

Philosophy of Mind-

Toward a Unified Theory of Human Behavior and
Consciousness

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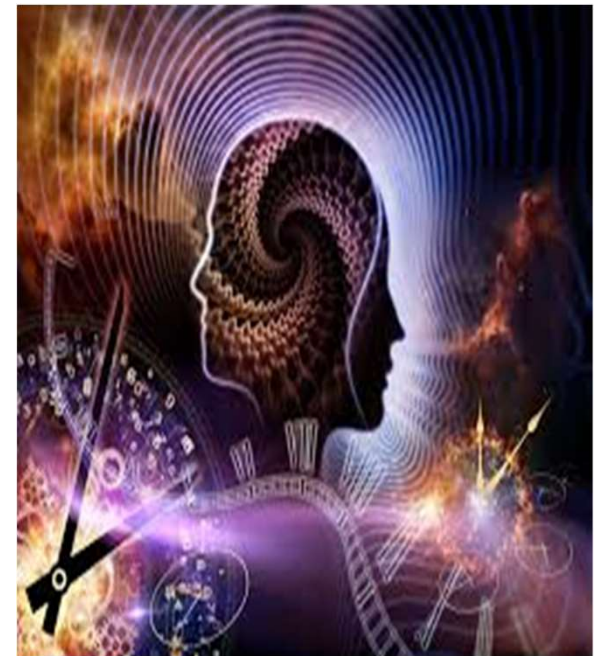
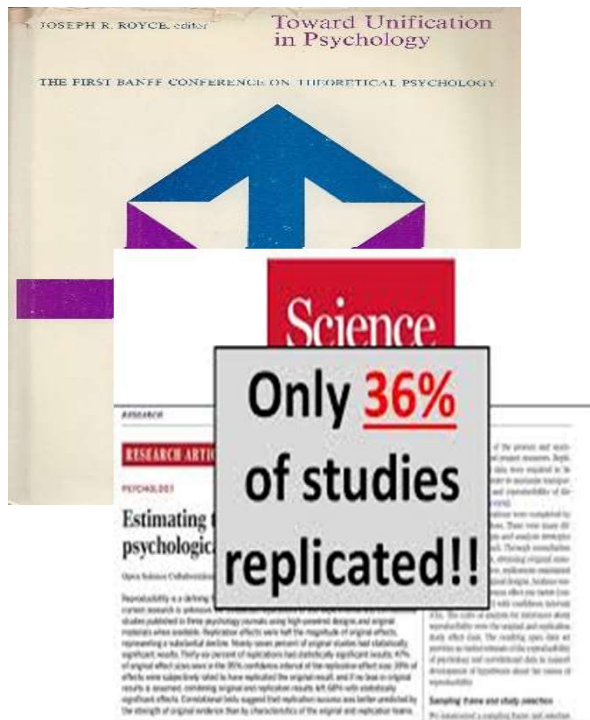
