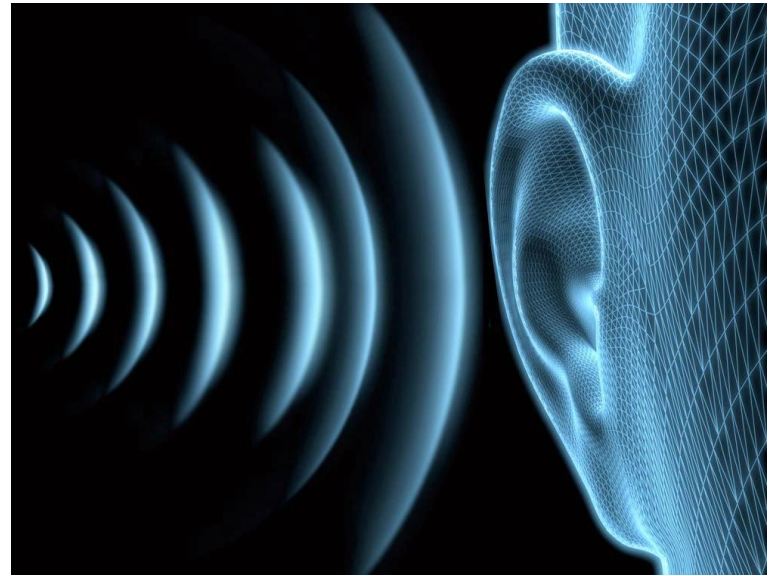
# ***Reductive materialism***

**Science will eventually  
be able to describe all  
*mind* states in the  
terms in which we  
describe *brain* states.**

