

Can We Find A Unified Theory of Consciousness?

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Many cognitive scientists are convinced that there can be no unified theory of consciousness. This sentiment is especially prevalent among those who have looked for correlates of consciousness in the brain. I respond to these worries by motivating and then proposing a unified theory. That theory builds on the account proposed by Ray Jackendoff in his 1987 book, *Consciousness and the Computational Mind*. It grounds Jackendoff's account in neurobiology and affords a greater role to attention and memory. I argue that the resulting theory can accommodate visual consciousness, self consciousness, and conscious emotional experience, and a variety of other conscious states.