

# Point of Convergence

PODCAST



Hosted by **ExoAcademician**

EPISODE #66

*Portals into the Construct:  
Exploring the Hacking of Our  
Reality by the Alien Others*



ON YOUTUBE & YOUR FAVORITE  
PODCASTING PLATFORM

1  
00:00:02,860 --> 00:00:08,070

[Music]

2  
00:00:14,390 --> 00:00:11,830

hello and welcome to episode number 66

3  
00:00:15,350 --> 00:00:14,400

of the point of convergence podcast as

4  
00:00:18,950 --> 00:00:15,360

always

5  
00:00:21,189 --> 00:00:18,960

i am your host exo academian

6  
00:00:23,429 --> 00:00:21,199

in the long history of strange events

7  
00:00:25,910 --> 00:00:23,439

occurring in the lives of human beings

8  
00:00:28,310 --> 00:00:25,920

the drive for understanding has been not

9  
00:00:30,790 --> 00:00:28,320

surprisingly shaped by the model of

10  
00:00:33,110 --> 00:00:30,800

reality prevalent at the time

11  
00:00:35,270 --> 00:00:33,120

thus while our distant ancestors saw the

12  
00:00:37,270 --> 00:00:35,280

appearance of strange awe-inspiring

13  
00:00:39,830 --> 00:00:37,280

non-human intelligences as a

14

00:00:41,830 --> 00:00:39,840

manifestation of angels and demons

15

00:00:44,549 --> 00:00:41,840

entities normally bound to the spiritual

16

00:00:46,470 --> 00:00:44,559

domain beyond this mortal coil

17

00:00:48,310 --> 00:00:46,480

modern westerners have tended to see

18

00:00:50,990 --> 00:00:48,320

more recent appearances of these

19

00:00:53,350 --> 00:00:51,000

non-human entities as the arrival of

20

00:00:55,430 --> 00:00:53,360

extraterrestrial entities who've

21

00:00:58,869 --> 00:00:55,440

traversed the vast expanse of outer

22

00:01:00,869 --> 00:00:58,879

space to get here in both of these

23

00:01:03,029 --> 00:01:00,879

described kinds of encounters the

24

00:01:05,429 --> 00:01:03,039

interpretation has less to do with the

25

00:01:07,190 --> 00:01:05,439

elements of the encounters themselves

26

00:01:09,270 --> 00:01:07,200

and more to do with the overarching

27

00:01:10,710 --> 00:01:09,280

meaning making model of a particular

28

00:01:12,550 --> 00:01:10,720

civilization

29

00:01:15,990 --> 00:01:12,560

and of course this is not just a

30

00:01:18,550 --> 00:01:16,000

time-bound phenomenon because even today

31

00:01:20,789 --> 00:01:18,560

a shamanistically oriented culture is

32

00:01:22,870 --> 00:01:20,799

likely to see these others in a very

33

00:01:25,190 --> 00:01:22,880

different light than a scientifically

34

00:01:27,030 --> 00:01:25,200

minded society shaped by the values of

35

00:01:29,030 --> 00:01:27,040

the enlightenment

36

00:01:30,950 --> 00:01:29,040

in fact when the gatekeepers of a

37

00:01:33,190 --> 00:01:30,960

particular society are convinced that

38

00:01:35,270 --> 00:01:33,200

certain kinds of described encounters

39

00:01:37,749 --> 00:01:35,280

just simply cannot be

40

00:01:39,670 --> 00:01:37,759

as in modern western societies

41

00:01:42,310 --> 00:01:39,680

then when these encounters are cloaked

42

00:01:44,870 --> 00:01:42,320

in a particularly potent degree of what

43

00:01:47,749 --> 00:01:44,880

is often termed high strangeness

44

00:01:49,830 --> 00:01:47,759

the event is just suppressed altogether

45

00:01:53,030 --> 00:01:49,840

lest the witness be deemed mentally

46

00:01:54,789 --> 00:01:53,040

unstable or of questionable credibility

47

00:01:57,030 --> 00:01:54,799

this of course doesn't mean that such

48

00:01:59,350 --> 00:01:57,040

events don't happen but merely that they

49

00:02:03,030 --> 00:01:59,360

have no place to be categorized and

50

00:02:04,789 --> 00:02:03,040

analyzed within a particular framework

51

00:02:07,030 --> 00:02:04,799

all that is to say the annals of

52

00:02:09,830 --> 00:02:07,040

non-conventional encounters from across

53

00:02:12,150 --> 00:02:09,840

time serve as a kind of road map for our

54

00:02:13,830 --> 00:02:12,160

shifting collective attempt to describe

55

00:02:15,750 --> 00:02:13,840

reality itself

56

00:02:17,589 --> 00:02:15,760

and to separate the understanding of

57

00:02:19,350 --> 00:02:17,599

these kinds of encounters from the

58

00:02:22,070 --> 00:02:19,360

overarching meaning model of a

59

00:02:24,949 --> 00:02:22,080

particular time and place in which they

60

00:02:27,750 --> 00:02:24,959

occurred is to miss a major point of the

61

00:02:30,630 --> 00:02:27,760

exercise for these matters work hand in

62

00:02:32,390 --> 00:02:30,640

hand in a coordinated and interwoven

63

00:02:34,390 --> 00:02:32,400

feedback loop of event and

64

00:02:36,869 --> 00:02:34,400

interpretation

65

00:02:39,270 --> 00:02:36,879

typically while a certain brave subset

66

00:02:41,110 --> 00:02:39,280

of pioneers are willing to question the

67

00:02:41,990 --> 00:02:41,120

meaning model of a particular time and

68

00:02:44,070 --> 00:02:42,000

place

69

00:02:46,949 --> 00:02:44,080

the overarching metanarrative doesn't

70

00:02:49,350 --> 00:02:46,959

begin to break down making room for new

71

00:02:52,229 --> 00:02:49,360

and transcendent hypotheses

72

00:02:55,030 --> 00:02:52,239

until the sheer volume of outlier data

73

00:02:57,350 --> 00:02:55,040

has created enough collective cognitive

74

00:02:59,830 --> 00:02:57,360

dissonance so as to make it clear that

75

00:03:02,550 --> 00:02:59,840

there is no other feasible way forward

76  
00:03:04,630 --> 00:03:02,560  
than to trailblaze a new metanarrative

77  
00:03:06,149 --> 00:03:04,640  
altogether

78  
00:03:08,149 --> 00:03:06,159  
speaking of trailblazing new

79  
00:03:09,670 --> 00:03:08,159  
meta-narratives today we're going to

80  
00:03:11,030 --> 00:03:09,680  
discuss the work of just such an

81  
00:03:13,190 --> 00:03:11,040  
individual

82  
00:03:14,790 --> 00:03:13,200  
donald hoffman an american cognitive

83  
00:03:17,190 --> 00:03:14,800  
psychologist and professor in the

84  
00:03:19,750 --> 00:03:17,200  
department of cognitive sciences at the

85  
00:03:21,270 --> 00:03:19,760  
university of california irvine with

86  
00:03:23,509 --> 00:03:21,280  
joint appointments in the department of

87  
00:03:25,830 --> 00:03:23,519  
logic and philosophy of science the

88  
00:03:27,430 --> 00:03:25,840

department of philosophy and the school

89

00:03:30,309 --> 00:03:27,440

of computer science

90

00:03:32,309 --> 00:03:30,319

is someone who decades ago became

91

00:03:34,789 --> 00:03:32,319

convinced that the reality model that

92

00:03:36,869 --> 00:03:34,799

western society has been living under

93

00:03:39,030 --> 00:03:36,879

over the last several centuries

94

00:03:41,110 --> 00:03:39,040

simply cannot stand

95

00:03:42,949 --> 00:03:41,120

from his perspective and he is one of a

96

00:03:44,229 --> 00:03:42,959

growing segment within the scientific

97

00:03:46,390 --> 00:03:44,239

establishment

98

00:03:49,270 --> 00:03:46,400

the data arising from diverse fields of

99

00:03:51,350 --> 00:03:49,280

study has made it clear that physicalism

100

00:03:53,589 --> 00:03:51,360

the metaphysical view that all mental

101

00:03:56,309 --> 00:03:53,599

phenomena are ultimately physical

102

00:03:59,750 --> 00:03:56,319

phenomena or necessitated by physical

103

00:04:02,470 --> 00:03:59,760

phenomena is simply incorrect

104

00:04:05,030 --> 00:04:02,480

make no mistake hoffman's postulations

105

00:04:06,149 --> 00:04:05,040

are not based in imagination and wishful

106

00:04:09,270 --> 00:04:06,159

thinking

107

00:04:11,030 --> 00:04:09,280

no truth be told mathematical theorems

108

00:04:13,670 --> 00:04:11,040

and the implications of the theory of

109

00:04:16,310 --> 00:04:13,680

evolution by natural selection are what

110

00:04:18,550 --> 00:04:16,320

drive this new line of thinking

111

00:04:21,349 --> 00:04:18,560

these ideas put forth in a model he

112

00:04:23,670 --> 00:04:21,359

calls conscious realism have profound

113

00:04:26,230 --> 00:04:23,680

implications for our understanding of

114

00:04:28,950 --> 00:04:26,240

all that is and as it pertains to the

115

00:04:31,990 --> 00:04:28,960

usual subject matter of this podcast

116

00:04:34,710 --> 00:04:32,000

hoffman's work opens up new tantalizing

117

00:04:37,030 --> 00:04:34,720

and explanatory powerful ways of making

118

00:04:39,510 --> 00:04:37,040

sense of the strange encounters we've

119

00:04:42,070 --> 00:04:39,520

been discussing while also offering a

120

00:04:44,550 --> 00:04:42,080

robust explanation to make sense of the

121

00:04:46,629 --> 00:04:44,560

so-called fermi paradox

122

00:04:49,030 --> 00:04:46,639

it is the implications of hoffman's

123

00:04:52,390 --> 00:04:49,040

conscious realism as it pertains to the

124

00:04:54,230 --> 00:04:52,400

ufo phenomenon and general paranormality

125

00:04:58,150 --> 00:04:54,240

that we'll be going into a deep dive

126  
00:05:01,970 --> 00:04:58,160  
into in this the 66th episode of the

127  
00:05:07,670 --> 00:05:05,270  
[Music]