The experience of music  $\neq$   
The physical basis of the sound



$\neq$



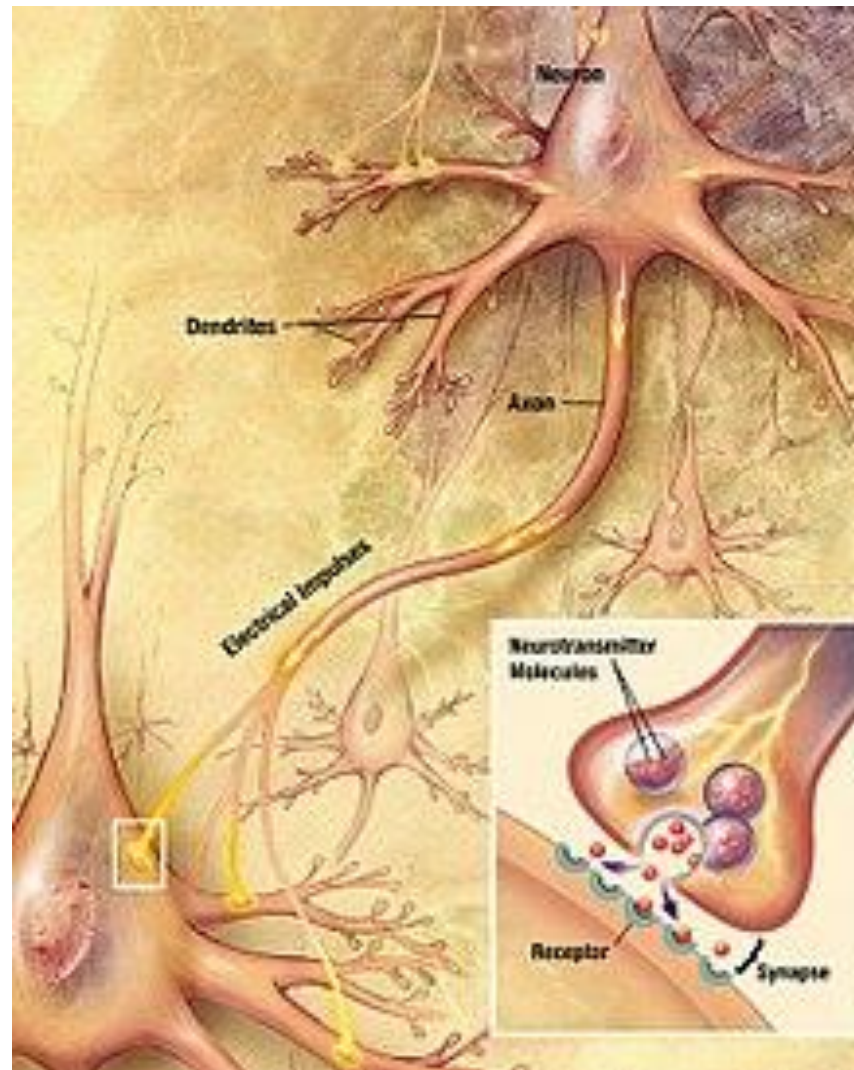




# The visual cortex is here

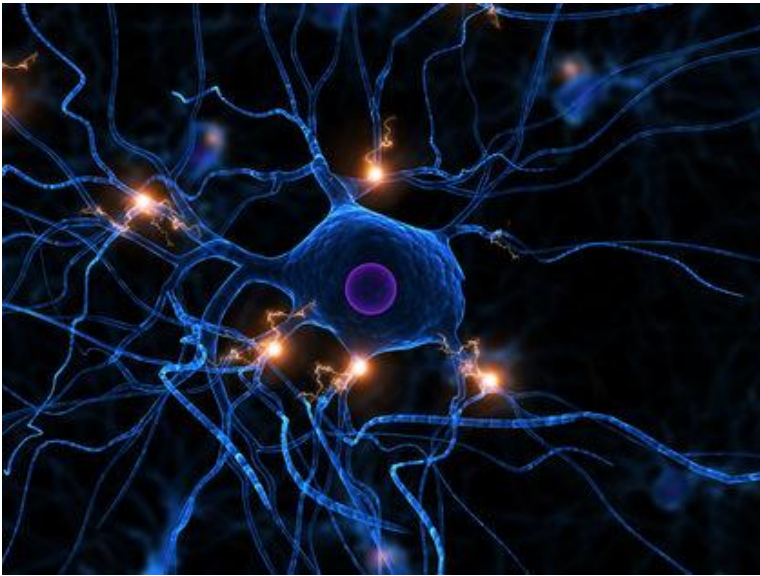


# A synaptic event



For instance:

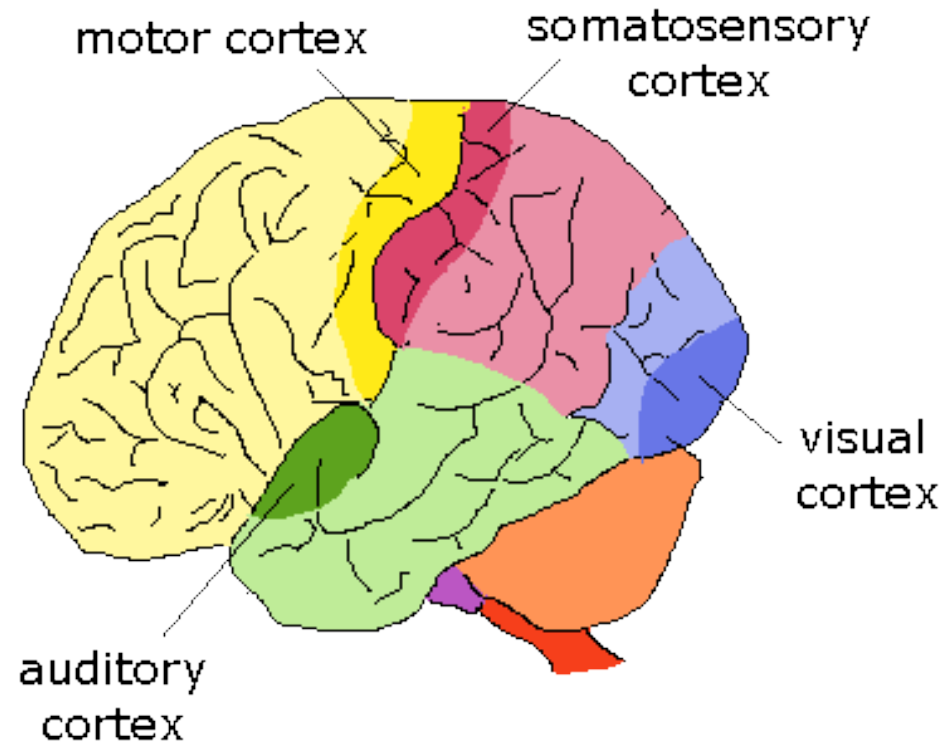
The activity of your neurons  $\neq$   
The image of an elephant's trunk



$\neq$



# Some of the Human Brain's Areas



**Front**

**Back**



René Descartes (1595-1650)

