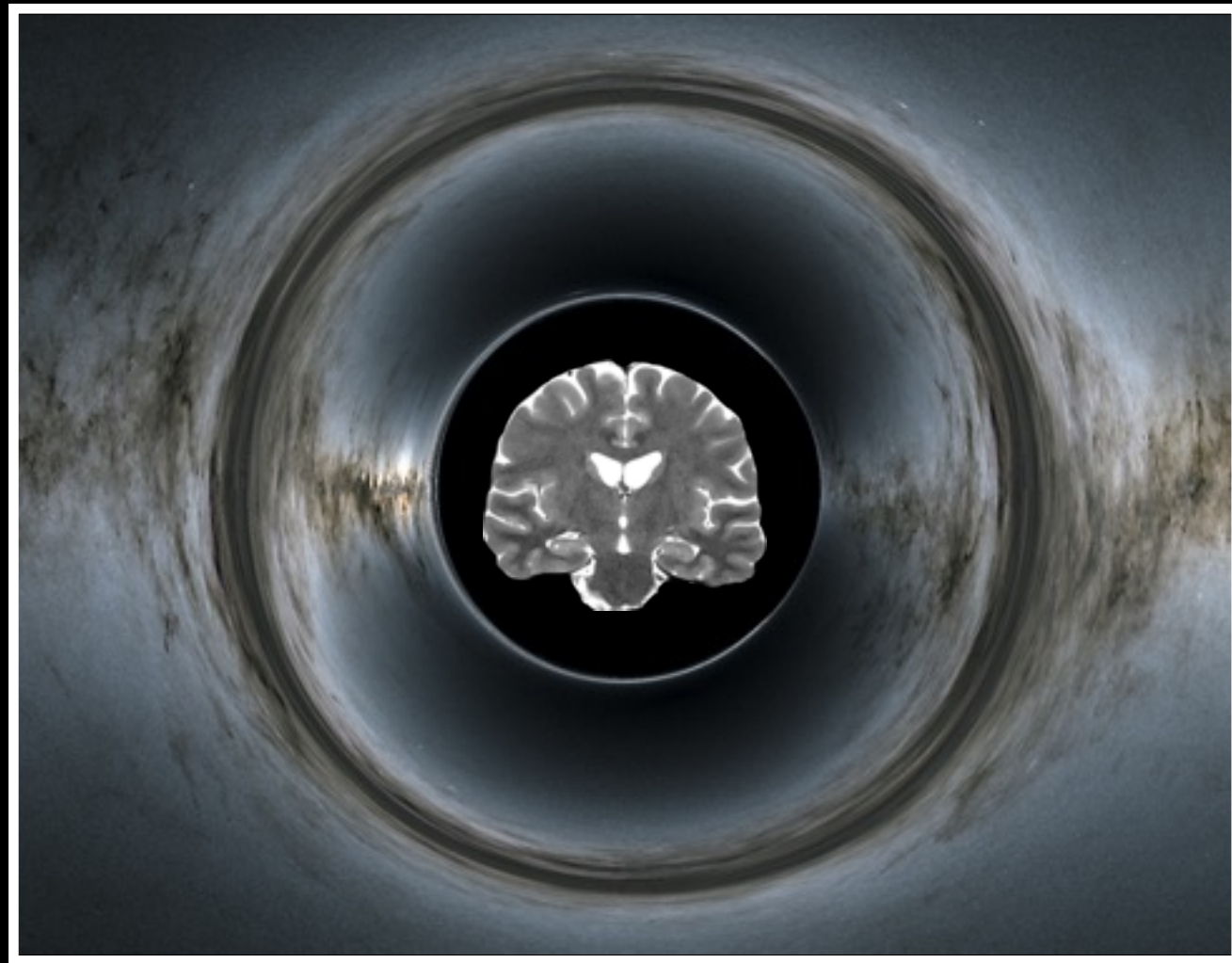
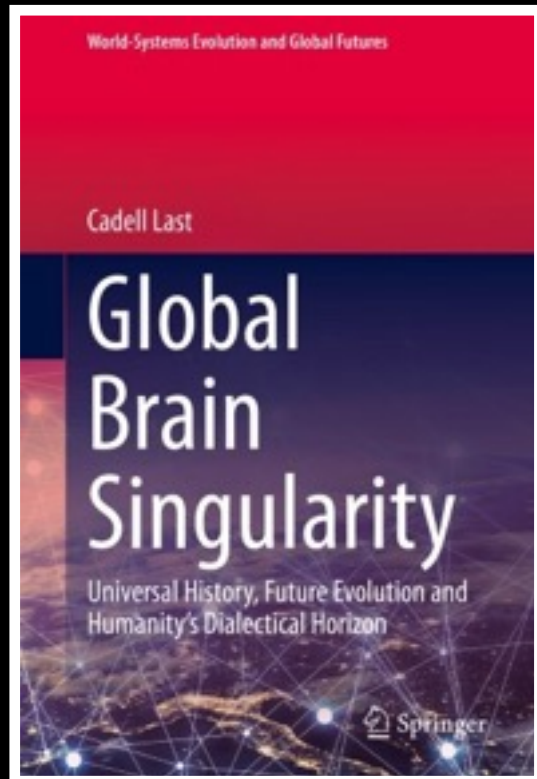