128  
00:05:09,990 --> 00:05:07,680  
as we begin this week's episode i'd just

129  
00:05:12,870 --> 00:05:10,000  
like to remind us all that when we form

130  
00:05:15,270 --> 00:05:12,880  
hypotheses to make sense of the bizarre

131  
00:05:17,110 --> 00:05:15,280  
array of elements we see on display with

132  
00:05:19,590 --> 00:05:17,120  
the ufo phenomenon

133  
00:05:22,550 --> 00:05:19,600  
we do so based on some assumptions about

134  
00:05:25,029 --> 00:05:22,560  
the underlying nature of reality it's

135  
00:05:27,110 --> 00:05:25,039  
important to keep that in mind

136  
00:05:29,270 --> 00:05:27,120  
now we have evolved to filter data

137  
00:05:31,350 --> 00:05:29,280  
through a series of assumptions

138  
00:05:33,909 --> 00:05:31,360

this has allowed us to stay alive and

139

00:05:35,670 --> 00:05:33,919

navigate a complex world

140

00:05:37,830 --> 00:05:35,680

remember this statement because we will

141

00:05:40,070 --> 00:05:37,840

come back to it time and time again in

142

00:05:42,150 --> 00:05:40,080

this episode

143

00:05:44,550 --> 00:05:42,160

these assumptions lead us to certain

144

00:05:45,510 --> 00:05:44,560

hunches about what is going on in the

145

00:05:47,189 --> 00:05:45,520

world

146

00:05:49,350 --> 00:05:47,199

this is also true of what we see with

147

00:05:51,189 --> 00:05:49,360

the ufo phenomenon and general

148

00:05:53,270 --> 00:05:51,199

paranormality

149

00:05:55,670 --> 00:05:53,280

for instance when the modern saucer

150

00:05:58,469 --> 00:05:55,680

phenomenon took off in the united states

151

00:06:01,270 --> 00:05:58,479

in the 1940s it seemed a logical

152

00:06:03,189 --> 00:06:01,280

deduction to many if not most people in

153

00:06:05,350 --> 00:06:03,199

our modern civilization

154

00:06:07,270 --> 00:06:05,360

that since these craft seemed beyond the

155

00:06:09,909 --> 00:06:07,280

technological prowess of any

156

00:06:12,230 --> 00:06:09,919

nation-state player of the time

157

00:06:15,110 --> 00:06:12,240

they must be therefore the aeronautical

158

00:06:16,950 --> 00:06:15,120

property of some space-faring race that

159

00:06:20,150 --> 00:06:16,960

had traveled the vast expanse of the

160

00:06:22,070 --> 00:06:20,160

cosmos to visit our dazzling blue pearl

161

00:06:23,909 --> 00:06:22,080

of a planet

162

00:06:26,550 --> 00:06:23,919

while this may seem like the obvious

163

00:06:29,110 --> 00:06:26,560

conclusion based on the facts at hand

164

00:06:31,029 --> 00:06:29,120

there are actually myriad assumptions in

165

00:06:33,110 --> 00:06:31,039

play there though often those

166

00:06:36,390 --> 00:06:33,120

assumptions have been taken as so

167

00:06:38,150 --> 00:06:36,400

patently obvious to most of us that we

168

00:06:39,590 --> 00:06:38,160

are no longer even conscious of them

169

00:06:41,749 --> 00:06:39,600

being in play

170

00:06:44,309 --> 00:06:41,759

these foundational elements of any

171

00:06:47,110 --> 00:06:44,319

overarching meaning model are known as

172

00:06:49,189 --> 00:06:47,120

axioms an axiom is a statement or

173

00:06:52,390 --> 00:06:49,199

proposition which is regarded as being

174

00:06:53,830 --> 00:06:52,400

established accepted or self-evidently

175

00:06:55,990 --> 00:06:53,840

true

176  
00:06:58,550 --> 00:06:56,000  
so again based on our understanding of

177  
00:07:00,950 --> 00:06:58,560  
reality and what represented the final

178  
00:07:03,510 --> 00:07:00,960  
frontier of the time it made sense that

179  
00:07:04,870 --> 00:07:03,520  
the extraterrestrial hypothesis held

180  
00:07:07,270 --> 00:07:04,880  
sway

181  
00:07:09,110 --> 00:07:07,280  
now as the 20th century rolled on and

182  
00:07:11,430 --> 00:07:09,120  
our understanding of the cosmos and the

183  
00:07:13,350 --> 00:07:11,440  
underlying nature of reality grew

184  
00:07:17,029 --> 00:07:13,360  
the options on the table to make sense

185  
00:07:18,469 --> 00:07:17,039  
of the ufo phenomenon likewise expanded

186  
00:07:20,550 --> 00:07:18,479  
notice here that it's not that the

187  
00:07:22,309 --> 00:07:20,560  
nature of the encounters changed but

188  
00:07:25,670 --> 00:07:22,319

rather that the development of a more

189

00:07:28,950 --> 00:07:25,680

complex multi-faceted reality model gave

190

00:07:30,790 --> 00:07:28,960

birth to new interpretive possibilities

191

00:07:33,670 --> 00:07:30,800

as i've mentioned numerous times on this

192

00:07:35,990 --> 00:07:33,680

podcast it was world-class boots on the

193

00:07:38,870 --> 00:07:36,000

ground researchers like jacques valle

194

00:07:40,790 --> 00:07:38,880

and john keel who first postulated these

195

00:07:42,309 --> 00:07:40,800

new possibilities

196

00:07:44,230 --> 00:07:42,319

why did they do this

197

00:07:45,670 --> 00:07:44,240

what evidence led them simultaneously

198

00:07:48,309 --> 00:07:45,680

away from the extraterrestrial

199

00:07:50,710 --> 00:07:48,319

hypothesis and towards notions like the

200

00:07:52,629 --> 00:07:50,720

interdimensional hypothesis

201  
00:07:55,670 --> 00:07:52,639  
well firstly they noted that the

202  
00:07:57,670 --> 00:07:55,680  
decidedly spiritual overtones along with

203  
00:07:59,749 --> 00:07:57,680  
heaping doses of what came to be known

204  
00:08:02,309 --> 00:07:59,759  
as high strangeness

205  
00:08:05,270 --> 00:08:02,319  
seemed to suggest something more complex

206  
00:08:06,869 --> 00:08:05,280  
and in valet's famous words interesting

207  
00:08:09,270 --> 00:08:06,879  
was in play

208  
00:08:11,510 --> 00:08:09,280  
in valley's case when he took the time

209  
00:08:12,629 --> 00:08:11,520  
to take the so-called thirty thousand

210  
00:08:15,029 --> 00:08:12,639  
foot view

211  
00:08:17,110 --> 00:08:15,039  
stepping back from our immediate context

212  
00:08:18,790 --> 00:08:17,120  
in the midst of a middle 20th century

213  
00:08:20,230 --> 00:08:18,800

space race between the world's

214

00:08:22,629 --> 00:08:20,240

superpowers

215

00:08:25,110 --> 00:08:22,639

he noted remarkable overlap between

216

00:08:27,350 --> 00:08:25,120

elements of historical fairy lore and

217

00:08:30,150 --> 00:08:27,360

even deep religious mythos

218

00:08:31,830 --> 00:08:30,160

and the modern ufo phenomenon

219

00:08:34,550 --> 00:08:31,840

why was this the case

220

00:08:36,149 --> 00:08:34,560

on first blush it seems preposterous to

221

00:08:38,469 --> 00:08:36,159

assume that goblins and the little

222

00:08:40,790 --> 00:08:38,479

people of fairy lore would have anything

223

00:08:43,269 --> 00:08:40,800

in common with aliens arriving from

224

00:08:44,710 --> 00:08:43,279

andromeda and other far-flung cosmic

225

00:08:46,550 --> 00:08:44,720

locales

226

00:08:49,590 --> 00:08:46,560

not to mention most modern

227

00:08:51,670 --> 00:08:49,600

scientifically minded folk assumed alien

228

00:08:53,910 --> 00:08:51,680

life was almost a certainty

229

00:08:56,230 --> 00:08:53,920

while notions like the fae of distant

230

00:08:58,790 --> 00:08:56,240

human lore were rooted firmly in

231

00:09:01,190 --> 00:08:58,800

make-believe a vestige of those poor

232

00:09:03,350 --> 00:09:01,200

primitive folk of ancient history who

233

00:09:05,509 --> 00:09:03,360

knew nothing of gravity a spherical

234

00:09:07,590 --> 00:09:05,519

earth and the trustworthiness of the

235

00:09:09,590 --> 00:09:07,600

scientific method

236

00:09:11,910 --> 00:09:09,600

valet put these assumptions aside for a

237

00:09:12,870 --> 00:09:11,920

moment and asked a deeper more probing

238

00:09:14,710 --> 00:09:12,880

question

239

00:09:17,190 --> 00:09:14,720

as he has been prone to do throughout

240

00:09:18,870 --> 00:09:17,200

his career now stretching across many

241

00:09:20,790 --> 00:09:18,880

decades

242

00:09:23,590 --> 00:09:20,800

disregarding our modern assumptive

243

00:09:26,150 --> 00:09:23,600

filters regarding what can be

244

00:09:29,030 --> 00:09:26,160

why was it that 20th and 21st century

245

00:09:31,269 --> 00:09:29,040

scientifically minded well-educated

246

00:09:33,590 --> 00:09:31,279

otherwise normal and thoroughly credible

247

00:09:36,389 --> 00:09:33,600

people were having encounters with

248

00:09:38,870 --> 00:09:36,399

seemingly non-human entities that

249

00:09:41,829 --> 00:09:38,880

involves so many of the same elements we

250

00:09:44,790 --> 00:09:41,839

find documented in interactions with the

251

00:09:46,550 --> 00:09:44,800

fae of distant human lore

252

00:09:49,269 --> 00:09:46,560

and why were so many of these modern

253

00:09:51,269 --> 00:09:49,279

encounters cloaked in such a heavy fog

254

00:09:53,030 --> 00:09:51,279

of spiritual overtones

255

00:09:55,509 --> 00:09:53,040

so much so that it often led to a

256

00:09:58,310 --> 00:09:55,519

wide-ranging and permanent change in the

257

00:10:01,190 --> 00:09:58,320

world view of those impacted

258

00:10:02,870 --> 00:10:01,200

was it possible valet asked aloud that

259

00:10:05,350 --> 00:10:02,880

these modern folk were actually

260

00:10:07,750 --> 00:10:05,360

encountering the very same entities that

261

00:10:10,630 --> 00:10:07,760

our ancestors had grappled with in the

262

00:10:12,310 --> 00:10:10,640

deep reaches of our species history

263

00:10:15,030 --> 00:10:12,320