‘Thoughts are not extended in space’



Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716)

**‘If two supposedly different things are in fact identical, you cannot tell them apart.’**



***The physicalist assumption:***

**The mind is generated by  
the brain**

*means*

**The mind is physical because  
the brain is physical**



For instance:

The properties of your neurons  $\neq$   
The properties of any experience



$\neq$





The water is not the same sort of  
stuff as the tap



# Newspeak

WAR IS  
PEACE  
FREEDOM IS  
SLAVERY  
IGNORANCE IS  
STRENGTH  
M I N D I S  
B R A I N

# **Naturalistic Dualism:**

**Mental content is generated  
through the activity of the brain**



***But the mind is not the brain***

# Two things with properties





Mental contents are made  
*by* but not made *of* matter.  
Instead, what experience is  
*in itself* is *experience just as*  
*it is experienced.*

***The substance of brains  
is brain matter.***

**The substance of  
experience and thought  
is *experience and  
thought.***

# Is the Eiffel Tower a Hippo?



≠



# Is the Brain the Mind?



≠





In what sense is the water  
a property of the tap?



The mind-body problem  
rephrased in property dualist  
terms:

**Why do brains *in particular* have these  
mental properties?**

Or, How do brains produce  
mental properties?

**‘Mental’ refers to the realm of things  
that exist precisely in being present to  
consciousness**



**Physicalism** cannot be the doctrine that some physical things exist entirely in minds – **that some physical things are really *mental in nature!***  
In fact ‘physical’ means just the opposite...

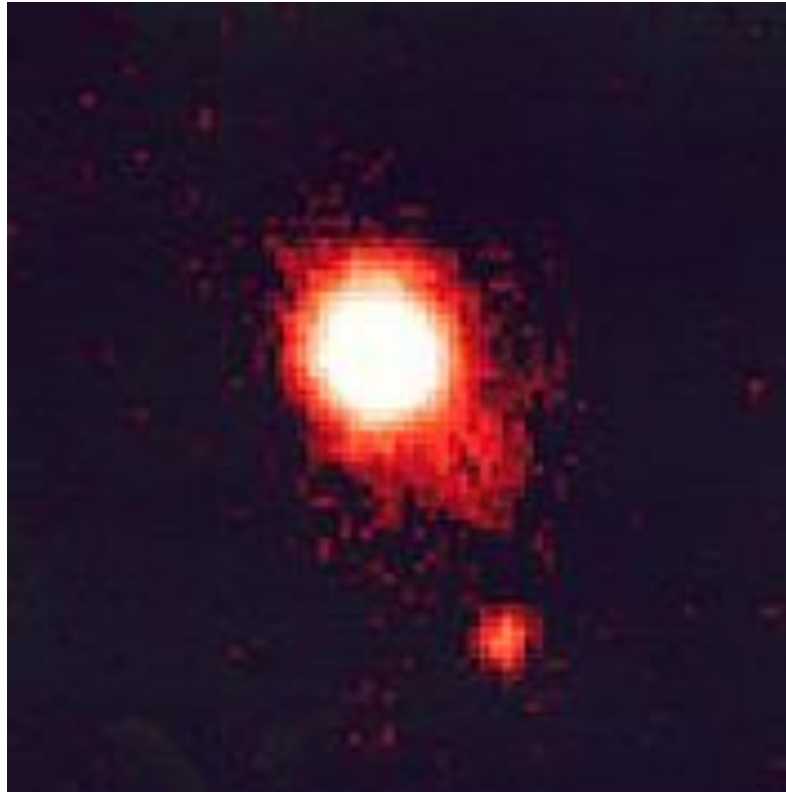


To say an apple is **physical** means  
there's more to it than our experiences



# A Quasar

Its light is older than sentient life.



By definition *physical* refers to  
the sort of thing *which does*  
*not exist as thought.*

So to say that ‘thoughts are  
physical things’ *contradicts* the  
idea of ‘physical’!

It is to say that thoughts exist  
not as thoughts...

**‘Mental’ refers to things that exist experientially, as entirely present to a mind; whereas ‘material’ or ‘physical’ on the contrary involves the idea of things by definition *not* existing solely in or to minds.**

If physical things did exist entirely to minds, they would actually be *mental* things...