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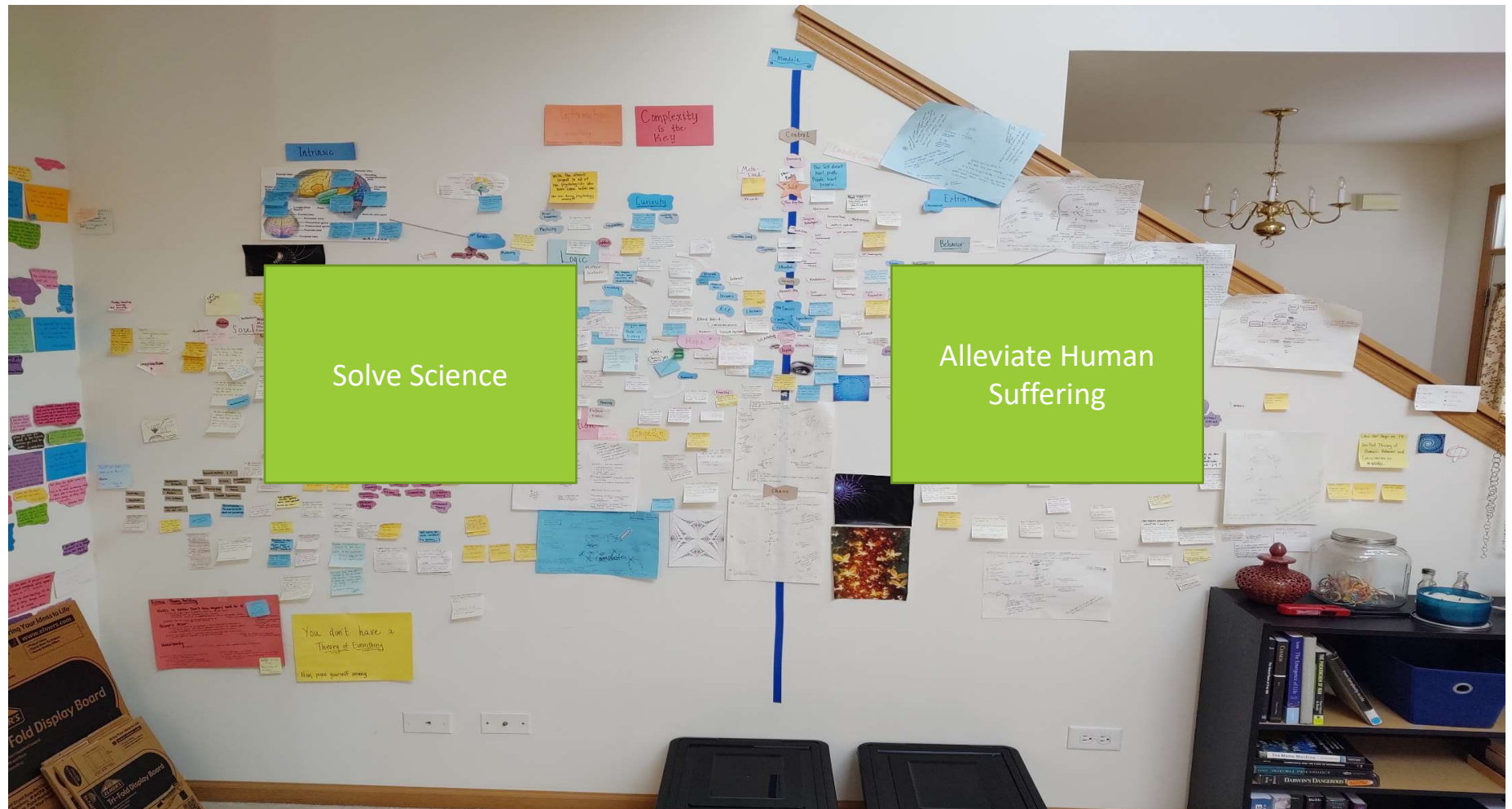
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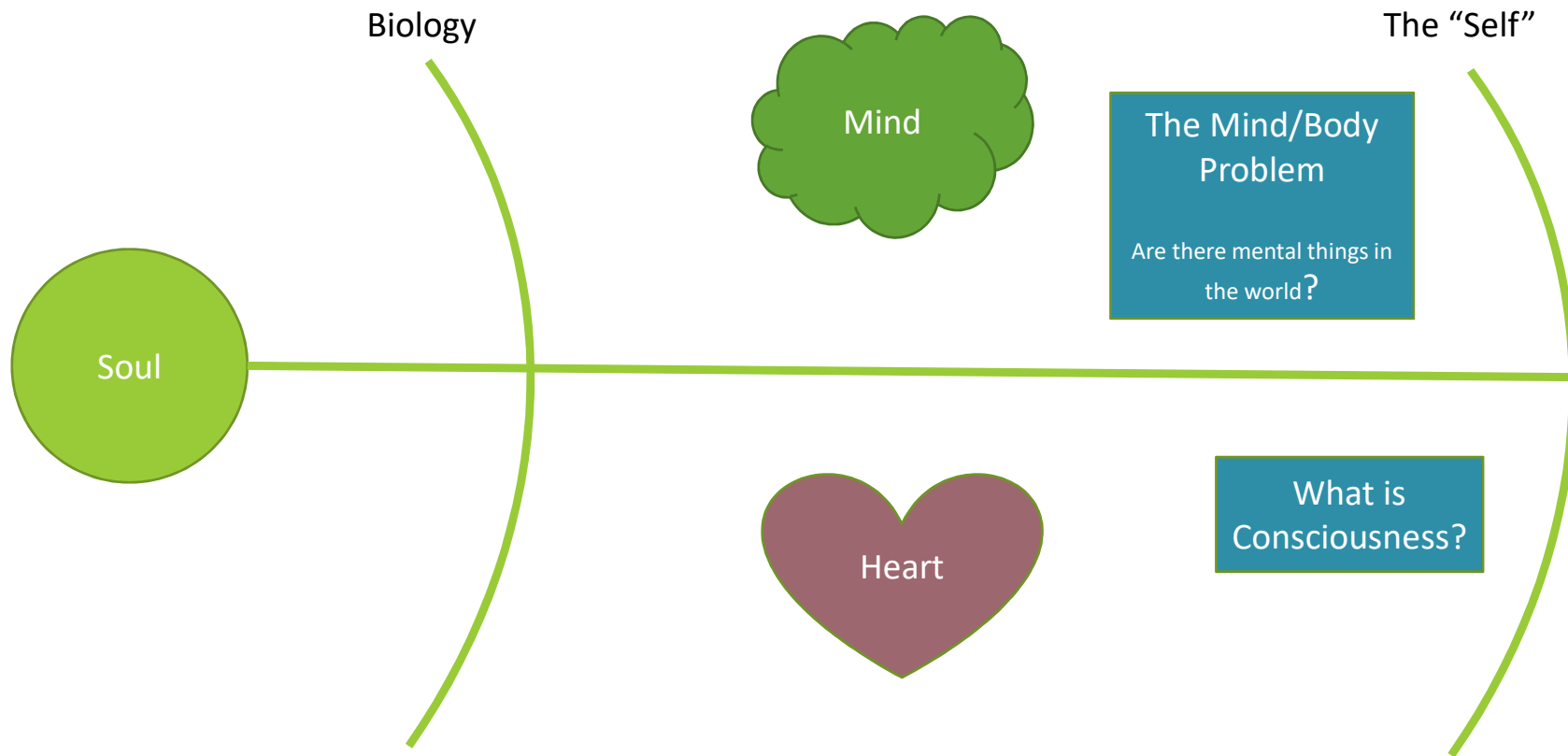
History of 'The Wall'