and was it possible that the more

264

00:10:17,269 --> 00:10:15,040

superficial differences between modern

265

00:10:19,269 --> 00:10:17,279

and ancient encounters had more to do

266

00:10:22,389 --> 00:10:19,279

with our assumptions which led to

267

00:10:24,790 --> 00:10:22,399

different interpretations of said events

268

00:10:27,030 --> 00:10:24,800

than real substantive differences in the

269

00:10:29,269 --> 00:10:27,040

encounters themselves

270

00:10:31,670 --> 00:10:29,279

alternatively was it possible that the

271

00:10:33,910 --> 00:10:31,680

seeming perceptual control that these

272

00:10:36,150 --> 00:10:33,920

non-human others wielded over human

273

00:10:38,550 --> 00:10:36,160

beings allowed for them to manifest

274

00:10:40,630 --> 00:10:38,560

differently to fit with our underlying

275

00:10:42,470 --> 00:10:40,640

and shifting expectations

276  
00:10:44,829 --> 00:10:42,480  
so as to shield them from a more

277  
00:10:47,590 --> 00:10:44,839  
penetrating and objective

278  
00:10:50,630 --> 00:10:47,600  
analysis furthermore was it possible

279  
00:10:53,910 --> 00:10:50,640  
that a notion such as objective analysis

280  
00:10:55,910 --> 00:10:53,920  
simply didn't apply in such encounters

281  
00:10:58,790 --> 00:10:55,920  
that the very nature of these paranormal

282  
00:11:01,509 --> 00:10:58,800  
events ensured a strange mixture of

283  
00:11:02,630 --> 00:11:01,519  
contemporary mythos and underlying

284  
00:11:04,790 --> 00:11:02,640  
reality

285  
00:11:06,870 --> 00:11:04,800  
ended up coloring the experiences at

286  
00:11:07,990 --> 00:11:06,880  
their very root

287  
00:11:10,630 --> 00:11:08,000  
these were the questions that

288  
00:11:12,069 --> 00:11:10,640

researchers like valean kiel forerunners

289

00:11:15,269 --> 00:11:12,079

in the field of paranormal and

290

00:11:17,030 --> 00:11:15,279

ufological analysis were asking

291

00:11:19,190 --> 00:11:17,040

they asked outside the box

292

00:11:21,030 --> 00:11:19,200

unconventional questions because from

293

00:11:22,790 --> 00:11:21,040

their informed point of view

294

00:11:25,509 --> 00:11:22,800

the very nature of these encounters

295

00:11:27,750 --> 00:11:25,519

themselves demanded that they do so

296

00:11:30,310 --> 00:11:27,760

the overlapping fields of ufology and

297

00:11:33,110 --> 00:11:30,320

paranormal research are indebted to them

298

00:11:35,910 --> 00:11:33,120

as a result because they took us in new

299

00:11:38,230 --> 00:11:35,920

and fruitful directions

300

00:11:40,389 --> 00:11:38,240

that said we would be doing a disservice

301  
00:11:42,389 --> 00:11:40,399  
to these pioneering researchers if we

302  
00:11:45,030 --> 00:11:42,399  
were to stop where they did

303  
00:11:46,790 --> 00:11:45,040  
that is to say if new data emerges that

304  
00:11:49,269 --> 00:11:46,800  
points in even more bizarre and

305  
00:11:52,069 --> 00:11:49,279  
unconventional directions we should take

306  
00:11:53,910 --> 00:11:52,079  
up the charge boldly going wherever the

307  
00:11:55,750 --> 00:11:53,920  
evidence leads

308  
00:11:58,150 --> 00:11:55,760  
from my point of view when i reflect on

309  
00:12:00,069 --> 00:11:58,160  
the hypotheses that have been postulated

310  
00:12:01,350 --> 00:12:00,079  
thus far to make sense of the ufo

311  
00:12:03,269 --> 00:12:01,360  
phenomenon

312  
00:12:05,590 --> 00:12:03,279  
while all of them may very well be in

313  
00:12:07,910 --> 00:12:05,600

play to some degree or another

314

00:12:09,990 --> 00:12:07,920

there is a new line of evidence that has

315

00:12:12,710 --> 00:12:10,000

emerged since the trailblazing days of

316

00:12:14,710 --> 00:12:12,720

valley and keel that points in exactly

317

00:12:17,110 --> 00:12:14,720

the kind of new and mind-bending

318

00:12:18,790 --> 00:12:17,120

direction i just referenced

319

00:12:21,430 --> 00:12:18,800

and it's that evidenced and the

320

00:12:23,670 --> 00:12:21,440

implications it brings to the table if

321

00:12:25,829 --> 00:12:23,680

indeed it is accurate that i want to

322

00:12:28,310 --> 00:12:25,839

discuss today

323

00:12:30,389 --> 00:12:28,320

as i've often said on this podcast the

324

00:12:32,389 --> 00:12:30,399

shocking nature of the encounters people

325

00:12:35,670 --> 00:12:32,399

have been having with a variety of

326

00:12:38,069 --> 00:12:35,680

apparently non-human others over time

327

00:12:41,350 --> 00:12:38,079

ultimately and inevitably leads to a

328

00:12:42,949 --> 00:12:41,360

reframing of our very model of reality

329

00:12:44,310 --> 00:12:42,959

that's what's in play

330

00:12:46,629 --> 00:12:44,320

full stop

331

00:12:48,629 --> 00:12:46,639

if these encounters are real and that's

332

00:12:50,550 --> 00:12:48,639

a loaded term if ever there was one and

333

00:12:52,470 --> 00:12:50,560

we'll get to that but if these

334

00:12:54,470 --> 00:12:52,480

encounters are real and i believe

335

00:12:56,550 --> 00:12:54,480

evidence suggests they are

336

00:12:59,030 --> 00:12:56,560

then our current model of reality needs

337

00:13:02,870 --> 00:12:59,040

not just some tweaking but an entire

338

00:13:04,710 --> 00:13:02,880

rewrite from the ground up as it were

339

00:13:06,790 --> 00:13:04,720

and speaking of these questions around

340

00:13:09,030 --> 00:13:06,800

the very nature of reality

341

00:13:11,430 --> 00:13:09,040

here's a question we should begin with

342

00:13:13,750 --> 00:13:11,440

how do we know that what we define as

343

00:13:15,590 --> 00:13:13,760

real really is so

344

00:13:17,590 --> 00:13:15,600

how do we know we're not simply deluding

345

00:13:20,230 --> 00:13:17,600

ourselves like we would argue our

346

00:13:22,550 --> 00:13:20,240

ancestors were doing so much of the time

347

00:13:25,030 --> 00:13:22,560

when they from our point of view merely

348

00:13:26,870 --> 00:13:25,040

made up stories to feel more secure

349

00:13:28,949 --> 00:13:26,880

amidst an array of frightening and

350

00:13:32,150 --> 00:13:28,959

unpredictable events

351  
00:13:33,910 --> 00:13:32,160  
enter donald hoffman a man of our times

352  
00:13:35,990 --> 00:13:33,920  
who is here to question virtually

353  
00:13:38,629 --> 00:13:36,000  
everything we've come to so concretely

354  
00:13:40,949 --> 00:13:38,639  
believe is trustworthy in teaching us

355  
00:13:42,470 --> 00:13:40,959  
about the actual underlying nature of

356  
00:13:44,550 --> 00:13:42,480  
reality

357  
00:13:47,509 --> 00:13:44,560  
to be sure the questions that hoffman's

358  
00:13:50,710 --> 00:13:47,519  
work ends up opening up make valet and

359  
00:13:53,670 --> 00:13:50,720  
kiehl's postulation seem comparatively

360  
00:13:55,750 --> 00:13:53,680  
rather timid and tame

361  
00:13:58,230 --> 00:13:55,760  
in the same way that new physics led to

362  
00:14:00,550 --> 00:13:58,240  
notions like a multiverse and hence to

363  
00:14:03,110 --> 00:14:00,560

the inter-dimensional hypothesis and

364

00:14:04,870 --> 00:14:03,120

einsteinian space-time laid the

365

00:14:06,710 --> 00:14:04,880

theoretical groundwork for the future

366

00:14:08,629 --> 00:14:06,720

human hypothesis

367

00:14:10,790 --> 00:14:08,639

hoffman's work is opening new doors of

368

00:14:12,470 --> 00:14:10,800

possibility as well

369

00:14:14,550 --> 00:14:12,480

in particular hoffman's work is

370

00:14:17,189 --> 00:14:14,560

suggesting that consciousness

371

00:14:19,910 --> 00:14:17,199

rather than matter and energy may be the

372

00:14:21,829 --> 00:14:19,920

substrate of all that is and that what

373

00:14:24,710 --> 00:14:21,839

is central to that reality are the

374

00:14:25,750 --> 00:14:24,720

interactions of what he calls conscious

375

00:14:27,910 --> 00:14:25,760

agents

376

00:14:31,030 --> 00:14:27,920

in an overarching model he calls

377

00:14:33,829 --> 00:14:31,040

conscious realism but there's a lot to

378

00:14:35,509 --> 00:14:33,839

unpack so let's take this one step at a

379

00:14:37,430 --> 00:14:35,519

time

380

00:14:39,750 --> 00:14:37,440

now the book we'll be discussing today

381

00:14:42,710 --> 00:14:39,760

is hoffman's book the case against

382

00:14:45,430 --> 00:14:42,720

reality why evolution hid the truth from

383

00:14:47,990 --> 00:14:45,440

our eyes i highly recommend this book as

384

00:14:50,230 --> 00:14:48,000

much as i can recommend a book i think

385

00:14:52,389 --> 00:14:50,240

it has startling implications not just

386

00:14:54,150 --> 00:14:52,399

for our understanding of reality but of

387

00:14:57,189 --> 00:14:54,160

course as well for our understanding of

388

00:15:00,230 --> 00:14:57,199

what's going on with the ufo phenomenon

389

00:15:02,790 --> 00:15:00,240  
and general paranormality

390

00:15:04,629 --> 00:15:02,800  
this is the central question

391

00:15:07,509 --> 00:15:04,639  
as described in the publisher's

392

00:15:10,150 --> 00:15:07,519  
description of hoffman's book

393

00:15:10,829 --> 00:15:10,160  
quote can we trust our senses to tell us

394

00:15:13,430 --> 00:15:10,839  
the

395

00:15:15,189 --> 00:15:13,440  
truth challenging leading scientific

396

00:15:18,069 --> 00:15:15,199  
theories that claim that our senses

397

00:15:19,910 --> 00:15:18,079  
report back objective reality

398