The hard mind-body problem  
rephrased in physicalist terms:

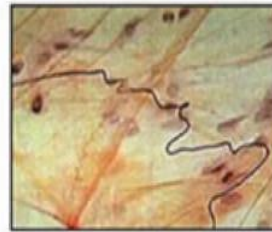
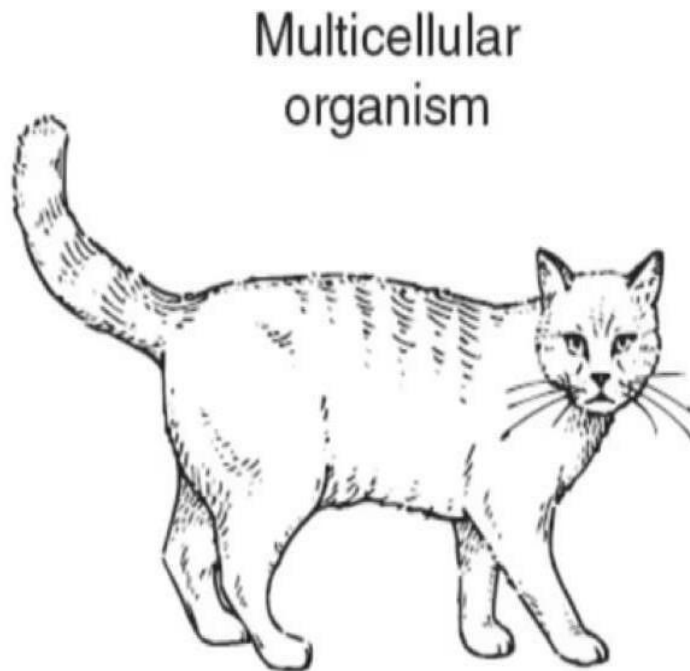
How does the distinctly  
*non-experiential* aspect of  
the physical world generate  
the distinctly *experiential*  
aspect of the physical world?!



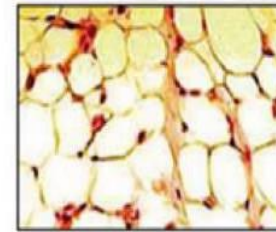
# Newspeak

WAR IS  
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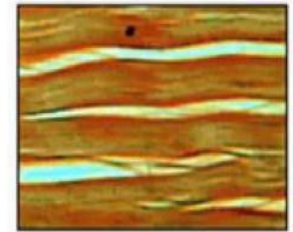
# The organism emerges from its cells



Areolar connective tissue



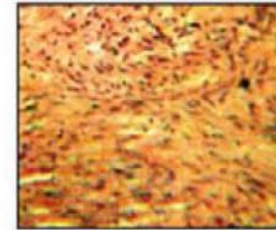
Adipose tissue



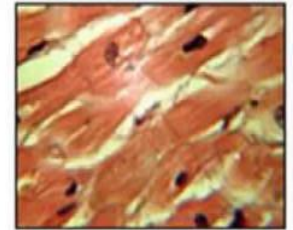
Fibrous connective tissue



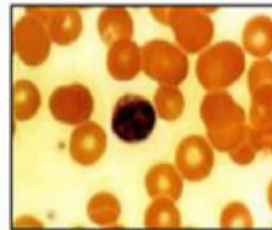
Skeletal muscle



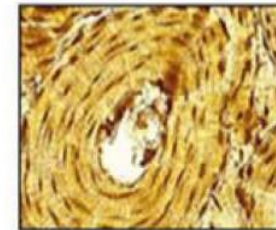
Smooth muscle



Cardiac muscle



Blood

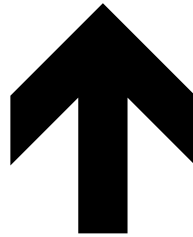
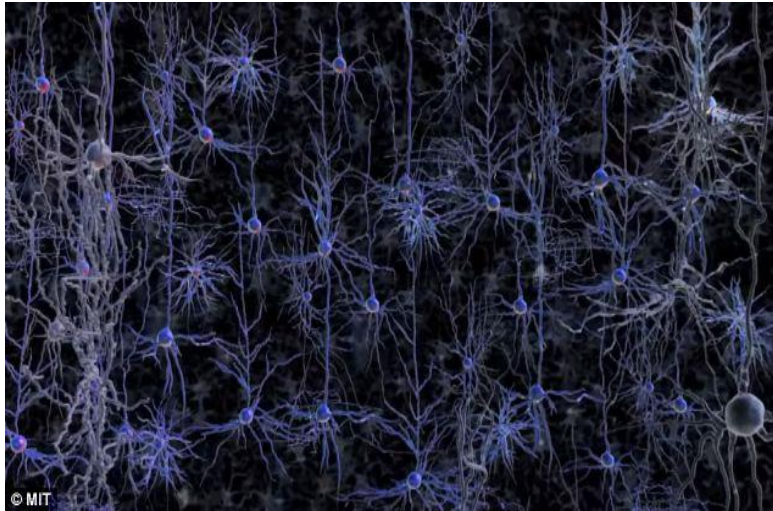


