

Human Consciousness

BY DENYSE O'LEARY— OCTOBER 14, 2023

There is no good reason to assume that human intelligence evolved from mud to mind via a long slow history.

Possibly the most frustrated science discipline ever envisioned is the effort to trace the evolution of human consciousness.

So what do claims like “Theories of consciousness must be firmly rooted in evolutionary biology” even mean? The neuroscience of theories of consciousness is currently degenerating into chaos.

Briefly, the leading theory has been trashed as “pseudoscience.” Tellingly, so far as one can make out from reading the letter signed by over 100 angry prominent neuroscientists, a big issue is that the leading theory is not as friendly to “abortion rights” as they might wish. (**If the leading theory is correct, humans may enjoy prenatal consciousness...**)

Look on the bright side. The prominent neuroscientists are making their priorities clear and reason-based thinking doesn't appear to be one of them.

