

Evolution of Mind

PHIL 340
Philosophy of Science
Winter 2008

Metaphysics of
Consciousness



Easy
Problems

Consciousness

Hard
Problem

Broadly
Reductive
Strategies

Broadly
Non-reductive
Strategies

The Explanatory
Argument

The Conceivability
(Zombie) Argument

**Arguments
Against Materialism**

The Knowledge
Argument

General Shape
of the Arguments

Phenotypes

- **Outward, physical manifestation of an individual**
 - Observed
 - Structure
 - Function
 - Behavior
- **Relation to genotypes**
- **Evolutionary accounts**
 - Common descent
 - Natural selection

“Mental” Phenotypes

- **Sentience**
- **Consciousness**
- **Intelligence**
- **Self-consciousness**
- **Language**
- **Reasoning**
- **Science**
- **Moral reasoning**

“Just-So Stories”

- **Rudyard Kipling**
- **Functional explanations**
 - **Social science**
 - **Evolutionary biology**
 - **Evolutionary psychology**
- **Reverse engineering**
- **Adaptationism**
- **Other causes of differences in genetic populations**
- **Bad science?**

Plasticity

- **Advantages of static environment**
- **Dangers of a dynamic environment**
- **Dealing with a dynamic environment**
- **Cost/benefit analysis of information**
- **Behavioral flexibility**
- **Brain plasticity**
- **Behavioral phenotypes**
 - **Biological evolution**
 - **Cultural evolution**

Origin of Consciousness

- **Origin mysteries**
 - **The universe**
 - **Life**
 - **Consciousness**
- **Transitional forms**
 - **Eye**
 - **Feathers**
 - **Consciousness**
- **Adaptationists' accounts**

Evolutionary Accounts of Consciousness

- **Spandrels**
 - **Physiological – brain size & complexity**
 - **Internal maps**
 - **Language and gossip**
 - **Sexual selection**
 - **Holism**
 - **Modularism**
- Different functional accounts**