Osseous tissue



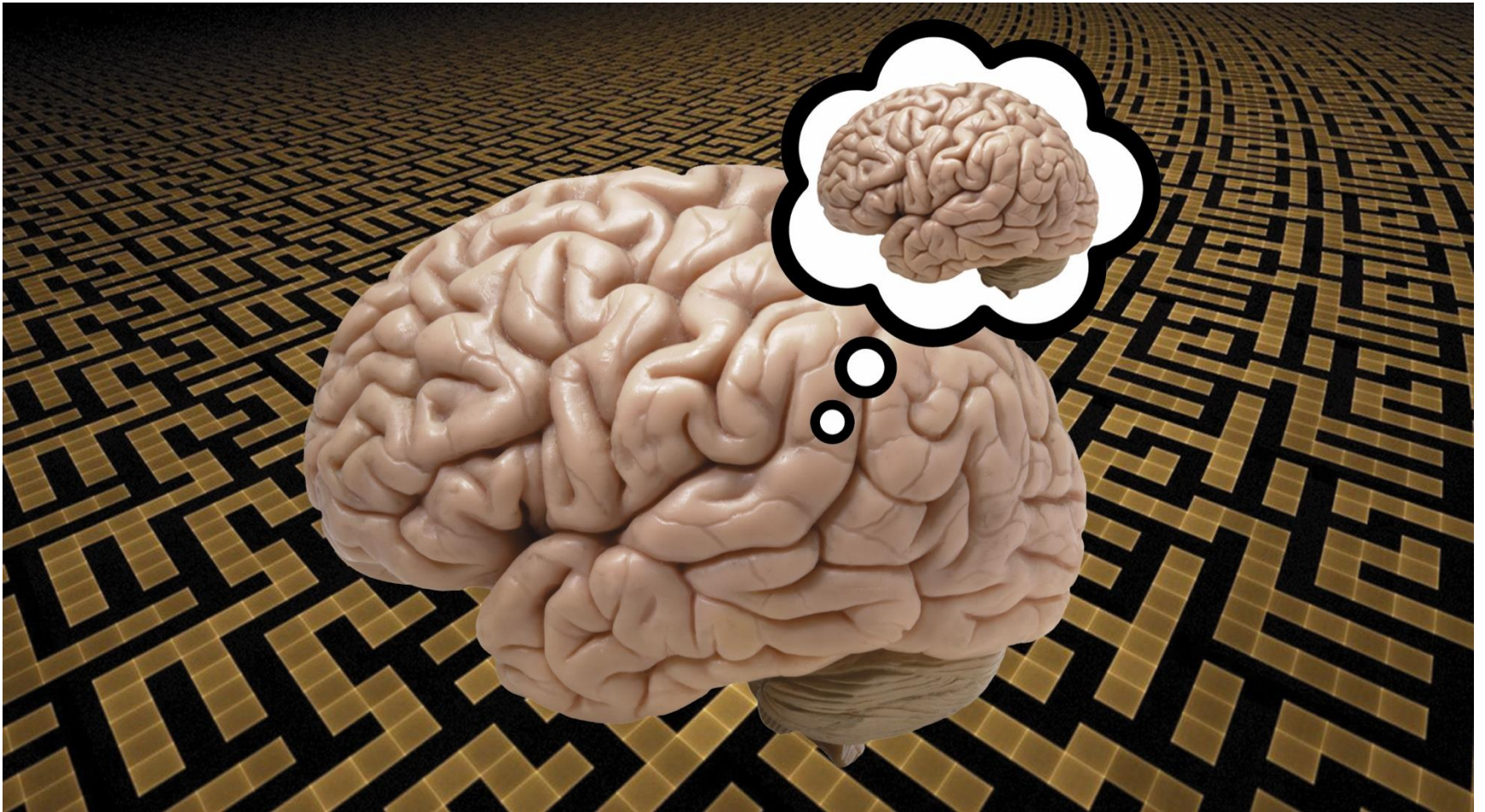
Hyaline cartilage

On the terms of emergence  
analogies, the *brain*, not the *mind*,  
emerges from the brain cells

