

Groundbreaking theories that challenge our materialist viewpoints. An intellectual journey, questioning established materialist scientific norms and bringing forward evidence that defies materialist theories of consciousness.

Signals in the Noise: Encountering the Limits of Materialist Science - An Exploration of Consciousness and Reality

By William F. O'Connor

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Encountering the
Limits of Materialist Science

SIGNALS IN THE **NOISE**

An Exploration of
Consciousness and Reality

ROBERT DE FILIPPIS

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Reviews

A review by Dean Radin, Chief Scientist, IONS.

Signals in the Noise is a revolutionary wake-up call, compelling us to confront the materialistic paradigms that have blinded us to the true nature of consciousness and, ultimately, to ourselves. Robert De Filippis masterfully exposes the consequences of an exclusive reliance on materialistic thinking and invites us on an enlightening journey into the mysteries of consciousness and why it matters.

-- Dean Radin, PhD, Chief Scientist, Institute of Noetic Sciences, and author of *Real Magic* and other books.

A review by Gary E. Schwartz, PhD, Professor University of Arizona.

"I think this book, Signals in the Noise, has the potential to be of great value for individuals (and especially students) interested in the emergence of postmaterialist and advanced consciousness science."

Gary E. Schwartz, PhD, Professor of Psychology, Medicine, Neurology, Psychiatry and Surgery, the University of Arizona, Founding President, The Academy for the Advancement of Postmaterialist Science (www.aapsglobal.com).

Review of Signals in the Noise by a near death experiencer, coach and author Ray Catania:

A Metaphysical and Scientific Masterpiece. In his new book, author Robert De Filippis deconstructs and reconstructs the secret laws of the universe that Nikola Tesla once described as

being "Energy, Frequency, and Vibration. Meticulously, one by one, in his book, *Signals in the Noise* Robert describes the various theories of consciousness and helps us understand one of the most complex topics of our times.

I believe this book offers us a wake-up call. It explains how and why mechanistic materialism fails to explain the very makeup of the universe, and consequently reality itself. While it doesn't offer new doctrinal truths, this book provides an exciting new look at some of the most sought-after answers to unanswered questions about the true nature of our reality. This well-researched, brilliant text will hopefully inspire people to take a closer look at what is truly "real" in their reality and what is most important for all life and humanity. This is an absolute MUST read for anyone who wishes to have a better understanding of nature, reality, and consciousness, and how they all come together to create one's overall perception of existence.

Near Death Experiencer, Ray Catania, PhD(c) Metaphysical Parapsychology, MCLC Transpersonal Psychology, 7-Time Award Winning Author of "The Awakening Series."

A Note from the Author

As I embark on this journey through the pages of this book, it is with both a sense of wonder and an acknowledgment of humility that I confront the enigma of consciousness. This exploration is an encounter with the limits of materialist science, a field that, while offering invaluable insights, still grapples with the full spectrum of consciousness.

In a world where the tangible and observable reign supreme, the inexplicable phenomena of near-death experiences (NDEs) challenge our adherence to the materialist theory—that consciousness is simply an emergent property of our brain's neural activities. My own paradigm was irrevocably altered after reading Raymond Moody's pioneering work on NDEs, propelling me into the heart of this mystery.

These accounts, consistent in their descriptions of out-of-body experiences and spiritual awakenings, defy the notion that consciousness is extinguished alongside brain function. My pursuit of understanding led me to formal research and scientific scrutiny of NDEs, where I encountered data that suggested a persistent consciousness even in clinical death—calling into question the very foundations of our understanding and pushing the boundaries of our materialist framework.

This book is not just a testament to my evolution of thought but also an invitation to you, the reader, to embark on your own quest. We stand on the shoulders of great philosophers and scientists, embracing the revelations that challenge the mechanistic views long held as doctrine.

I present to you a tapestry woven from personal narratives, scientific research, and a celebration of the questions that arise when we dare to look beyond what we think we know. While I will not delve into the depths of each theory as a professional might, I aim to provide a solid foundation of knowledge—apprehension rather than full comprehension, focusing on logical coherency and accurate layperson-level explanations.

Materialist explanations, postmaterialist theories, Eastern philosophy, and the latest scientific advancements will be our guideposts. And while I offer many references and endnotes for those who wish to explore deeper, the main trajectory of this book is to illuminate the signals that suggest consciousness might transcend our traditional materialist map.

Werner Heisenberg once remarked that our scientific discoveries are less about the territory itself and more about the territory that reveals itself through our methods of investigation. Herein lies my attempt to interpret the signals that leak through these methods, signals that materialist science has, to date, struggled to fully comprehend.

We are at the cusp of an exciting journey of discovery, an 'E-ticket ride' to a new realm of understanding. It will challenge us, but it is in facing these challenges that we awaken to the profound lessons of life. So, with kindest regards and best wishes, I invite you to an intense, enlightening, and enjoyable reading experience—one that promises to leave you more awake to the real lessons life implores us to learn."

Robert De Filippis

Foreword

From, On Exactitude in Science Jorge Luis Borges, Collected Fictions, translated by Andrew Hurley.