00:15:22,069 --> 00:15:19,920  
cognitive scientist

399

00:15:24,710 --> 00:15:22,079  
donald hoffman argues that while we

400

00:15:27,030 --> 00:15:24,720  
should take our perceptions seriously we

401  
00:15:28,949 --> 00:15:27,040  
should not take them literally

402  
00:15:31,590 --> 00:15:28,959  
how can it be possible that the world we

403  
00:15:33,749 --> 00:15:31,600  
see is not objective reality

404  
00:15:36,150 --> 00:15:33,759  
and how can our senses be useful if they

405  
00:15:38,150 --> 00:15:36,160  
are not communicating the truth

406  
00:15:39,829 --> 00:15:38,160  
hoffman grapples with these questions

407  
00:15:41,749 --> 00:15:39,839  
and more over the course of this

408  
00:15:44,069 --> 00:15:41,759  
eye-opening work

409  
00:15:46,310 --> 00:15:44,079  
ever since homo sapiens has walked the

410  
00:15:48,870 --> 00:15:46,320  
earth natural selection has favored

411  
00:15:52,069 --> 00:15:48,880  
perception that hides the truth and

412  
00:15:53,990 --> 00:15:52,079  
guides us towards useful action shaping

413  
00:15:55,829 --> 00:15:54,000

our senses to keep us alive and

414

00:15:57,910 --> 00:15:55,839

reproducing

415

00:16:00,629 --> 00:15:57,920

we observe a speeding car and do not

416

00:16:03,030 --> 00:16:00,639

walk in front of it we see mold growing

417

00:16:05,350 --> 00:16:03,040

on bread and do not eat it

418

00:16:07,189 --> 00:16:05,360

these impressions though are not

419

00:16:09,350 --> 00:16:07,199

objective reality

420

00:16:11,829 --> 00:16:09,360

just like a file icon on a desktop

421

00:16:14,069 --> 00:16:11,839

screen is a useful symbol rather than a

422

00:16:16,150 --> 00:16:14,079

genuine representation of what a

423

00:16:19,269 --> 00:16:16,160

computer file looks like

424

00:16:22,230 --> 00:16:19,279

the objects we see every day are merely

425

00:16:24,790 --> 00:16:22,240

icons allowing us to navigate the world

426

00:16:26,870 --> 00:16:24,800

safely and with ease

427

00:16:28,870 --> 00:16:26,880

the real world implications for this

428

00:16:31,350 --> 00:16:28,880

discoveries are huge

429

00:16:33,430 --> 00:16:31,360

from examining why fashion designers

430

00:16:36,069 --> 00:16:33,440

create clothes that give the illusion of

431

00:16:38,550 --> 00:16:36,079

a more attractive body shape to studying

432

00:16:41,030 --> 00:16:38,560

how companies use color to elicit

433

00:16:43,189 --> 00:16:41,040

specific emotions in consumers

434

00:16:46,310 --> 00:16:43,199

and even dismantling the very notion

435

00:16:48,629 --> 00:16:46,320

that space-time is objective reality

436

00:16:51,269 --> 00:16:48,639

the case against reality dares us to

437

00:16:53,110 --> 00:16:51,279

question everything we thought we knew

438

00:16:54,629 --> 00:16:53,120

about the world we see

439

00:16:56,949 --> 00:16:54,639

unquote

440

00:16:59,269 --> 00:16:56,959

now as we begin discussing hoffman and

441

00:17:01,430 --> 00:16:59,279

his work i want to make it clear that he

442

00:17:03,110 --> 00:17:01,440

used to be a physicalist he began in

443

00:17:05,429 --> 00:17:03,120

mainstream science

444

00:17:07,110 --> 00:17:05,439

was only when he became convinced that

445

00:17:08,309 --> 00:17:07,120

physicalism as i said in the

446

00:17:11,029 --> 00:17:08,319

introduction

447

00:17:12,789 --> 00:17:11,039

is untenable that he looked for new

448

00:17:15,510 --> 00:17:12,799

avenues to pursue

449

00:17:18,069 --> 00:17:15,520

and he ended up with consciousness

450

00:17:20,789 --> 00:17:18,079

now specifically what problem did he run

451  
00:17:23,829 --> 00:17:20,799  
into from within the physicalist model

452  
00:17:25,270 --> 00:17:23,839  
that made him abandon it altogether

453  
00:17:28,470 --> 00:17:25,280  
well it really comes down to what is

454  
00:17:31,590 --> 00:17:28,480  
called the hard problem of consciousness

455  
00:17:33,909 --> 00:17:31,600  
which is defined as such quote the hard

456  
00:17:36,070 --> 00:17:33,919  
problem of consciousness defined by

457  
00:17:37,590 --> 00:17:36,080  
chalmers in 1995

458  
00:17:40,070 --> 00:17:37,600  
is the problem of explaining the

459  
00:17:42,950 --> 00:17:40,080  
relationship between physical phenomena

460  
00:17:45,669 --> 00:17:42,960  
such as brain processes and experience

461  
00:17:48,390 --> 00:17:45,679  
i.e phenomenal consciousness or mental

462  
00:17:50,390 --> 00:17:48,400  
states and events with phenomenal

463  
00:17:51,669 --> 00:17:50,400

qualities or qualia

464

00:17:53,830 --> 00:17:51,679

unquote

465

00:17:55,590 --> 00:17:53,840

now for a long time physicalists assumed

466

00:17:58,310 --> 00:17:55,600

that eventually we would learn more

467

00:18:01,270 --> 00:17:58,320

about the brain and explain how

468

00:18:03,669 --> 00:18:01,280

this lump of matter inside of our skull

469

00:18:06,630 --> 00:18:03,679

could actually generate consciousness

470

00:18:09,350 --> 00:18:06,640

could generate feeling and the like

471

00:18:10,870 --> 00:18:09,360

now in his book the case against reality

472

00:18:13,029 --> 00:18:10,880

hoffman addresses this question

473

00:18:15,350 --> 00:18:13,039

specifically in talking about what we

474

00:18:16,789 --> 00:18:15,360

would need in a physicalist model for

475

00:18:19,270 --> 00:18:16,799

consciousness

476

00:18:20,950 --> 00:18:19,280

quote what do we want in a scientific

477

00:18:23,190 --> 00:18:20,960

theory of consciousness

478

00:18:25,270 --> 00:18:23,200

consider the case of tasting basil

479

00:18:27,190 --> 00:18:25,280

versus hearing a siren

480

00:18:30,070 --> 00:18:27,200

for a theory that proposes that brain

481

00:18:33,029 --> 00:18:30,080

activity causes conscious experiences

482

00:18:35,510 --> 00:18:33,039

we want mathematical laws or principles

483

00:18:37,350 --> 00:18:35,520

that state precisely which brain

484

00:18:39,669 --> 00:18:37,360

activities cause the conscious

485

00:18:41,830 --> 00:18:39,679

experience of tasting basil

486

00:18:44,070 --> 00:18:41,840

precisely why this activity does not

487

00:18:46,789 --> 00:18:44,080

cause the experience of say hearing a

488

00:18:49,430 --> 00:18:46,799

siren and precisely how this activity

489

00:18:52,390 --> 00:18:49,440

must change to transform the experience

490

00:18:53,669 --> 00:18:52,400

from tasting basil to say tasting

491

00:18:55,990 --> 00:18:53,679

rosemary

492

00:18:59,430 --> 00:18:56,000

these laws or principles must apply

493

00:19:01,510 --> 00:18:59,440

across species or else explain precisely

494

00:19:02,870 --> 00:19:01,520

why different species require different

495

00:19:08,549 --> 00:19:02,880

laws

496

00:19:10,789 --> 00:19:08,559

have ever been produced

497

00:19:12,470 --> 00:19:10,799

unquote and again that really gets to

498

00:19:14,230 --> 00:19:12,480

the root of it that's the hard problem

499

00:19:16,230 --> 00:19:14,240

of consciousness

500

00:19:18,630 --> 00:19:16,240

and as hoffman just said there because

501  
00:19:20,710 --> 00:19:18,640  
no ideas have even been proposed to

502  
00:19:23,669 --> 00:19:20,720  
plausibly explain how this could even be

503  
00:19:26,070 --> 00:19:23,679  
the case within a physicalist model

504  
00:19:28,549 --> 00:19:26,080  
hoffman ultimately abandoned physicalism

505  
00:19:31,990 --> 00:19:28,559  
and moved towards consciousness as a

506  
00:19:34,150 --> 00:19:32,000  
primary substrate of reality itself

507  
00:19:36,630 --> 00:19:34,160  
now as you heard mentioned in the book

508  
00:19:39,110 --> 00:19:36,640  
publisher's description of this book

509  
00:19:40,150 --> 00:19:39,120  
much of the implications of hoffman's

510  
00:19:42,549 --> 00:19:40,160  
theory

511  
00:19:45,190 --> 00:19:42,559  
conscious realism come down to the

512  
00:19:46,310 --> 00:19:45,200  
implications of evolution by natural

513  
00:19:48,390 --> 00:19:46,320

selection

514

00:19:50,549 --> 00:19:48,400

now what does evolution by natural

515

00:19:52,470 --> 00:19:50,559

selection actually do

516

00:19:53,510 --> 00:19:52,480

well again according to hoffman's book

517

00:19:56,549 --> 00:19:53,520

quote

518

00:19:59,110 --> 00:19:56,559

we encounter a startling fitness beats

519

00:20:01,190 --> 00:19:59,120

truth fbt theorem

520

00:20:03,669 --> 00:20:01,200

which states that evolution by natural

521

00:20:05,190 --> 00:20:03,679

selection does not favor true

522

00:20:08,390 --> 00:20:05,200

perceptions

523

00:20:10,470 --> 00:20:08,400

it routinely drives them to extinction

524

00:20:13,110 --> 00:20:10,480

instead natural selection favors

525

00:20:15,270 --> 00:20:13,120

perceptions that hide the truth and

526

00:20:17,110 --> 00:20:15,280

guide useful action

527

00:20:19,510 --> 00:20:17,120

he goes on to say elsewhere our

528

00:20:20,630 --> 00:20:19,520

perceptions misled us about our place in

529

00:20:22,950 --> 00:20:20,640

the universe

530

00:20:25,270 --> 00:20:22,960

but the deeper message is this

531

00:20:27,909 --> 00:20:25,280

our perceptions can mislead us about the

532

00:20:30,149 --> 00:20:27,919

very nature of the universe itself

533

00:20:33,110 --> 00:20:30,159

we are prone to falsely believe that

534

00:20:36,230 --> 00:20:33,120

certain limitations and idiosyncrasies

535

00:20:38,549 --> 00:20:36,240