# The Difference Between Psychoanalysis and Neuroscience

Irreducibility of Absence to Brain States



## Doctoral thesis:



Future technic  
potential from  
perspective  
of subjectivity

## Popular book:

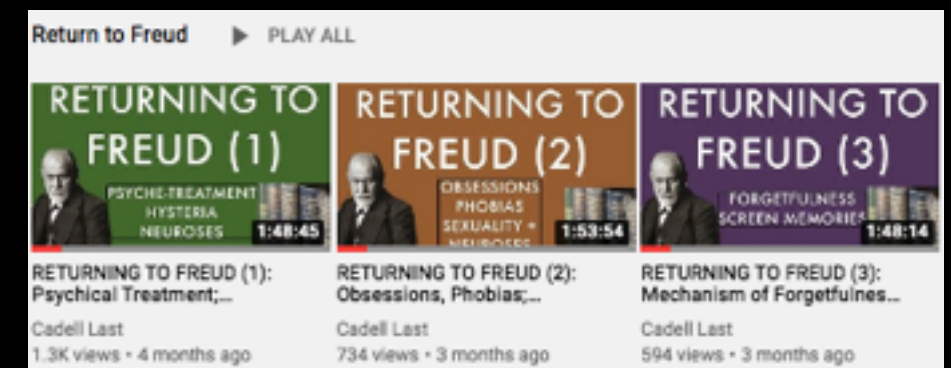


dialectical triologue:  
sexual tension;  
gender paradox;  
metaphysical mystery

## YouTube philosophy:



Psychoanalytically-informed philosophy  
of sexuality/metaphysics (Freud, Lacan)



## Dialectical thinking:



The art of dialectical logic for personal  
development: embodying contradictions

[cadelllast.com](http://cadelllast.com)

## Psychedelic Psychotherapy:



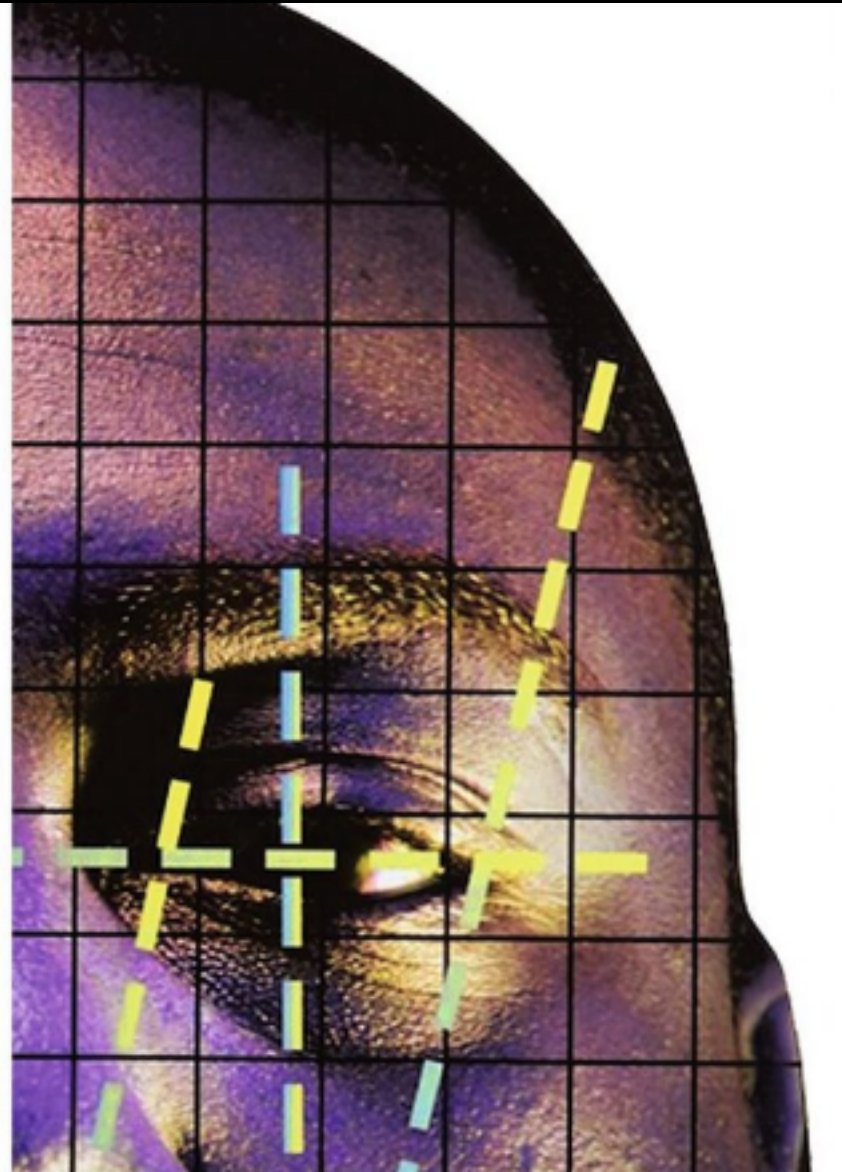
talk therapy/free association +  
reduction/elimination of ego defences

1. PIPOL Conference
2. Neuroscience/Psychoanalysis
3. Neuropsychanalysis?
4. Hard Problem of Consciousness
5. Philosophy of Absence/Nothing
6. Neuropsychanalysis



**PIPOL 9**  
5th European  
Congress of Psychoanalysis

**THE  
UNCONSCIOUS  
AND  
THE BRAIN  
NOTHING  
IN COMMON**



July 13, 14 2019  
Brussels, Belgium

Freudo-Lacanian orientation,  
central thesis of conference:  
brain of neuroscience,  
unconscious of psychoanalysis,  
have “nothing in common”