...In that Empire, the Art of Cartography attained such Perfection that the map of a single Province occupied the entirety of a City, and the map of the Empire, the entirety of a Province. In time, those Unconscionable Maps no longer satisfied, and the Cartographers' Guilds struck a Map of the Empire whose size was that of the Empire and which coincided point for point with it.

The following Generations, who were not so fond of the Study of Cartography as their Forebears had been, saw that that vast Map was Useless, and not without some Pitilessness was it, that they delivered it up to the Inclemencies of Sun and Winters. In the Deserts of the West, still today, there are Tattered Ruins of that Map, inhabited by Animals and Beggars; in all the Land, there is no other Relic of the Disciplines of Geography.

—Suarez Miranda, *Viajes devarones prudentes*, Libro IV, Cap. XLV, Lerida, 1658

In Jorge Luis Borges' allegorical tale, a map serves as a cautionary metaphor: it is not the territory it represents, and leaning too much on it can distort our understanding of the world. This notion parallels my critique of mechanistic materialism, a perspective that has provided seemingly reliable insights for years but now shows signs of obsolescence. Like all maps, the map of mechanistic materialism is a representation of our limited human experiences and not the territory itself. To restate the Heisenberg quote above, our maps are representations of our experiences, artifacts of our sensory systems' creations, and not the territory itself.

Maps are simplifications of territories; they highlight some features while omitting others based on what the cartographer believes is important. Similarly, our cognitive "maps" of

existence are shaped by the limitations of our senses, the social and cultural contexts we're embedded in, and the language we use. These maps are useful for navigation but are by no means complete or fully accurate representations of the territories they depict.

The Borges Analogy

In Borges' story, an empire's dependence on meticulously crafted maps covering the entire territory dissolves. Over time, the map's limitations became glaringly apparent, leading to its eventual abandonment. This is happening to the maps of mechanistic materialism—once thought to be the most reliable maps of scientific understanding. They have frayed at the edges and no longer provide the comprehensive information we once believed gave us a full description.

The Pitfalls of Materialism

The story emphasizes that while maps can provide useful orientation, they are essentially reductive. They can never fully encapsulate the complexity or nuance of what they aim to represent. I find this to be equally true for the "maps" of materialist science. They are based on the assumption that everything is material and measurable, an obvious effect of our sensory systems' limited ability to directly experience the universe. We don't experience the territory, that is, what we call external reality. We experience our sensory systems' representations of it and this is what our maps represent.

Our senses function like a Graphic User Interface (GUI), simplifying complex raw data into comprehensible forms. Andrew Holecek, a Buddhist scholar, reminds us that we are trapped by our own modes of thought: "We 'thing' think." So the materialist maps of the universe will be made up of "things."

Bridging East and West

This brings me to an essential distinction. Western materialism and Eastern philosophies like Tibetan Buddhism offer different "maps" rooted in distinct cultural histories. Robert Thurman, in his book "The Tibetan Book of the Dead," contrasts Western "Outer Modernity" with Tibetan "Inner Modernity," both modern but fundamentally divergent in focus. Later we will examine these differences and how they affect the study of consciousness.

Rethinking Ontology

Such divergence makes me wonder: Is even a mathematical framework truly objective, or is it another map with its own set of limitations? This raises the complex question of ontology, the study of the nature of being. To be specific, what are the ontological primitives that at the most fundamental level best allow us to understand what it means to exist. As you will see, I chose to use philosophical realism and idealism as lenses to further explore our theories of existence and provide a working proposition for this book.

Bernardo Kastrup¹ represents a form of idealism that places consciousness at the very foundation of reality. On the other end of the spectrum, within the realm of philosophical realism, there are thinkers who emphasize a more physicalist or materialist view of the universe, often arguing that consciousness arises from physical processes. A prominent figure in this camp is Daniel Dennett.² A Proponent of Realism, Daniel Dennett, takes the philosophical stance often associated with a materialist view of consciousness, positing that consciousness and mental phenomena are the result of physical processes in the brain.

While both Bernardo Kastrup and Daniel Dennett acknowledge the role of the brain in the experience of consciousness, they interpret its nature and origin quite

differently, placing them on opposite ends of a philosophical spectrum.

1. Bernardo Kastrup - Idealism:

- **Consciousness as Primary:** Kastrup's idealist perspective posits that consciousness is the fundamental essence of reality. In this view, the physical world, including the brain, is a manifestation or expression of this underlying consciousness.

- **Brain as a Filter or Transceiver:** From Kastrup's viewpoint, the brain doesn't generate consciousness but rather acts as a kind of filter or transceiver for a pre-existing, universal consciousness. This implies that while our personal, subjective experience of consciousness is mediated by the brain, the essence of consciousness itself exists independently of it.

2. Daniel Dennett - Realism/Materialism:

- **Consciousness as a Physical Process:** Dennett, from a realist or materialist standpoint, argues that consciousness arises from physical processes in the brain. In this view, consciousness is not a fundamental aspect of the universe but an emergent property of complex neural interactions.

