

# Supersentience

Adam InTae Gerard<sup>1</sup>

## 0.0 Introduction

### 1.0 Definitions

**Supersentience:**

- (#) A term I intended to coin (but which has been used elsewhere) – not to be confused with *superintelligence*.
- (1) *Sentience* at a level or capacity beyond the human.
- (2) Traditional conceptions of deities are sufficient but not necessary for *supersentience*.

**Functionalism** - the thesis that mental states are:

- (1) Identified by what they do rather than what they are made of.
- (2) Determined by the role they play or the system of which they are a part.
- (#) Not to be confused with *computationalism* or *symbolic computationalism* which have been subsumed by *connectionism* (neural networks and multi-layer perceptrons, for example) which is nevertheless a kind of *functionalism*.

**Structuralism**- the thesis that the nature of objects are:

- (1) To be identified with relations - understood as *eliminativism about objects* or the thesis that *objects reduce to relations*.
- (2) Entities whose essence (character or nature if you prefer) is determined by and identified with the relationships within which they stand.
- (#) not to be confused with *social structuralism*. This is *ontological structuralism*.

**Superorganism**- the thesis that certain colonies of specific animal species:

- (1) Are an organism.
- (2) Operate with an emergent consciousness, hive-mind, or collective decision-making capacity greater than the sum of the individual, limited, conscious or decision-making animals that constitute the colony.

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## 2.0 Observations

*Structuralism* may provide a more uniform, fundamental, explanation for *functionalism*.

Network architecture and the concept of "wrapping" help to shed some light on emergent orders of conscious capacity in nature and the world.

Arguably, any sufficient network wrapping (comprising or having a constituent) consciousness network or system would itself be conscious. Call this *transitivity*.

Each of the defined concepts above are accepted within the specific scientific communities within which they initially were derived - the pieces haven't been put together - the interconnections haven't been drawn.

Increasing evidence exists to show that birds and other language-capable animals are far more intelligent than previously thought and are capable of understanding or at least being responsive to the languages of other animals within an ecological biome.

## 3.0 Hypothesis

Supersentience already exists on Earth.

The *noosphere* or *Gaia hypothesis* may be viable, legitimate, hypotheses or theories capable of empirical verification. Weak versions of the *Gaia* hypothesis are almost certainly true.