# Neuroscience

correlate of subjectivity:  
materiality of brain



“present form”; form-function  
of nervous system (cognitive,  
evolutionary)



# Psychoanalysis

correlate of subjectivity:  
unconscious desire



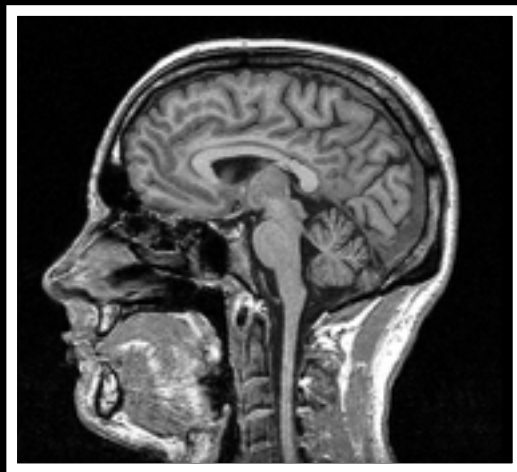
“absent anti-form”; frustrated  
uncensored subjective speech  
(indifferent negativity)





# Neuroscience

correlate of subjectivity:  
materiality of brain



“present form”; form-function  
of nervous system (cognitive,  
evolutionary)



## Philosophical presuppositions for truth of subjectivity:

External or third-person  
objective view (“neuroscience”)

Human qualities explained by  
unique “neuronal mechanisms”

Psychoanalytic unconscious to  
“neuronal unconscious”

## Philosophical presuppositions for truth of subjectivity:

First-person subjective point  
of view as irreducible to truth of  
thought and emotion

Knowledge mediated by subject  
and its material conditions  
(dialectics: in-itself, for-itself)

Brain as constructed image;  
temporal moment of historical  
subjectivity (Dasein)

## Psychoanalysis

correlate of subjectivity:  
unconscious desire



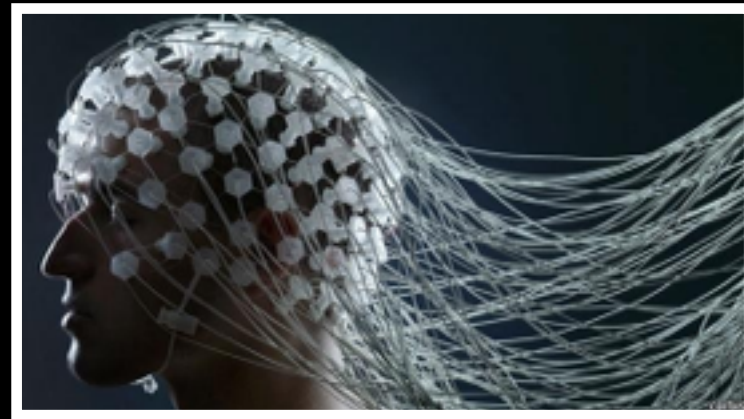
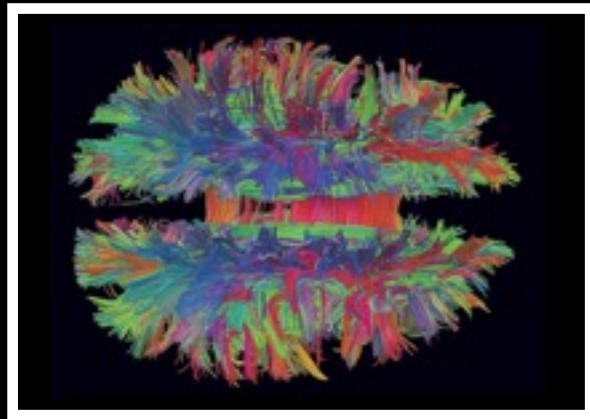
“absent anti-form”; frustrated  
uncensored subjective speech  
(indifferent negativity)



# Neuro-psychoanalysis?

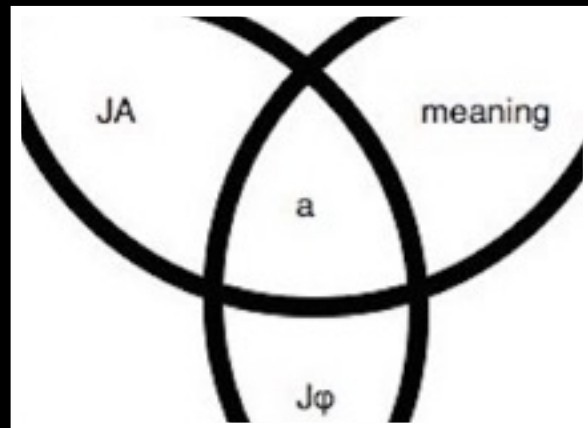
## Neuroscience:

claims universal relevance to all first-person subjectivity;  
mapping the brain (i.e. connectome etc.); technical brain  
enhancement (i.e. brain-computer interface etc.)