- **Brain as the Creator of Consciousness:** Dennett sees the brain as the originator of consciousness. According to his perspective, without the brain, there would be no consciousness, as it is a byproduct of physical and biological processes.

3. The Spectrum of Interpretation:

- **Kastrup vs. Dennett:** The key difference lies in whether consciousness is considered a fundamental, primary aspect of reality (Kastrup) or a secondary, emergent property resulting from physical processes (Dennett). Kastrup's view places consciousness at the core of existence, whereas Dennett's view situates consciousness firmly within the physical workings of the brain.

These differing viewpoints have significant philosophical implications. Kastrup's view aligns with a more mystical or spiritual understanding of the universe, suggesting a deep interconnectedness and unity. Dennett's view, conversely,

aligns with a scientific, empirical approach, emphasizing the importance of observable, measurable phenomena.

In essence, while both philosophers recognize the brain's involvement in the conscious experience, they fundamentally differ in their views on whether consciousness originates from the brain or whether the brain is simply an intermediary for a broader, more universal consciousness. This distinction is what places them on opposite ends of the philosophical spectrum regarding the nature of consciousness.

Nearing The Uncharted

As you will read, the insights gleaned from near-death experiences (NDEs) in the West and Buddhist teachings on life and death seem to complement each other. Although I use the language of Western materialism to discuss these topics, it is only because materialist explanations are far more easily understood by our Western materialist conditioned minds. I will also remind you as I use these explanations, that they are not theories of but rather analogies for understanding deeper truths—stepping stones towards our goal of the ever illusive theory of consciousness.

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Robert De Filippis

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Introduction

The human intellect has been our powerful beacon in our quest to comprehend the universe, yet there are places where our intellectual light fails to penetrate. In the sprawling cosmos of understanding, some phenomena resist our traditional explanations, creating dissonance within our scientific discourse. They are like faint signals lost in the noise, whispering hints of greater realities beyond our conventional frameworks. This book, "Signals in the Noise: Encountering the Limits of Materialist Science: An Exploration of Consciousness and Reality," seeks to tune into and examine these elusive signals.

What are these signals that challenge the status quo of our understanding? Many are classified as Psi phenomena,³ some of which we will discuss in detail. But the real emphasis will be one class called near-death experiences (NDEs), the mysterious phenomena that occur at the fringes of life and death. These experiences, often marked by vivid imagery, heightened awareness, and a sense of transcending physical boundaries, pose profound questions about the nature of consciousness and its relationship with the material brain.

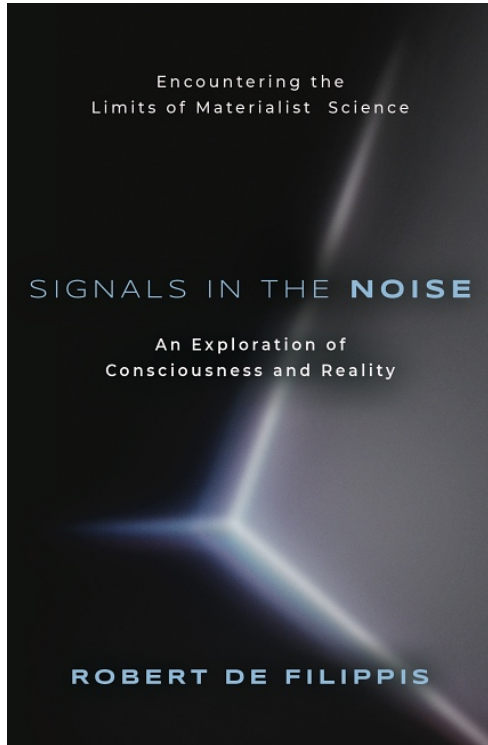
Materialist science, for all its successes, proposes that consciousness is a byproduct of our biological brains, an emergent phenomenon arising from the complex interactions of countless neurons. Yet, the puzzle of NDEs puts the materialist perspective to the test. How can we explain experiences of heightened awareness and consciousness when the brain is, by all accounts, functioning minimally or not at all? These experiences are signals. And these signals refuse to be ignored. They persistently emerge from the noise leaking through the cracks of our deteriorating materialistic scientific maps of the territory.

Throughout the journey of this book, we will delve into the profound depths of NDEs, examining the wealth of accounts,

research, and philosophical implications of these experiences. As we explore, we will consider how these signals challenge and reshape our understanding of consciousness. We will grapple with the question of whether consciousness can exist independently of our physical brains, a proposition that presents a major challenge to materialist science. "Signals in the Noise" invites us to listen closely, lean into the uncertainty and open our minds to the unexplained.

This is not a book that seeks to tear down materialist science but to encounter its limits and encourage further inquiry into the mysteries of consciousness. It is a call to tune into the elusive signals that may redefine our understanding of life, death, and the nature of reality.

In summary, while navigating this journey, we will embrace the words of Albert Einstein: "The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science." As we enter this mystery, let us tune into the signals amidst the noise, for they might guide us to undiscovered truths, to a symphony of understanding resonating beyond the constraints of materialist perspectives.



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