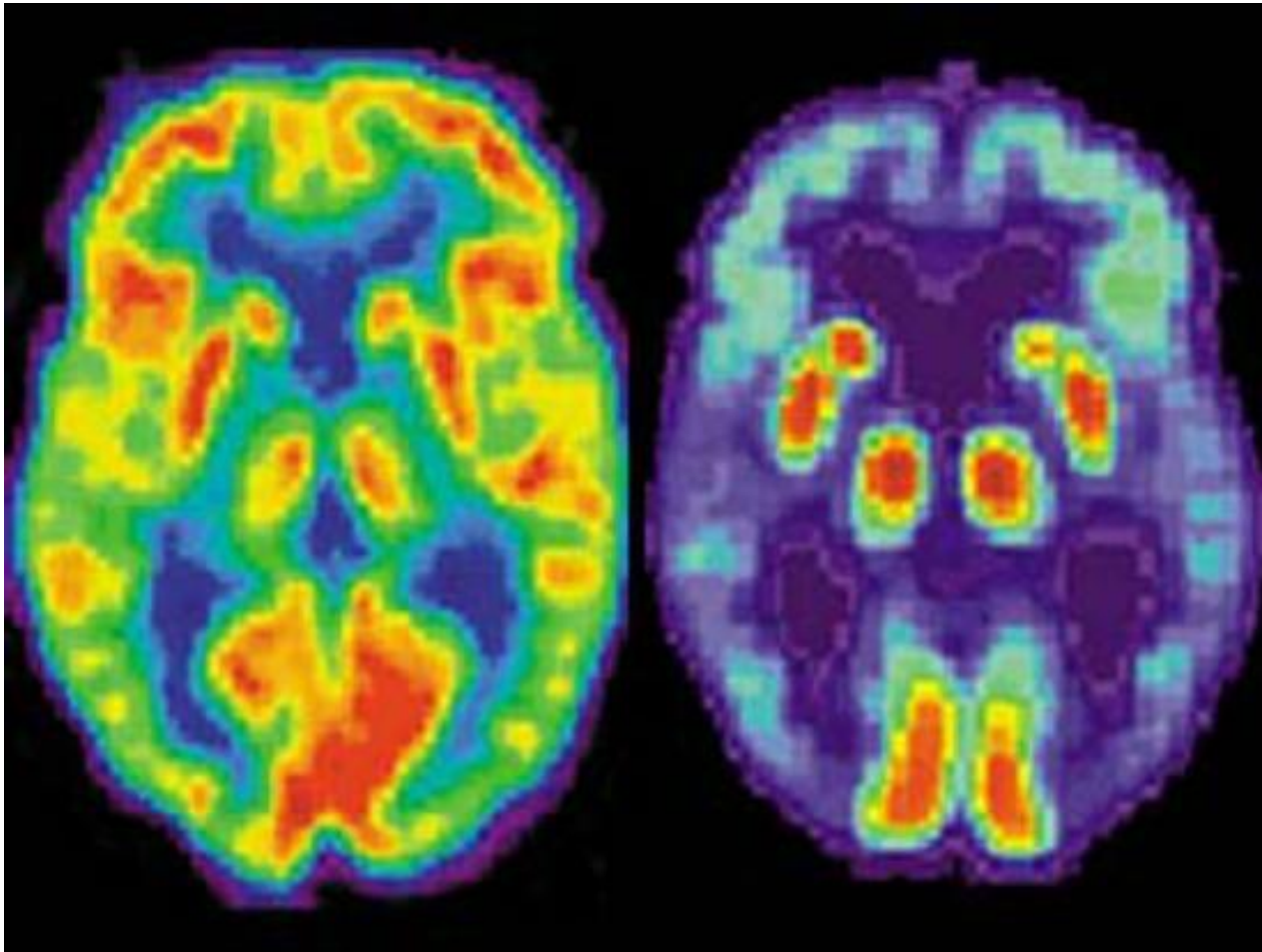




There are brains.  
There are also minds



# What do brain scans show?





For something to be  
**physical** means **it's made  
of matter and has  
physical characteristics.**  
Neither of which are true of  
mind and its contents.