## Psychoanalysis:

claims third-person universality in particular singularity;  
subjective desire as unavoidable/impossible (i.e. unconscious wish  
fulfillment, objet petit a); metaphysics of sex-death (i.e. non-Other)





# Neuro-psychoanalysis?

Conventional ideology:

Modern advances in neuroscience replace need for psychoanalysis

Psychoanalytic ideology:

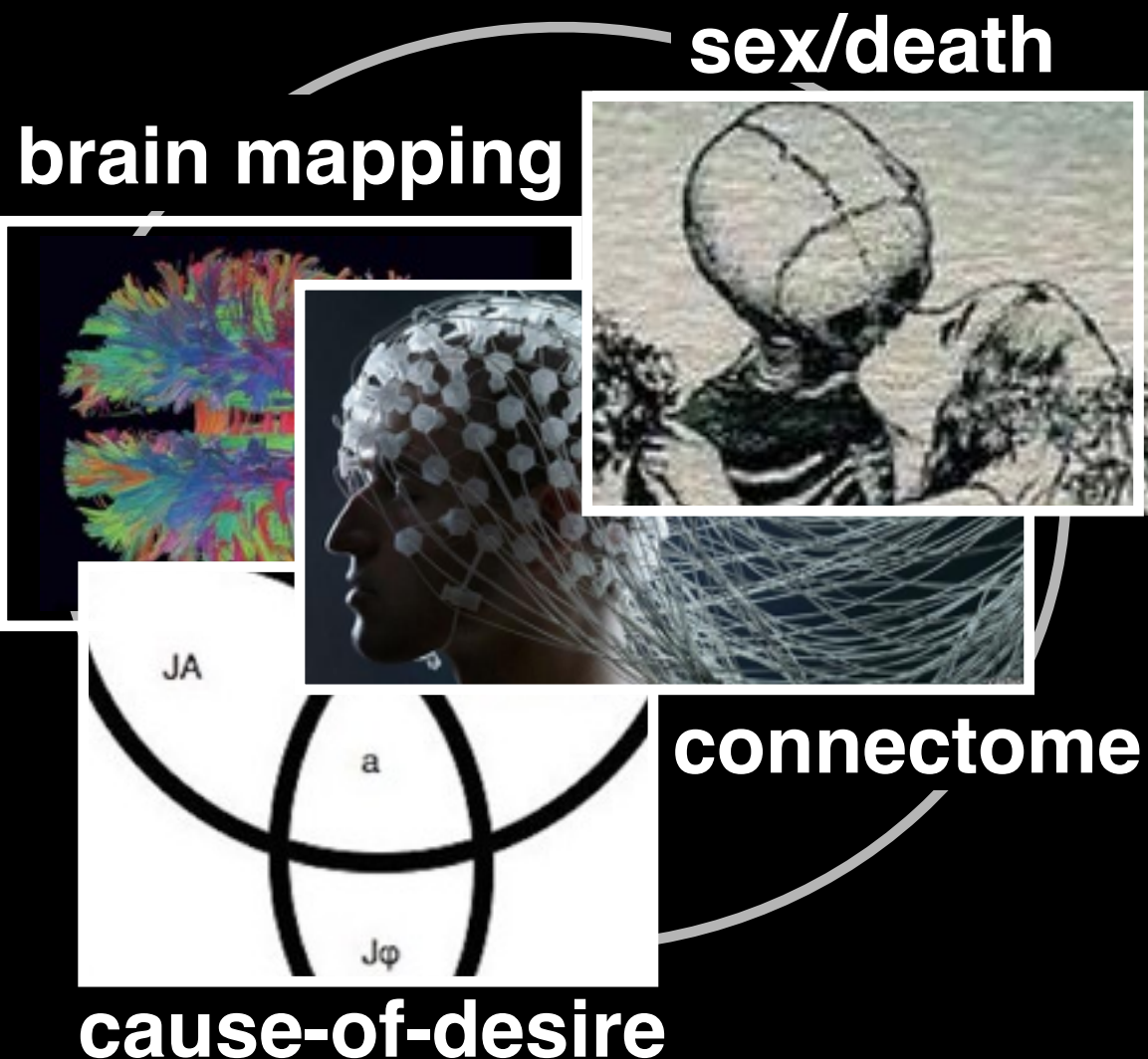
Psychoanalytic theory and practice has no relation to neuroscience



Neuropsychanalysis:

How can psychoanalytic theory/practice inform development of neuroscience?

How do advances in neuroscience effect psychoanalytic theory/practice?