of our perceptions are genuine insights

536

00:20:41,029 --> 00:20:38,559

into objective reality

537

00:20:43,669 --> 00:20:41,039

and furthermore elsewhere he says quote

538

00:20:46,950 --> 00:20:43,679

the tinkering of evolution can concoct

539

00:20:49,590 --> 00:20:46,960

perceptual interfaces with endless forms

540

00:20:51,990 --> 00:20:49,600

most beautiful and most wonderful

541

00:20:54,710 --> 00:20:52,000

the vast majority of these however are

542

00:20:56,870 --> 00:20:54,720

to us most inconceivable

543

00:20:59,110 --> 00:20:56,880

evolution is not finished tinkering with

544

00:21:00,310 --> 00:20:59,120

the perceptual interfaces of homo

545

00:21:03,350 --> 00:21:00,320

sapiens

546

00:21:06,070 --> 00:21:03,360

the mutations that bless 1 and 25 with

547

00:21:07,510 --> 00:21:06,080

some form of synesthesia are surely part

548

00:21:09,669 --> 00:21:07,520

of the process

549

00:21:10,549 --> 00:21:09,679

and some of these mutations might catch

550

00:21:22,470 --> 00:21:10,559

on

551  
00:21:25,430 --> 00:21:22,480  
freely explores endless forms of sensory

552  
00:21:28,230 --> 00:21:25,440  
interfaces hitting now and then on novel

553  
00:21:30,789 --> 00:21:28,240  
ways to shepherd our endless foraging

554  
00:21:32,230 --> 00:21:30,799  
for fitness unquote

555  
00:21:34,149 --> 00:21:32,240  
now by the way when he mentions

556  
00:21:36,230 --> 00:21:34,159  
verticality there he's talking about

557  
00:21:39,029 --> 00:21:36,240  
truthfulness being actually aligned with

558  
00:21:40,870 --> 00:21:39,039  
reality itself and his point is that is

559  
00:21:43,190 --> 00:21:40,880  
not what evolution does

560  
00:21:44,390 --> 00:21:43,200  
evolution serves up subjective

561  
00:21:46,630 --> 00:21:44,400  
interfaces

562  
00:21:48,710 --> 00:21:46,640  
virtual realities if you will that we

563  
00:21:51,029 --> 00:21:48,720

experience through our perceptions in

564

00:21:52,310 --> 00:21:51,039

order to keep us alive and to perpetuate

565

00:21:55,110 --> 00:21:52,320

the species

566

00:21:56,789 --> 00:21:55,120

not at all to show us reality

567

00:21:58,470 --> 00:21:56,799

and just to make this clear this is not

568

00:22:00,310 --> 00:21:58,480

a guessing game he's not merely

569

00:22:03,270 --> 00:22:00,320

postulating here there have been

570

00:22:05,669 --> 00:22:03,280

mathematical theorems that prove

571

00:22:06,789 --> 00:22:05,679

that our ancestors that saw more of

572

00:22:09,590 --> 00:22:06,799

reality

573

00:22:11,190 --> 00:22:09,600

would have been driven to extinction

574

00:22:13,750 --> 00:22:11,200

full stop

575

00:22:16,070 --> 00:22:13,760

in an interview with quantum magazine

576

00:22:18,149 --> 00:22:16,080

hoffman made this even more clear

577

00:22:20,230 --> 00:22:18,159

he was quoted as saying quote

578

00:22:22,950 --> 00:22:20,240

the classical argument is that those of

579

00:22:24,870 --> 00:22:22,960

our ancestors who saw more accurately

580

00:22:27,510 --> 00:22:24,880

had a competitive advantage over those

581

00:22:30,149 --> 00:22:27,520

who saw less accurately and thus were

582

00:22:31,990 --> 00:22:30,159

more likely to pass on their genes that

583

00:22:33,270 --> 00:22:32,000

coded for those more accurate

584

00:22:35,510 --> 00:22:33,280

perceptions

585

00:22:37,110 --> 00:22:35,520

so after thousands of generations we can

586

00:22:39,830 --> 00:22:37,120

be quite confident that we're the

587

00:22:42,149 --> 00:22:39,840

offspring of those who saw accurately

588

00:22:44,630 --> 00:22:42,159

and so we see accurately

589

00:22:47,430 --> 00:22:44,640

that sounds very plausible but i think

590

00:22:49,909 --> 00:22:47,440

it is utterly false it misunderstands

591

00:22:51,590 --> 00:22:49,919

the fundamental fact about evolution

592

00:22:53,990 --> 00:22:51,600

which is that it's about fitness

593

00:22:56,630 --> 00:22:54,000

functions mathematical functions that

594

00:22:58,710 --> 00:22:56,640

describe how well a given strategy

595

00:23:00,230 --> 00:22:58,720

achieves the goal of survival and

596

00:23:02,630 --> 00:23:00,240

reproduction

597

00:23:03,750 --> 00:23:02,640

the mathematical physicist chitan

598

00:23:05,830 --> 00:23:03,760

prakash

599

00:23:06,630 --> 00:23:05,840

proved a theorem that i devised that

600

00:23:08,310 --> 00:23:06,640

says

601  
00:23:11,029 --> 00:23:08,320  
according to evolution by natural

602  
00:23:14,470 --> 00:23:11,039  
selection an organism that sees reality

603  
00:23:17,590 --> 00:23:14,480  
as it is will never be more fit than an

604  
00:23:20,390 --> 00:23:17,600  
organism of equal complexity that sees

605  
00:23:21,510 --> 00:23:20,400  
none of reality but is just tuned to

606  
00:23:22,630 --> 00:23:21,520  
fitness

607  
00:23:23,830 --> 00:23:22,640  
never

608  
00:23:26,630 --> 00:23:23,840  
unquote

609  
00:23:28,870 --> 00:23:26,640  
and in that same magazine interview

610  
00:23:32,070 --> 00:23:28,880  
hoffman brings up his famous desktop

611  
00:23:33,830 --> 00:23:32,080  
interface metaphor where he says quote

612  
00:23:36,070 --> 00:23:33,840  
there's a metaphor that's only been

613  
00:23:39,510 --> 00:23:36,080

available to us in the past 30 or 40

614

00:23:41,909 --> 00:23:39,520

years and that's the desktop interface

615

00:23:43,269 --> 00:23:41,919

suppose there's a blue rectangular icon

616

00:23:45,029 --> 00:23:43,279

on the lower right corner of your

617

00:23:47,110 --> 00:23:45,039

computer's desktop

618

00:23:49,269 --> 00:23:47,120

does that mean that the file itself is

619

00:23:51,750 --> 00:23:49,279

blue and rectangular and lives in the

620

00:23:54,070 --> 00:23:51,760

lower right corner of your computer

621

00:23:55,990 --> 00:23:54,080

of course not but those are the only

622

00:23:59,029 --> 00:23:56,000

things that can be asserted about

623

00:24:00,870 --> 00:23:59,039

anything on the desktop it has color

624

00:24:03,110 --> 00:24:00,880

position and shape

625

00:24:05,750 --> 00:24:03,120

those are the only categories available

626  
00:24:08,070 --> 00:24:05,760  
to you and yet none of them are true

627  
00:24:09,110 --> 00:24:08,080  
about the file itself or anything in the

628  
00:24:11,350 --> 00:24:09,120  
computer

629  
00:24:13,510 --> 00:24:11,360  
they couldn't possibly be true

630  
00:24:15,430 --> 00:24:13,520  
that's an interesting thing you could

631  
00:24:17,430 --> 00:24:15,440  
not form a true description of the

632  
00:24:19,669 --> 00:24:17,440  
innards of the computer if your entire

633  
00:24:23,510 --> 00:24:19,679  
view of reality was confined to the

634  
00:24:25,830 --> 00:24:23,520  
desktop and yet the desktop is useful

635  
00:24:28,390 --> 00:24:25,840  
that blue rectangular icon guides my

636  
00:24:30,310 --> 00:24:28,400  
behavior and it hides a complex reality

637  
00:24:33,110 --> 00:24:30,320  
that i don't need to know

638  
00:24:34,950 --> 00:24:33,120

that's the key idea evolution has shaped

639

00:24:38,070 --> 00:24:34,960

us with perceptions that allow us to

640

00:24:40,630 --> 00:24:38,080

survive they guide adaptive behaviors

641

00:24:43,350 --> 00:24:40,640

but part of that involves hiding from us

642

00:24:46,070 --> 00:24:43,360

the stuff we don't need to know and

643

00:24:48,149 --> 00:24:46,080

that's pretty much all of reality

644

00:24:49,909 --> 00:24:48,159

whatever reality might be

645

00:24:53,110 --> 00:24:49,919

if you had to spend all that time

646

00:24:54,549 --> 00:24:53,120

figuring it out the tiger would eat you

647

00:24:56,630 --> 00:24:54,559

unquote

648

00:24:59,110 --> 00:24:56,640

now as hopman points out there the

649

00:25:01,430 --> 00:24:59,120

desktop interface metaphor is a very

650

00:25:04,789 --> 00:25:01,440

useful one because we know that when we

651

00:25:07,110 --> 00:25:04,799

drag a file folder into a trash can so

652

00:25:09,110 --> 00:25:07,120

to speak on our desktop that's not

653

00:25:11,990 --> 00:25:09,120

actually describing what's really going

654

00:25:13,909 --> 00:25:12,000

on in fact it's not even close it's an

655

00:25:16,390 --> 00:25:13,919

approximation that tells us what our

656

00:25:18,789 --> 00:25:16,400

actions will produce in other words it's

657

00:25:20,310 --> 00:25:18,799

a kind of fitness function like we see

658

00:25:21,909 --> 00:25:20,320

with evolution

659

00:25:24,789 --> 00:25:21,919

what's really going on with the computer

660

00:25:27,669 --> 00:25:24,799

behind the scenes involves transistors

661

00:25:29,430 --> 00:25:27,679

and zeros and ones in binary code and of

662

00:25:31,510 --> 00:25:29,440

course that's nothing like what we see

663

00:25:33,750 --> 00:25:31,520

with the desktop interface

664

00:25:37,029 --> 00:25:33,760

it is related but only in a very

665

00:25:39,190 --> 00:25:37,039

abstracted way kind of way

666

00:25:41,830 --> 00:25:39,200

now again i understand that this is hard

667

00:25:43,830 --> 00:25:41,840

to wrap our heads around our intuition

668

00:25:44,950 --> 00:25:43,840

tells us that what we experience is

669

00:25:46,950 --> 00:25:44,960

reality

670

00:25:49,269 --> 00:25:46,960

how else would we conclude anything else

671

00:25:51,750 --> 00:25:49,279

it's all we've ever known and on top of

672