Some assert: For all we know,  
there's an underlying unity of  
mental and physical....



# Dual Aspect/Dual Attribute/Neutral Monism theories:

The mental and physical aspects of reality are different aspects of another deeper, hidden, reality which manifests both

# Two sets of the same things



=



=

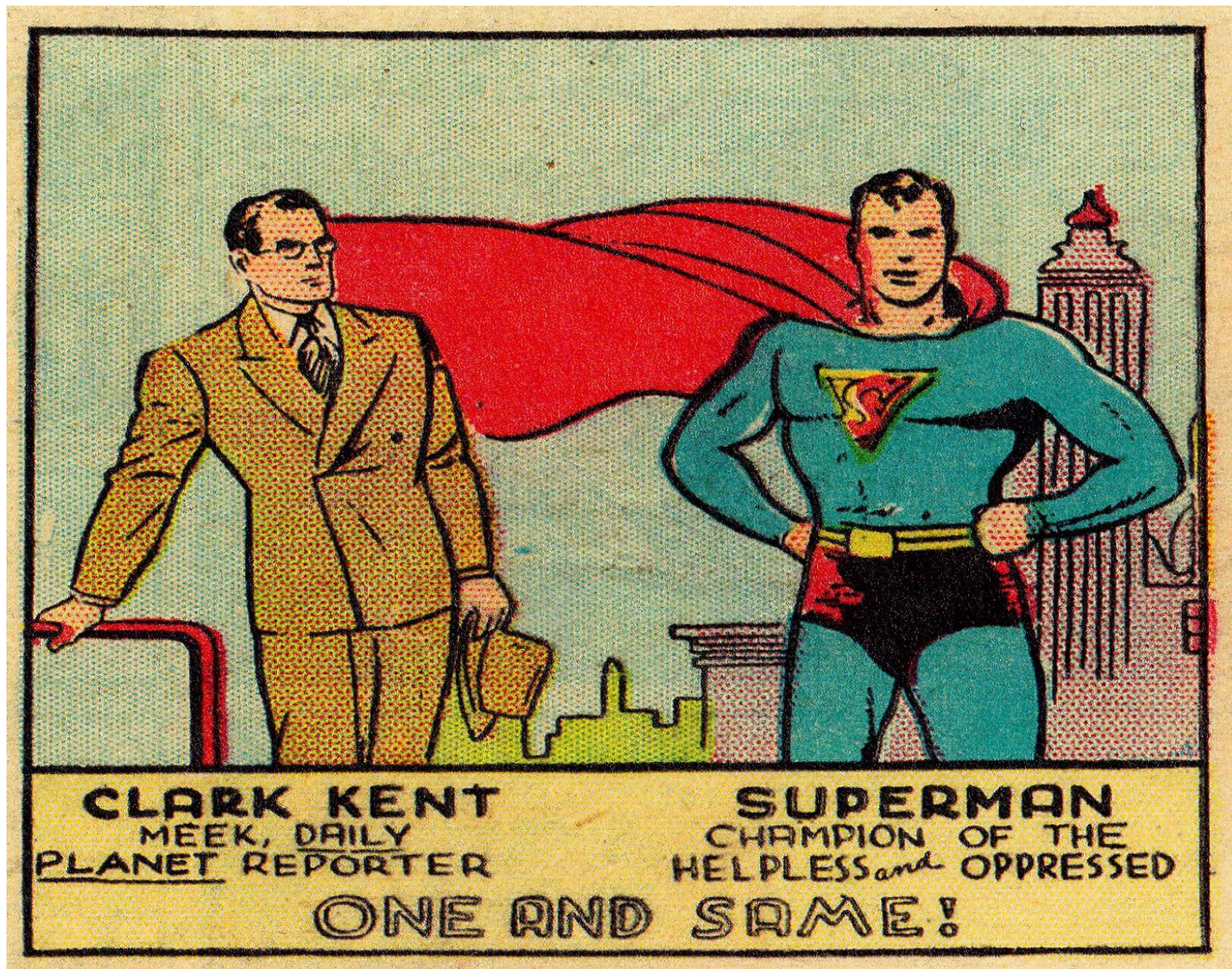


**Clark Kent is Superman!**





# Superman is Clark Kent!



The mind-body problem  
rephrased in dual aspect terms

**How does the *mind*  
aspect of the mind/brain  
system connect with the  
*brain* aspect of the  
mind/brain system?**

**From outside**



**From inside**



# Metaphysical Idealism:

*There are only minds &  
experiences.*

All apparently material objects  
exist entirely as the contents of  
perceiving minds



# Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677)

‘Mind & matter are attributes of one substance’





The hard problem **ANY** conception  
of the mind & brain must answer:

How does the distinctively *non-  
experiential* aspect of the world  
facilitate the distinctively *experiential*  
aspect of the world?