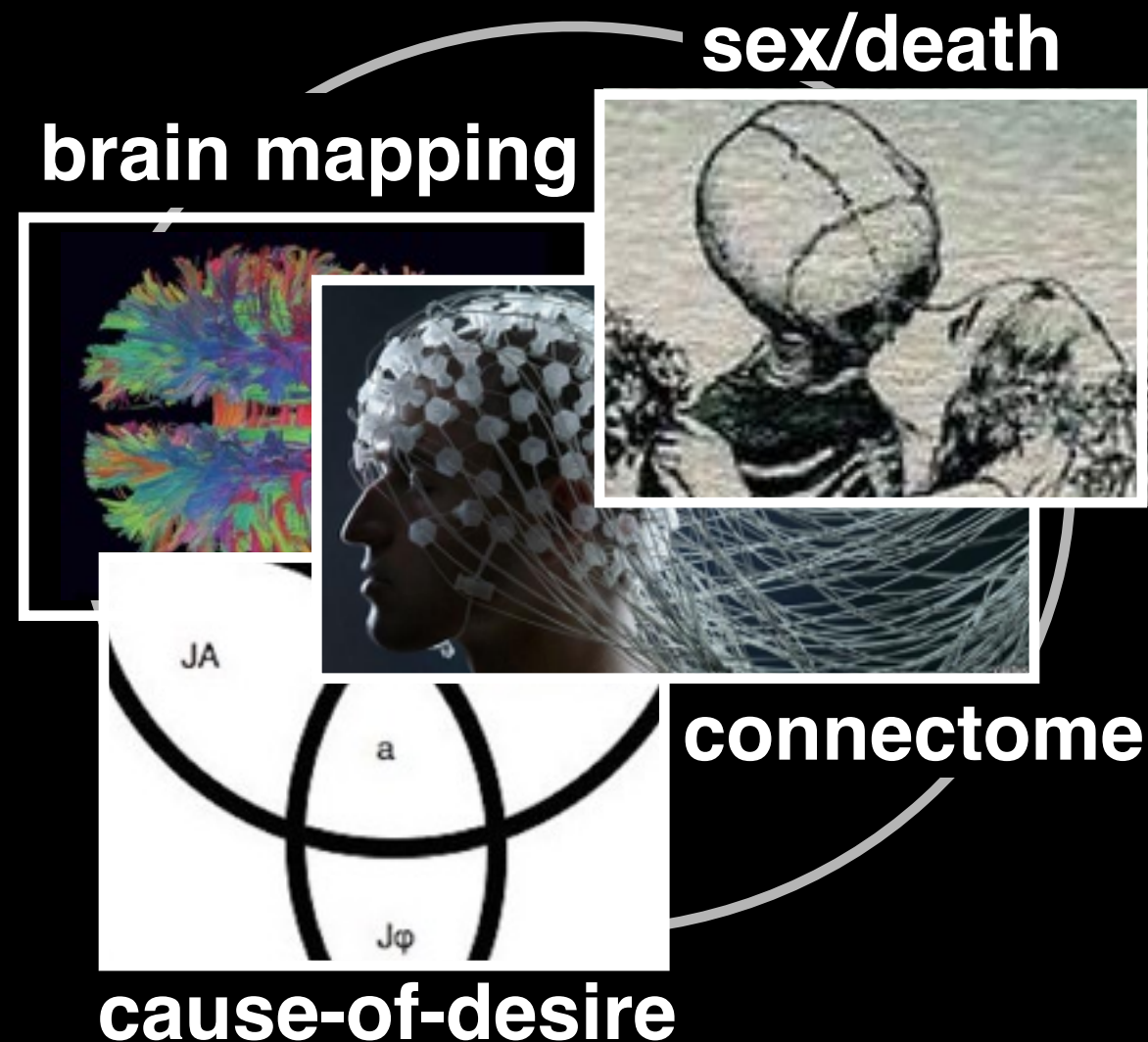


# Neuro-psychoanalysis?

How can psychoanalytic theory/practice  
inform development of neuroscience?



avoid scientism +  
losing the psyche  
in a brain image

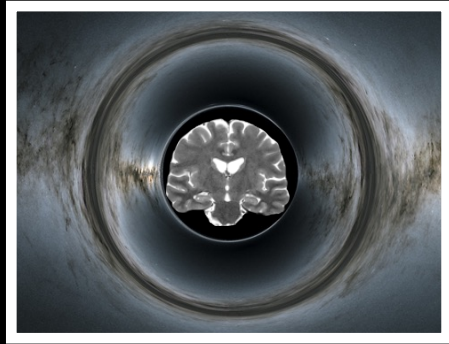


How do advances in neuroscience effect  
psychoanalytic theory/practice?

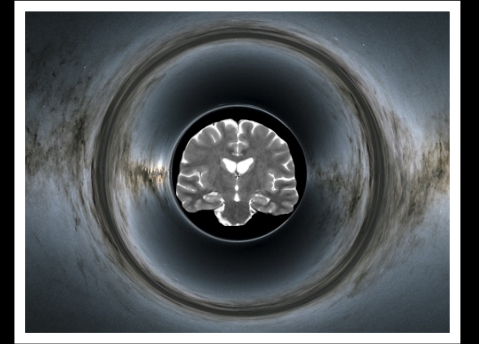


science can deepen  
psychic mystery of  
subjectivity in-itself

# Foundations of Psychoanalysis to Neuroscience



How can psychoanalytic theory/practice  
inform development of neuroscience?



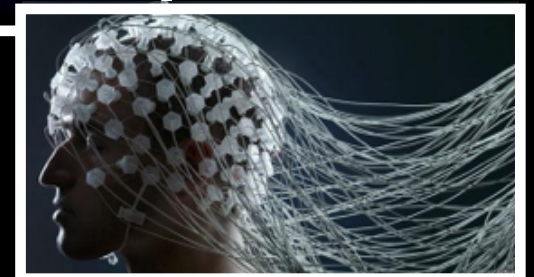
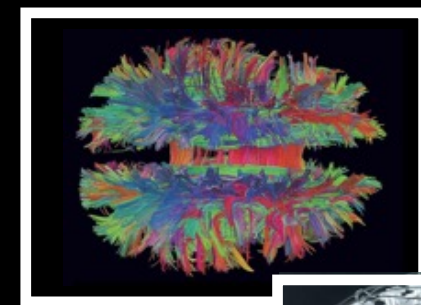
unconscious as wish-fulfillment