Solve Science

Alleviate Human
Suffering



Unified Theory of Human Behavior and Consciousness #UTHBC

Overview of Presentation

Today I will present:

- Overview of the Mind-Body Problem
- Discuss the main positions and their objections
- Possible solutions drawing on my UTHBC framework

Descartes' Dualism

I can doubt that the world exists. I can doubt that my body exists. I can doubt that my brain exists.

I cannot doubt that I doubt
I cannot be deceived that I am thinking.

If I am doubting and thinking, I must exist. *Cogito ergo sum*

If I exist (doubt and think), I must have a mind. Therefore I cannot doubt I have a mind.

I cannot doubt I have a mind, yet I can doubt I have a body/brain,

- *indiscernibility of identicals*,

→ my mind cannot be my brain.

The Mind-Body Problem

What things exist?

How do we explain the existence of or interaction with the other stuff?

What is Consciousness?

What is it like to be a bat (Nagel)

The Hard Problem of Consciousness (Chalmers)


- Most philosophers now think of how to solve the hard problem as the Mind-Body Problem
- **How is it that something immaterial (like consciousness) can arise from something material (like the brain).**

What Kind of Things Exist?

Monism

- The world is made of one kind of stuff
 - Idealism
 - Materialism

Dualism

- The mental and physical are of two distinct things
 - Mental phenomena are non-physical
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Idealism

Reality is either indistinguishable or inseparable from human understanding and perception

Ontological Idealism

- Something mental is the foundation of reality

Epistemological Idealism

- Things outside of the mind exist
- “Everything that we can *know* about this mind-independent “reality” is held to be so permeated by the creative, formative, or constructive activities of the mind (of some kind or other) that all claims to knowledge must be considered, in some sense, to be a form of self-knowledge” (Guyer & Horstmann, 2019)

Materialism/Physicalism

Reality is all physical, there isn't anything extra.


Eliminative Materialism

- Our understanding of our minds is folk psychology and mental states do not exist
- Like witches, fears and hope will someday not be a part of science

Mind-Brain Identity Theory (Reductive Materialism)

- States and processes of Mind are identical to states and processes of the brain
- All mental phenomena ultimately reduce to physical phenomena
- Objection-multiple realizability (carbon based C-fibers/same brain pattern for every belief)

Functionalism

- Mental events are the functions they perform
 - Stuff doesn't matter, function does
 - E.g. mousetrap
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Objections to Materialism-Thought Experiments

Mary's Room

- Eliminative and reductive theories
- The existence of qualia



Chinese Room

- Functionalism and computational theories
- Right function, but doesn't pass the test for understanding




Dualism

Mind and Body are distinct and mental phenomena are non-physical.