00:25:53,750 --> 00:25:51,760

that we all say the same things about it

673

00:25:56,149 --> 00:25:53,760

when i look at a tree in a forest you

674

00:25:57,669 --> 00:25:56,159

generally see the same tree basically so

675

00:26:00,149 --> 00:25:57,679

that gives us confidence that we're

676  
00:26:02,310 --> 00:26:00,159  
seeing something really there beyond

677  
00:26:04,710 --> 00:26:02,320  
just our perception but again what

678  
00:26:06,950 --> 00:26:04,720  
hoffman's saying is that's not true

679  
00:26:08,789 --> 00:26:06,960  
and in terms of us both seeing the same

680  
00:26:11,350 --> 00:26:08,799  
thing and giving us more confidence

681  
00:26:13,909 --> 00:26:11,360  
therefore that it's real

682  
00:26:15,430 --> 00:26:13,919  
intersubjective agreement does not equal

683  
00:26:17,590 --> 00:26:15,440  
truthfulness

684  
00:26:20,149 --> 00:26:17,600  
because we are the same species sharing

685  
00:26:21,590 --> 00:26:20,159  
the same interface we should expect

686  
00:26:24,789 --> 00:26:21,600  
common ground

687  
00:26:26,710 --> 00:26:24,799  
our bias and lack of additional context

688  
00:26:29,029 --> 00:26:26,720

leads us to believe we are experiencing

689

00:26:31,029 --> 00:26:29,039

reality as it actually is

690

00:26:33,350 --> 00:26:31,039

but again getting back to the desktop

691

00:26:35,269 --> 00:26:33,360

interface metaphor that's akin to

692

00:26:37,909 --> 00:26:35,279

assuming that if we all use microsoft

693

00:26:40,230 --> 00:26:37,919

windows to run our computers that

694

00:26:42,950 --> 00:26:40,240

microsoft windows is fundamental to

695

00:26:45,750 --> 00:26:42,960

computer programming of course it's not

696

00:26:47,990 --> 00:26:45,760

it's just a shared software interface

697

00:26:51,110 --> 00:26:48,000

and what a shock one might find when

698

00:26:53,430 --> 00:26:51,120

stumbling upon ios the apple desktop

699

00:26:56,630 --> 00:26:53,440

interface which presents the reality of

700

00:26:58,950 --> 00:26:56,640

computer experience very differently

701  
00:27:01,830 --> 00:26:58,960  
so again think about this desktop

702  
00:27:03,830 --> 00:27:01,840  
interface metaphor and don't be confused

703  
00:27:06,070 --> 00:27:03,840  
or led astray assuming that just because

704  
00:27:08,390 --> 00:27:06,080  
we all see the same thing generally that

705  
00:27:11,029 --> 00:27:08,400  
that means what we're seeing is real

706  
00:27:13,669 --> 00:27:11,039  
because we are a single species that

707  
00:27:16,390 --> 00:27:13,679  
arose from the same genetic background

708  
00:27:19,190 --> 00:27:16,400  
we have been evolved to see reality in a

709  
00:27:22,389 --> 00:27:19,200  
certain way we share the same paradigm

710  
00:27:24,630 --> 00:27:22,399  
of a conceptual interface and that's it

711  
00:27:26,710 --> 00:27:24,640  
it doesn't say anything about objective

712  
00:27:28,710 --> 00:27:26,720  
reality beyond that

713  
00:27:30,710 --> 00:27:28,720

now later on i'll go into more of the

714

00:27:33,830 --> 00:27:30,720

implications for what this means for the

715

00:27:35,590 --> 00:27:33,840

ufo phenomenon and general paranormality

716

00:27:38,230 --> 00:27:35,600

the encounters human beings apparently

717

00:27:40,870 --> 00:27:38,240

have with non-human others

718

00:27:43,350 --> 00:27:40,880

of course what people often ask is for

719

00:27:45,430 --> 00:27:43,360

abduction experiences for instance are

720

00:27:46,870 --> 00:27:45,440

they actually real or is it just

721

00:27:49,269 --> 00:27:46,880

happening in their so-called

722

00:27:51,590 --> 00:27:49,279

consciousness is it more like a dream

723

00:27:53,350 --> 00:27:51,600

state as opposed to real

724

00:27:55,269 --> 00:27:53,360

but of course we realize when we think

725

00:27:57,110 --> 00:27:55,279

about the implications of what hoffman

726  
00:27:59,510 --> 00:27:57,120  
is proposing here

727  
00:28:01,830 --> 00:27:59,520  
that reality itself is not what we think

728  
00:28:04,310 --> 00:28:01,840  
it is when we say is something real all

729  
00:28:06,870 --> 00:28:04,320  
we're really saying is is it happening

730  
00:28:08,149 --> 00:28:06,880  
in our usual desktop interface kind of

731  
00:28:10,710 --> 00:28:08,159  
environment

732  
00:28:13,430 --> 00:28:10,720  
and if it's a very advanced intelligence

733  
00:28:15,510 --> 00:28:13,440  
a non-human intelligence an alien

734  
00:28:17,350 --> 00:28:15,520  
intelligence alien to the desktop

735  
00:28:19,029 --> 00:28:17,360  
interface we all share

736  
00:28:21,190 --> 00:28:19,039  
then of course it's not necessarily

737  
00:28:24,070 --> 00:28:21,200  
going to render in the same way that

738  
00:28:25,190 --> 00:28:24,080

icons usual to the desktop interface

739

00:28:26,710 --> 00:28:25,200

render

740

00:28:29,190 --> 00:28:26,720

i know this is hard to wrap our heads

741

00:28:31,510 --> 00:28:29,200

around but it's key and i think this

742

00:28:33,430 --> 00:28:31,520

opens up interesting avenues to pursue

743

00:28:34,630 --> 00:28:33,440

in terms of explaining some of the high

744

00:28:36,389 --> 00:28:34,640

strangeness

745

00:28:38,870 --> 00:28:36,399

some of the ways that these others seem

746

00:28:41,110 --> 00:28:38,880

to show up in ways that defy the rule

747

00:28:42,549 --> 00:28:41,120

set of our reality

748

00:28:44,950 --> 00:28:42,559

especially when you think about our

749

00:28:46,630 --> 00:28:44,960

reality more like a virtual reality that

750

00:28:48,230 --> 00:28:46,640

we all share

751

00:28:50,470 --> 00:28:48,240

let's get back to that interview in

752

00:28:51,669 --> 00:28:50,480

quantum magazine that helps flesh us out

753

00:28:54,070 --> 00:28:51,679

a little more

754

00:28:56,230 --> 00:28:54,080

the interviewer asks so everything we

755

00:28:58,389 --> 00:28:56,240

see is one big illusion

756

00:29:00,310 --> 00:28:58,399

and hoffman responds

757

00:29:02,549 --> 00:29:00,320

we've been shaped to have perceptions

758

00:29:05,029 --> 00:29:02,559

that keep us alive so we have to take

759

00:29:08,070 --> 00:29:05,039

them seriously if i see something that i

760

00:29:10,389 --> 00:29:08,080

think of as a snake i don't pick it up

761

00:29:13,269 --> 00:29:10,399

if i see a train i don't step in front

762

00:29:15,590 --> 00:29:13,279

of it i've evolved these symbols to keep

763

00:29:18,389 --> 00:29:15,600

me alive so i have to take them

764

00:29:19,830 --> 00:29:18,399

seriously but it's a logical flaw to

765

00:29:22,070 --> 00:29:19,840

think that if we have to take it

766

00:29:23,510 --> 00:29:22,080

seriously we also have to take it

767

00:29:25,830 --> 00:29:23,520

literally

768

00:29:28,230 --> 00:29:25,840

then the interviewer asks if snakes

769

00:29:29,430 --> 00:29:28,240

aren't snakes and trains aren't trained

770

00:29:31,269 --> 00:29:29,440

what are they

771

00:29:33,510 --> 00:29:31,279

and hoffman responds

772

00:29:36,230 --> 00:29:33,520

snakes and trains like the particles of

773

00:29:39,110 --> 00:29:36,240

physics have no objective observer

774

00:29:41,269 --> 00:29:39,120

independent features the snake i see is

775

00:29:43,750 --> 00:29:41,279

a description created by my sensory

776  
00:29:46,310 --> 00:29:43,760  
system to inform me of the fitness

777  
00:29:48,870 --> 00:29:46,320  
consequences of my actions

778  
00:29:50,789 --> 00:29:48,880  
evolution shapes acceptable solutions

779  
00:29:53,110 --> 00:29:50,799  
not optimal ones

780  
00:29:55,430 --> 00:29:53,120  
a snake is an acceptable solution to the

781  
00:29:56,870 --> 00:29:55,440  
problem of telling me how to act in a

782  
00:29:58,950 --> 00:29:56,880  
situation

783  
00:30:01,510 --> 00:29:58,960  
my snakes and trains are my mental

784  
00:30:03,750 --> 00:30:01,520  
representations your snakes and trains

785  
00:30:05,190 --> 00:30:03,760  
are your mental representations

786  
00:30:06,950 --> 00:30:05,200  
unquote

787  
00:30:09,190 --> 00:30:06,960  
now earlier on when we were talking

788  
00:30:10,149 --> 00:30:09,200

about the work of jacques villa and john

789

00:30:12,789 --> 00:30:10,159

keel

790

00:30:15,110 --> 00:30:12,799

i mentioned how new hypotheses rolled

791

00:30:17,990 --> 00:30:15,120

out as our understanding of reality

792

00:30:21,029 --> 00:30:18,000

became more complex and offered up new

793

00:30:23,269 --> 00:30:21,039

potential avenues for sources for some

794

00:30:25,510 --> 00:30:23,279

of these non-human others we were

795

00:30:27,430 --> 00:30:25,520

apparently interacting with

796

00:30:30,070 --> 00:30:27,440

but that said when you think of each of

797

00:30:33,029 --> 00:30:30,080

the common hypotheses we see banteed

798

00:30:34,950 --> 00:30:33,039

about they generally are based in an

799

00:30:37,510 --> 00:30:34,960

understanding that space-time is

800

00:30:40,149 --> 00:30:37,520

foundational that somehow space-time is

801  
00:30:42,149 --> 00:30:40,159  
an accurate description of reality

802  
00:30:43,830 --> 00:30:42,159  
even when we talk about a multiverse and

803  
00:30:46,789 --> 00:30:43,840  
the idea that there may be many

804  
00:30:48,230 --> 00:30:46,799  
universes within a totality and that

805  
00:30:49,990 --> 00:30:48,240  
some of these others may be coming from

806  