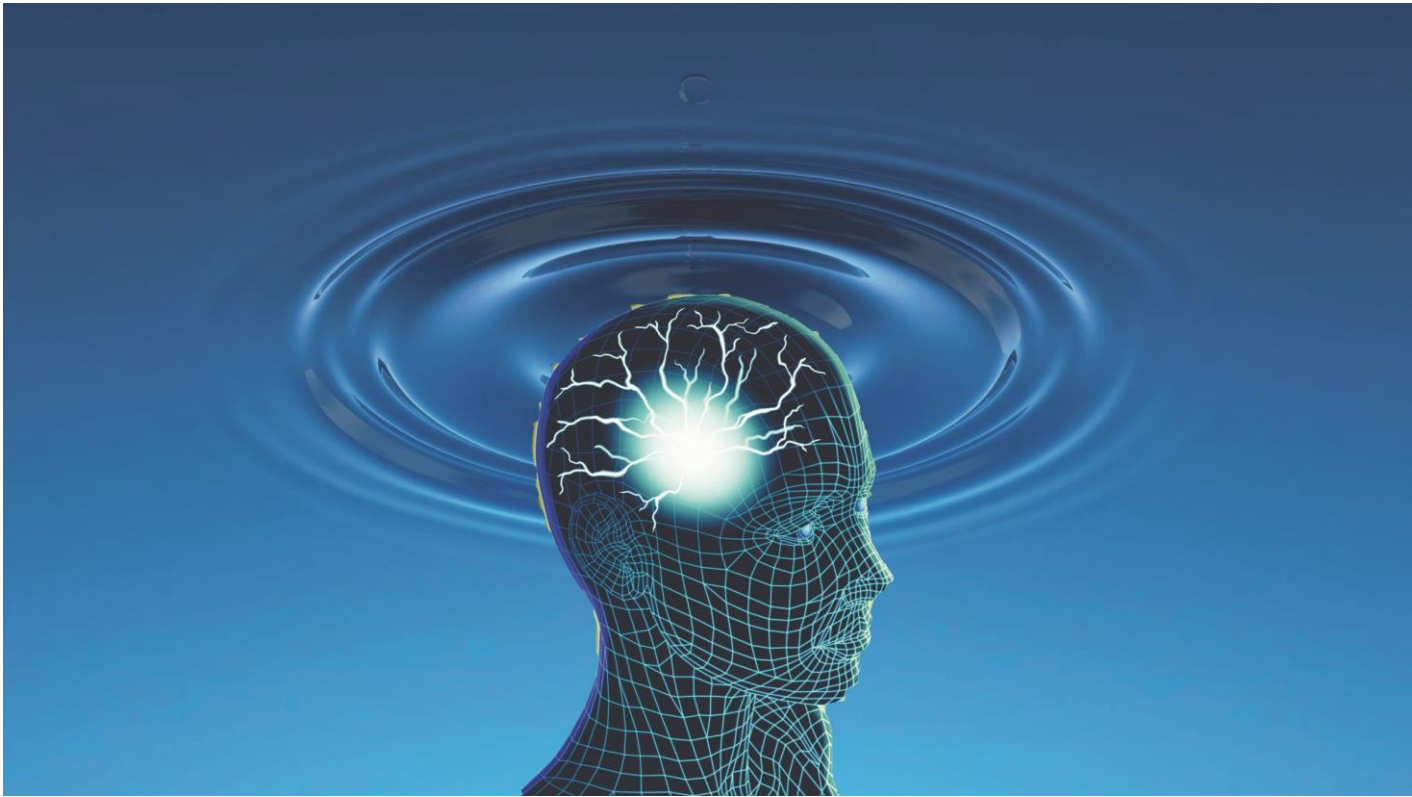
Mind and matter exist equally.  
They are two different types of  
things or substances.  
They have 'ontological  
equality'.

Here electricity creates  
experience! Shocking.



# **Naturalistic Dualism:**

**The mind is generated through  
the activity of the brain**



***But the mind is not the brain***

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