historical materiality of speech  
vis-a-vis indifferent negativity



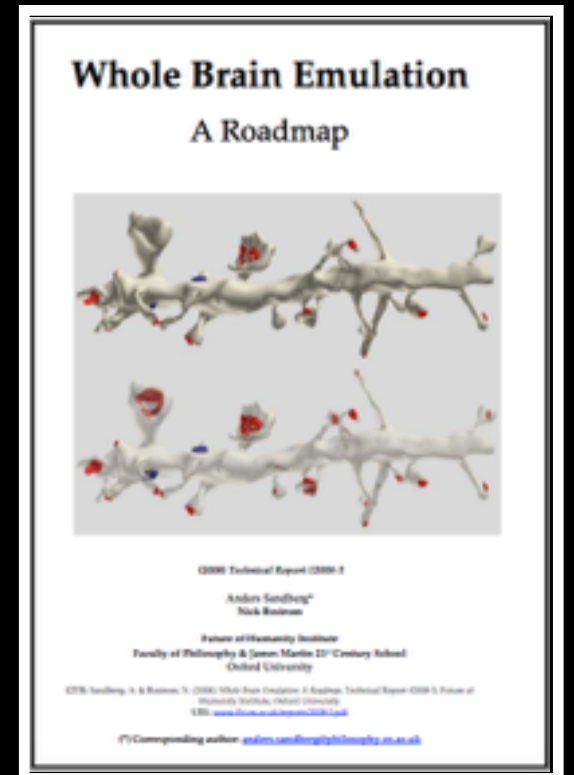
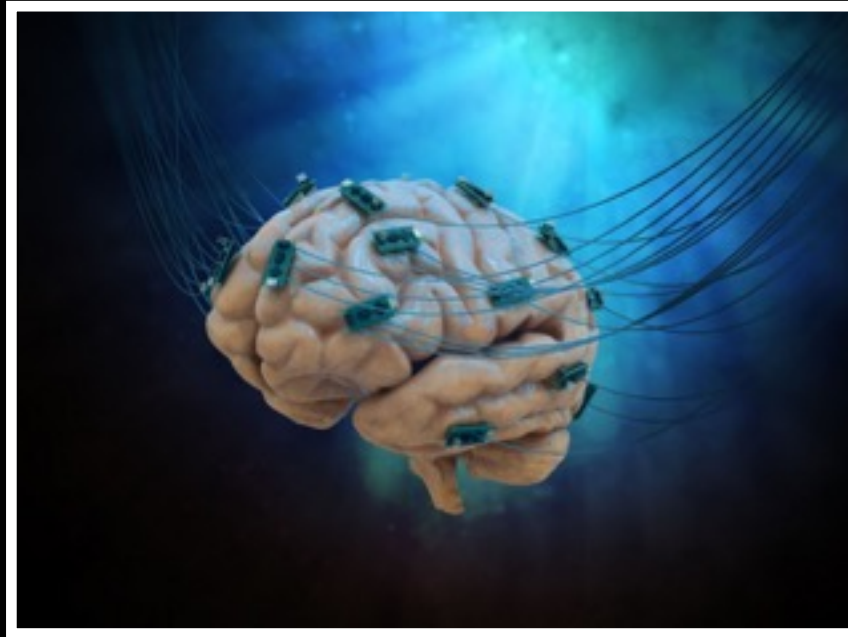
what is the unconscious wish of neuroscience?

how does this wish structure the historical  
material of neuroscientific speech?



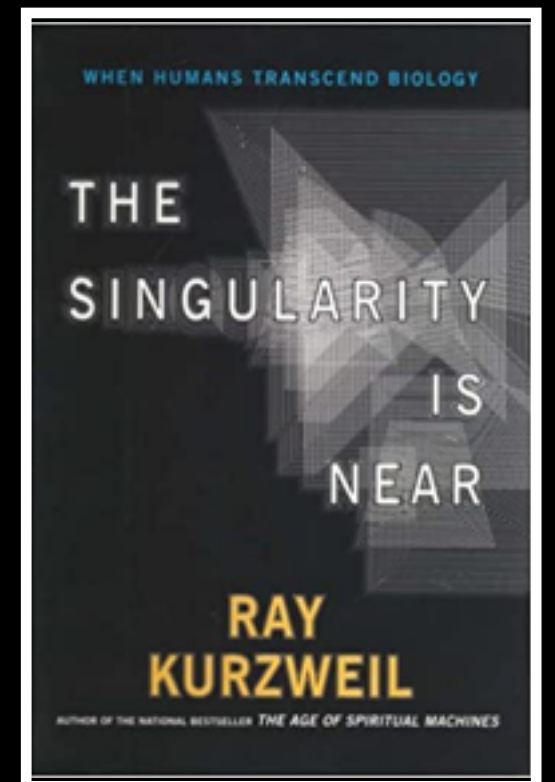
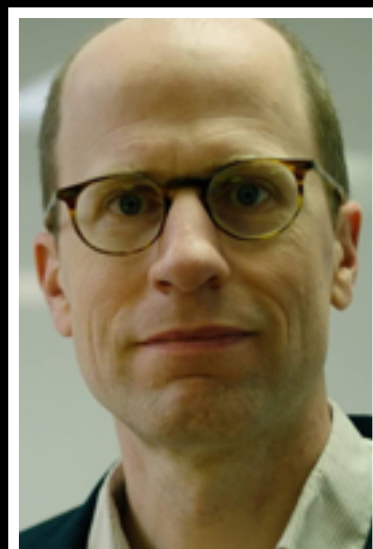


# Neuroscience Dreams

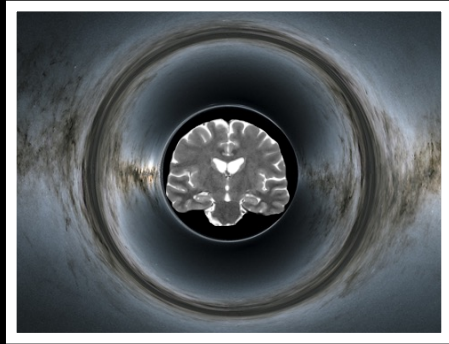


whole brain emulation,  
brain-computer interface,  
artificial brains etc.