00:30:52,070 --> 00:30:50,000  
an alternate earth or some other

807  
00:30:54,310 --> 00:30:52,080  
alternate dimension

808  
00:30:55,669 --> 00:30:54,320  
physically we're still thinking in terms

809  
00:30:57,590 --> 00:30:55,679  
of space time

810  
00:31:00,310 --> 00:30:57,600  
but one of the interesting implications

811  
00:31:01,990 --> 00:31:00,320  
of hoffman's work is its space time is

812  
00:31:03,750 --> 00:31:02,000  
not really real

813  
00:31:06,070 --> 00:31:03,760

and just to be clear it's not just

814

00:31:08,149 --> 00:31:06,080

hoffman who's saying this there are many

815

00:31:10,389 --> 00:31:08,159

physicists cutting-edge physicists at

816

00:31:12,310 --> 00:31:10,399

the leading edge of their field who are

817

00:31:14,310 --> 00:31:12,320

recognizing the same thing

818

00:31:16,310 --> 00:31:14,320

for instance nathan seberg of the

819

00:31:17,110 --> 00:31:16,320

institute of advanced study at princeton

820

00:31:19,830 --> 00:31:17,120

said

821

00:31:22,310 --> 00:31:19,840

i quote i am almost certain that space

822

00:31:24,389 --> 00:31:22,320

and time are illusions these are

823

00:31:28,149 --> 00:31:24,399

primitive notions that will be replaced

824

00:31:30,310 --> 00:31:28,159

by something more sophisticated unquote

825

00:31:33,430 --> 00:31:30,320

and hoffman goes on to say in his book

826  
00:31:36,230 --> 00:31:33,440  
quote physicists realize that space-time

827  
00:31:39,190 --> 00:31:36,240  
is doomed space-time cannot be

828  
00:31:42,070 --> 00:31:39,200  
foundational in physics a new theory is

829  
00:31:44,470 --> 00:31:42,080  
required in which space-time objects

830  
00:31:46,789 --> 00:31:44,480  
their properties and their fiction of

831  
00:31:49,830 --> 00:31:46,799  
cause and effect sprout from a more

832  
00:31:51,350 --> 00:31:49,840  
primordial ground unquote

833  
00:31:53,350 --> 00:31:51,360  
so let's make that really clear he's

834  
00:31:56,070 --> 00:31:53,360  
saying that physicists are realizing

835  
00:31:58,389 --> 00:31:56,080  
this that space-time as a conceptual

836  
00:32:01,190 --> 00:31:58,399  
notion to describe our reality from a

837  
00:32:03,909 --> 00:32:01,200  
foundational point of view cannot stand

838  
00:32:06,950 --> 00:32:03,919

it is largely untenable at this point we

839

00:32:08,870 --> 00:32:06,960

need something else which gives life to

840

00:32:11,029 --> 00:32:08,880

which creates an epiphenomenon something

841

00:32:14,230 --> 00:32:11,039

that comes from it that looks like

842

00:32:17,430 --> 00:32:14,240

space-time objects their properties and

843

00:32:18,789 --> 00:32:17,440

the fiction of cause and effect

844

00:32:20,789 --> 00:32:18,799

very interesting there because when you

845

00:32:22,870 --> 00:32:20,799

think about synchronicity different

846

00:32:24,789 --> 00:32:22,880

elements of high strangeness that we've

847

00:32:27,029 --> 00:32:24,799

noted that i've experienced many many

848

00:32:29,269 --> 00:32:27,039

times almost on an increasing level over

849

00:32:31,830 --> 00:32:29,279

time we have some understanding of how

850

00:32:34,389 --> 00:32:31,840

that can be going on because again usual

851  
00:32:36,630 --> 00:32:34,399  
cause and effect is more like a kind of

852  
00:32:39,350 --> 00:32:36,640  
action within our interface something

853  
00:32:41,350 --> 00:32:39,360  
more primary is what's really going on

854  
00:32:44,630 --> 00:32:41,360  
and here we might remember what einstein

855  
00:32:46,789 --> 00:32:44,640  
said of these matters he said i quote

856  
00:32:49,190 --> 00:32:46,799  
time and space are modes by which we

857  
00:32:50,149 --> 00:32:49,200  
think and not conditions in which we

858  
00:32:51,990 --> 00:32:50,159  
live

859  
00:32:54,070 --> 00:32:52,000  
unquote

860  
00:32:57,269 --> 00:32:54,080  
okay so this really comes down to a

861  
00:32:59,350 --> 00:32:57,279  
notion like realism being undone

862  
00:33:01,269 --> 00:32:59,360  
this is what hoffman has to say in that

863  
00:33:04,389 --> 00:33:01,279

regard quote

864

00:33:05,990 --> 00:33:04,399

i want to propose that realism is false

865

00:33:08,230 --> 00:33:06,000

and what we're seeing is more like a

866

00:33:09,350 --> 00:33:08,240

user interface or a virtual reality

867

00:33:11,110 --> 00:33:09,360

headset

868

00:33:13,590 --> 00:33:11,120

think about a virtual reality game of

869

00:33:15,830 --> 00:33:13,600

tennis you're playing vr tennis with a

870

00:33:18,070 --> 00:33:15,840

friend you both have your headset and

871

00:33:20,230 --> 00:33:18,080

body suits on you see your friend's

872

00:33:22,630 --> 00:33:20,240

avatar on a tennis court and you start

873

00:33:24,950 --> 00:33:22,640

playing your friend hits the tennis ball

874

00:33:27,269 --> 00:33:24,960

to you and you hit the tennis ball back

875

00:33:29,110 --> 00:33:27,279

to your friend but is your friend seeing

876  
00:33:29,990 --> 00:33:29,120  
exactly the same tennis ball that you're

877  
00:33:32,230 --> 00:33:30,000  
seeing

878  
00:33:34,950 --> 00:33:32,240  
well of course not there's no public

879  
00:33:37,750 --> 00:33:34,960  
tennis ball you have some photons being

880  
00:33:39,830 --> 00:33:37,760  
sprayed to your eye by your headset and

881  
00:33:42,389 --> 00:33:39,840  
those photons are causing your visual

882  
00:33:45,110 --> 00:33:42,399  
system to create your own perception of

883  
00:33:47,269 --> 00:33:45,120  
what you would call a green tennis ball

884  
00:33:49,750 --> 00:33:47,279  
your friend has a headset on which is

885  
00:33:51,830 --> 00:33:49,760  
spraying photons to his eye and his

886  
00:33:54,149 --> 00:33:51,840  
visual system is creating his own green

887  
00:33:55,669 --> 00:33:54,159  
tennis ball perception

888  
00:33:58,710 --> 00:33:55,679

it turns out that both of these

889

00:33:59,590 --> 00:33:58,720

perceptions are coordinated by something

890

00:34:01,990 --> 00:33:59,600

else

891

00:34:04,789 --> 00:34:02,000

namely a super computer that's sending

892

00:34:07,750 --> 00:34:04,799

the photons to both headsets causing

893

00:34:09,669 --> 00:34:07,760

both headsets to work in coordination

894

00:34:11,909 --> 00:34:09,679

all the things that we would do to say

895

00:34:14,310 --> 00:34:11,919

that objects really exist even when

896

00:34:15,990 --> 00:34:14,320

they're not perceived hold here in

897

00:34:17,510 --> 00:34:16,000

virtual reality

898

00:34:20,389 --> 00:34:17,520

that doesn't mean that the tennis ball

899

00:34:22,790 --> 00:34:20,399

exists and has any physical properties

900

00:34:25,430 --> 00:34:22,800

when it's not perceived it just means

901  
00:34:26,629 --> 00:34:25,440  
that there is some objective reality

902  
00:34:28,790 --> 00:34:26,639  
unquote

903  
00:34:30,550 --> 00:34:28,800  
and so from all this from all these

904  
00:34:32,069 --> 00:34:30,560  
implications of the research that

905  
00:34:33,829 --> 00:34:32,079  
hoffman has done and again i want to

906  
00:34:36,389 --> 00:34:33,839  
make it clear these are based on

907  
00:34:38,869 --> 00:34:36,399  
mathematical theorems this is not just

908  
00:34:40,710 --> 00:34:38,879  
postulation the reason why it's so hard

909  
00:34:43,190 --> 00:34:40,720  
to really reckon with this is because

910  
00:34:45,030 --> 00:34:43,200  
it's so counter-intuitive not because

911  
00:34:46,869 --> 00:34:45,040  
it's not well supported by the evidence

912  
00:34:48,710 --> 00:34:46,879  
it really is

913  
00:34:52,230 --> 00:34:48,720

but again from hoffman's point of view

914

00:34:54,710 --> 00:34:52,240

he sees consciousness as primary and

915

00:34:57,109 --> 00:34:54,720

aspects like matter and energy are epi

916

00:34:59,589 --> 00:34:57,119

phenomena within consciousness and not

917

00:35:02,230 --> 00:34:59,599

the other way around as reductionistic

918

00:35:04,550 --> 00:35:02,240

materialism would have you believe and

919

00:35:07,430 --> 00:35:04,560

so what hoffman proposes is something he

920

00:35:09,349 --> 00:35:07,440

calls conscious realism which he defines

921

00:35:12,230 --> 00:35:09,359

like this quote

922

00:35:14,710 --> 00:35:12,240

conscious realism makes a bold claim

923

00:35:17,829 --> 00:35:14,720

consciousness not space-time and its

924

00:35:20,310 --> 00:35:17,839

objects is fundamental reality and is

925

00:35:22,870 --> 00:35:20,320

probably described as a network of

926

00:35:25,190 --> 00:35:22,880

conscious agents to earn its keep

927

00:35:27,910 --> 00:35:25,200

conscious realism must do serious work

928

00:35:30,310 --> 00:35:27,920

ahead it must ground a theory of quantum

929

00:35:32,950 --> 00:35:30,320

gravity explain the emergence of our

930

00:35:34,790 --> 00:35:32,960

space-time interface and its objects

931

00:35:37,190 --> 00:35:34,800

explain the appearance of darwinian

932

00:35:39,589 --> 00:35:37,200

evolution within that interface and

933

00:35:41,430 --> 00:35:39,599

explain the evolutionary emergence of

934

00:35:42,870 --> 00:35:41,440

human psychology

935

00:35:45,349 --> 00:35:42,880

unquote

936

00:35:47,109 --> 00:35:45,359

now this is key what he's saying is

937

00:35:49,990 --> 00:35:47,119

whenever you postulate something a

938

00:35:53,190 --> 00:35:50,000

hypothesis you begin with certain axioms