Substance Dualism (Cartesian)

- The mental and physical are two independent substances, from two different realms

Property Dualism

- Mind is a group of independent properties that emerge from and cannot be reduced to the brain
 - Related to emergent materialism and Epiphenomenalism
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Objections to Dualism

How do the two realms interact?

- Physical realm-obey physical laws, occupy space
- Mental realm-don't exists in space

No one has been able to give a coherent explanation of the relationship between the physical and the mental

So where do we go from here...?

Mysterianism?

The Best of Both Worlds?

We are made of matter and nothing else

It is irrefutable that we have consciousness

- As such, matter is sometimes conscious

What evidence is there to suggest that all matter isn't conscious?

- Maybe it is the definition of matter that needs to be conceptualized

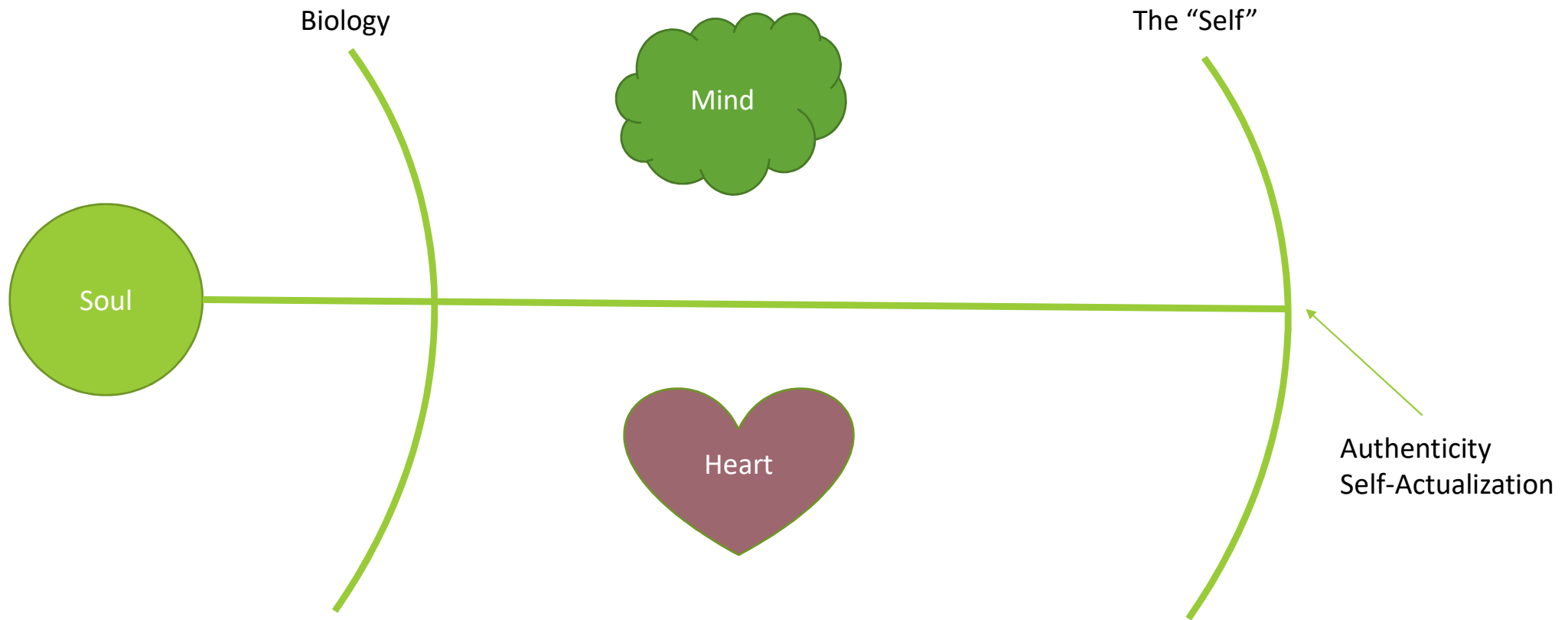
Physics tells us what matter does-how it behaves

- Doesn't tell us what matter is, so maybe it's conscious

Panpsychism

**Things are material, but they all have an element of subjective experience
(individual consciousness)**

There is something that it is like to be an electron



Unified Theory of Human Behavior and Consciousness #UTHBC

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