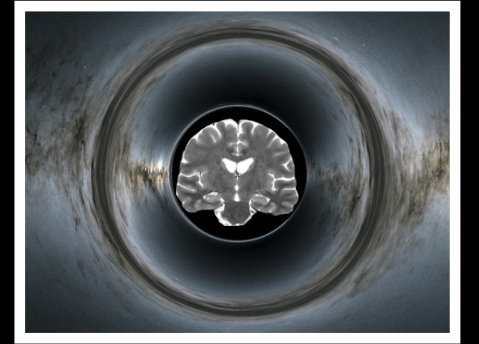
digital immortality  
reality/world creation  
higher/greater pleasure



# Foundations of Psychoanalysis to Neuroscience



How can psychoanalytic theory/practice  
inform development of neuroscience?



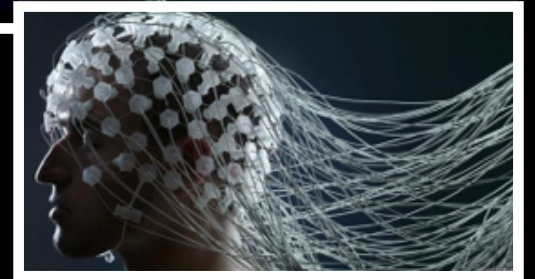
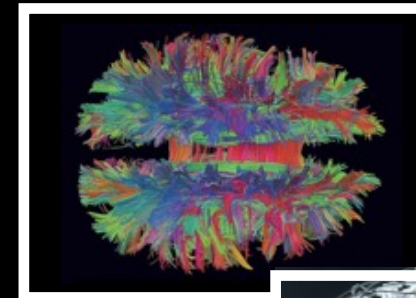
complete mapping of the brain

technical enhancement of the brain



complete map as impossibility due to  
presence of desiring subjectivity

technical enhancement requires valuation  
foundation (why?) + understanding of  
possible immanent catastrophes (negativity)



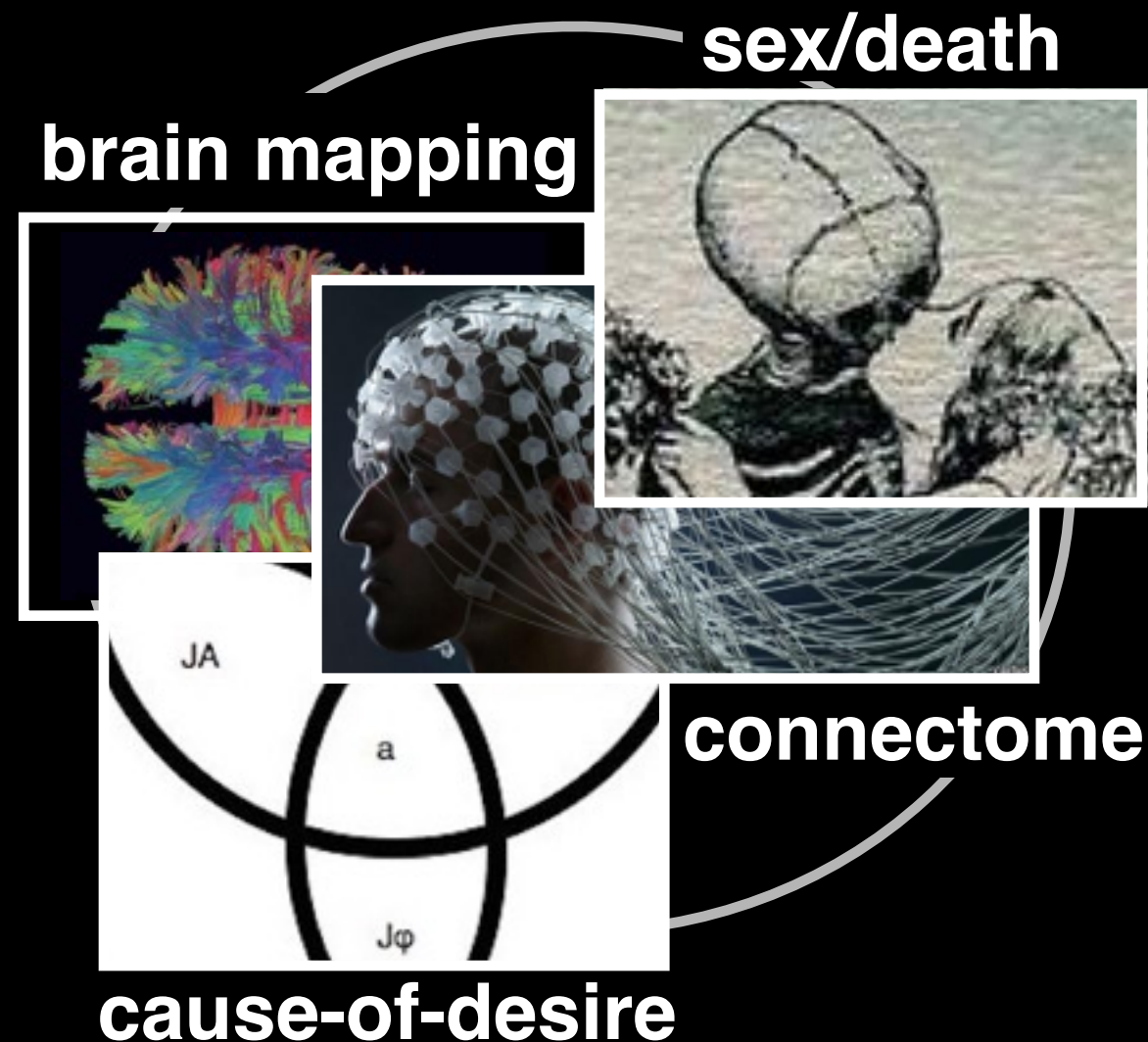


# Neuro-psychoanalysis?

How can psychoanalytic theory/practice  
inform development of neuroscience?