939

00:35:55,270 --> 00:35:53,200

certain givens you say give me this and

940

00:35:57,109 --> 00:35:55,280

from that if i can spin up everything

941

00:35:59,750 --> 00:35:57,119

else in reality then there's a lot of

942

00:36:01,510 --> 00:35:59,760

explanatory power behind my hypothesis

943

00:36:03,910 --> 00:36:01,520

behind my model

944

00:36:07,109 --> 00:36:03,920

and believe me there are just as many of

945

00:36:09,910 --> 00:36:07,119

these axioms these unproven aspects of

946

00:36:11,190 --> 00:36:09,920

reality that are behind reductionistic

947

00:36:12,950 --> 00:36:11,200

materialism

948

00:36:15,430 --> 00:36:12,960

what hoffman is saying is

949

00:36:17,190 --> 00:36:15,440

give me consciousness let's begin there

950

00:36:20,230 --> 00:36:17,200

and if this is really pointing to

951  
00:36:22,470 --> 00:36:20,240  
reality as it really is then from it i

952  
00:36:25,510 --> 00:36:22,480  
should be able to spin up space-time

953  
00:36:27,430 --> 00:36:25,520  
human psychology quantum gravity and the

954  
00:36:30,150 --> 00:36:27,440  
like and that's exactly what he's

955  
00:36:31,750 --> 00:36:30,160  
pursuing now in his ongoing work

956  
00:36:33,190 --> 00:36:31,760  
and now i'd like to offer up a few

957  
00:36:34,950 --> 00:36:33,200  
concluding thoughts for your

958  
00:36:37,349 --> 00:36:34,960  
consideration

959  
00:36:39,670 --> 00:36:37,359  
as i've been saying this whole notion is

960  
00:36:42,310 --> 00:36:39,680  
certainly counter-intuitive

961  
00:36:44,150 --> 00:36:42,320  
but how could it not be after all

962  
00:36:46,470 --> 00:36:44,160  
imagine you were born with a virtual

963  
00:36:49,030 --> 00:36:46,480

reality headset on and spent your entire

964

00:36:51,589 --> 00:36:49,040

life that way and assume everyone around

965

00:36:53,829 --> 00:36:51,599

you from your species had on that same

966

00:36:55,829 --> 00:36:53,839

headset or that same kind of headset

967

00:36:57,990 --> 00:36:55,839

from a shared interface

968

00:36:59,349 --> 00:36:58,000

referencing the same virtual reality

969

00:37:01,990 --> 00:36:59,359

worldscape

970

00:37:04,870 --> 00:37:02,000

of course that would seem and feel real

971

00:37:06,870 --> 00:37:04,880

fundamental how could it not it's all

972

00:37:09,670 --> 00:37:06,880

you and everyone around you that you can

973

00:37:12,310 --> 00:37:09,680

communicate with has ever known

974

00:37:13,109 --> 00:37:12,320

that's point number one now point number

975

00:37:14,550 --> 00:37:13,119

two

976

00:37:16,950 --> 00:37:14,560

someone might argue that this leans

977

00:37:18,150 --> 00:37:16,960

heavily on the evolution by natural

978

00:37:21,589 --> 00:37:18,160

selection

979

00:37:23,589 --> 00:37:21,599

that theory holds sway in this model

980

00:37:25,750 --> 00:37:23,599

now what hoffman would say is there

981

00:37:27,829 --> 00:37:25,760

probably is something more primary than

982

00:37:29,990 --> 00:37:27,839

what looks to us like evolution by

983

00:37:31,990 --> 00:37:30,000

natural selection but nevertheless

984

00:37:34,390 --> 00:37:32,000

that's the way it appears in our desktop

985

00:37:36,950 --> 00:37:34,400

interface and it is pointing it like a

986

00:37:39,030 --> 00:37:36,960

road map towards something that is real

987

00:37:41,990 --> 00:37:39,040

that is fundamental that is evolving

988

00:37:44,630 --> 00:37:42,000

consciousness itself

989

00:37:48,069 --> 00:37:44,640

thirdly hoffman suggests reality as it

990

00:37:49,030 --> 00:37:48,079

really is is absolutely teeming with

991

00:37:51,349 --> 00:37:49,040

life

992

00:37:53,349 --> 00:37:51,359

but that we haven't found it and this is

993

00:37:54,390 --> 00:37:53,359

of course described in the fermi paradox

994

00:37:56,710 --> 00:37:54,400

which says

995

00:37:59,109 --> 00:37:56,720

if the universe is so huge and if there

996

00:38:00,790 --> 00:37:59,119

should be plenty of planets with the

997

00:38:03,270 --> 00:38:00,800

environmental conditions that would give

998

00:38:05,510 --> 00:38:03,280

birth to life why haven't we found it

999

00:38:08,310 --> 00:38:05,520

why haven't we come across space-faring

1000

00:38:10,390 --> 00:38:08,320

civilizations or found them with seti

1001  
00:38:12,310 --> 00:38:10,400  
and whatnot and he's arguing that it's

1002  
00:38:15,030 --> 00:38:12,320  
because we're looking in all the wrong

1003  
00:38:18,150 --> 00:38:15,040  
places that the space-time construct

1004  
00:38:20,790 --> 00:38:18,160  
itself is part of our interface and he's

1005  
00:38:23,670 --> 00:38:20,800  
saying that actually the outer reality

1006  
00:38:25,349 --> 00:38:23,680  
beyond that interface is likely teeming

1007  
00:38:27,910 --> 00:38:25,359  
with life and again not just because he

1008  
00:38:28,870 --> 00:38:27,920  
wishes it to be the case he thinks this

1009  
00:38:30,470 --> 00:38:28,880  
model

1010  
00:38:32,310 --> 00:38:30,480  
again based on evolution of

1011  
00:38:35,430 --> 00:38:32,320  
consciousness and consciousness being

1012  
00:38:37,589 --> 00:38:35,440  
primary would give birth to a myriad

1013  
00:38:39,349 --> 00:38:37,599

number of consciousnesses but again

1014

00:38:40,470 --> 00:38:39,359

we've just been looking in the wrong

1015

00:38:42,630 --> 00:38:40,480

place

1016

00:38:44,550 --> 00:38:42,640

we need to look outside of our construct

1017

00:38:46,950 --> 00:38:44,560

to find them

1018

00:38:49,510 --> 00:38:46,960

now do we have any hope of being able to

1019

00:38:51,910 --> 00:38:49,520

look beyond the confines of our own

1020

00:38:53,750 --> 00:38:51,920

desktop interface which is space time as

1021

00:38:56,710 --> 00:38:53,760

we're talking about today

1022

00:38:57,990 --> 00:38:56,720

well fascinatingly hoffman believes yes

1023

00:39:03,430 --> 00:38:58,000

we can

1024

00:39:05,829 --> 00:39:03,440

ai as it were that allows us to hack out

1025

00:39:08,790 --> 00:39:05,839

of the construct and therefore make

1026

00:39:11,349 --> 00:39:08,800

contact with these numerous others these

1027

00:39:13,349 --> 00:39:11,359

other intelligences these aliens beyond

1028

00:39:16,230 --> 00:39:13,359

the construct that he believes are

1029

00:39:19,190 --> 00:39:16,240

literally all around us

1030

00:39:21,349 --> 00:39:19,200

now a fascinating notion to consider

1031

00:39:23,270 --> 00:39:21,359

is that these others the aliens we've

1032

00:39:24,230 --> 00:39:23,280

been interacting with or at least some

1033

00:39:27,030 --> 00:39:24,240

of them

1034

00:39:29,430 --> 00:39:27,040

may have already arrived at just such

1035

00:39:32,630 --> 00:39:29,440

technological prowess and this has

1036

00:39:34,390 --> 00:39:32,640

allowed them to hack in to our shared

1037

00:39:36,390 --> 00:39:34,400

virtual reality

1038

00:39:38,550 --> 00:39:36,400

if indeed this is about an outside

1039

00:39:41,109 --> 00:39:38,560

intelligence hacking into our shared

1040

00:39:43,829 --> 00:39:41,119

virtual reality our shared desktop

1041

00:39:44,550 --> 00:39:43,839

interface which is space time as we know

1042

00:39:46,870 --> 00:39:44,560

it

1043

00:39:48,790 --> 00:39:46,880

this goes a long way towards potentially

1044

00:39:51,430 --> 00:39:48,800

explaining much of the very high

1045

00:39:52,790 --> 00:39:51,440

strangeness that is so long left us

1046

00:39:54,630 --> 00:39:52,800

perplexed

1047

00:39:57,190 --> 00:39:54,640

after all if what we have long

1048

00:39:59,910 --> 00:39:57,200

considered objective reality is more

1049

00:40:02,870 --> 00:39:59,920

like a long-running program than using

1050

00:40:05,109 --> 00:40:02,880

that same metaphor a hyper-intelligence

1051

00:40:07,829 --> 00:40:05,119

could hack that program producing

1052

00:40:10,230 --> 00:40:07,839

phenomena that appear startling bizarre

1053

00:40:12,390 --> 00:40:10,240

and sometimes even absurd to those

1054

00:40:15,349 --> 00:40:12,400

living according to the rule set of that

1055

00:40:18,150 --> 00:40:15,359

particular virtual reality program

1056

00:40:20,710 --> 00:40:18,160

the rule set we live according to again

1057

00:40:23,589 --> 00:40:20,720

has been shaped by evolution it is not

1058

00:40:26,470 --> 00:40:23,599

any more ultimately real than the set of

1059

00:40:29,109 --> 00:40:26,480

a video game and as such an outside

1060

00:40:32,069 --> 00:40:29,119

intelligence could hack that system and

1061

00:40:35,109 --> 00:40:32,079

play by rules that defy and bewilder the

1062

00:40:36,309 --> 00:40:35,119

expectations of those existing within

1063

00:40:39,349 --> 00:40:36,319

the system

1064

00:40:42,069 --> 00:40:39,359

i.e us

1065

00:40:43,910 --> 00:40:42,079

and on that note we've come to the close

1066

00:40:45,829 --> 00:40:43,920

of another edition of the point of

1067

00:40:47,829 --> 00:40:45,839

convergence podcast

1068

00:40:51,349 --> 00:40:47,839

if you'd like to support this podcast

1069

00:40:51,359 --> 00:40:53,430

exo patreon.com

1070

00:40:57,349 --> 00:40:55,589

but until next time friends from deep

1071

00:40:58,550 --> 00:40:57,359

within the blue ridge mountains of north

1072

00:41:02,330 --> 00:40:58,560

carolina

1073

00:41:08,790 --> 00:41:02,340

this is exo academian signing out