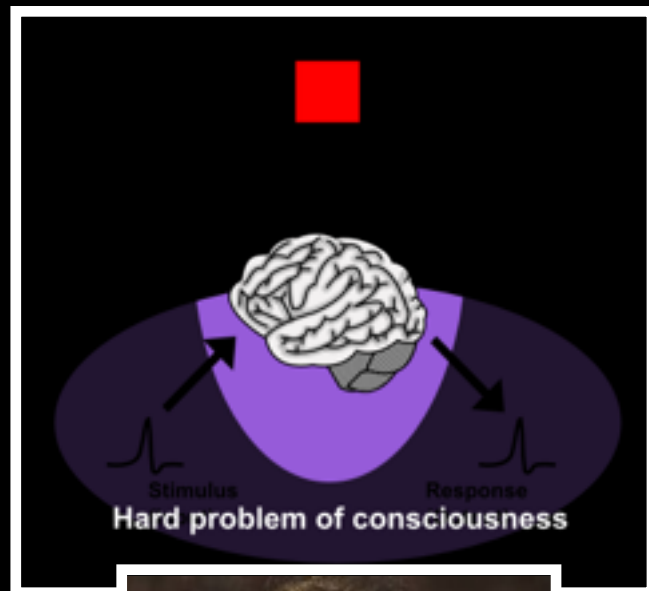
avoid scientism +  
losing the psyche  
in a brain image



Can we think the hard problem of consciousness outside of the neuroscience frame? What might Freud say about neuroscience?



# Hard Problem of Consciousness



Introduced by philosopher David Chalmers

Find “neurological correlates” of consciousness

Informs contemporary neuroscience ideology

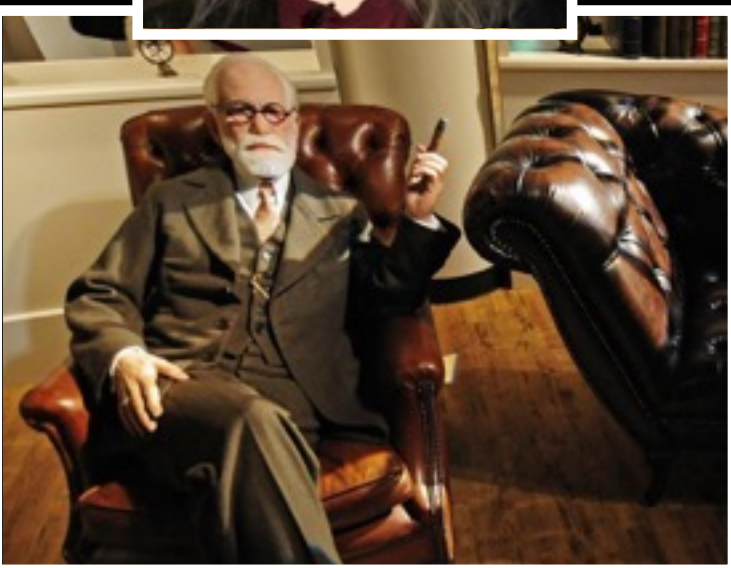


---

Psychoanalysis works unconscious psyche

Consciousness correlated to language of embodied problematics (sex/eros; death/thanatos)

Does mapping/enhancing brain resolve sex/death?  
 (“hard” problem as phallic metaphor?)



# Hard Problem of Consciousness

“Hard problem” of consciousness sex-death itself  
 (“there is no big other”)

Psychoanalysis: works with living problematics  
 (“hard problems”) of consciousness (symptoms)

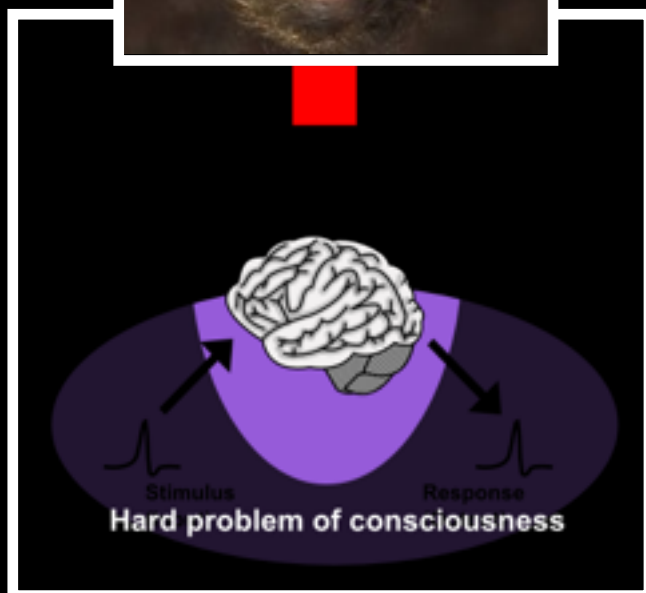
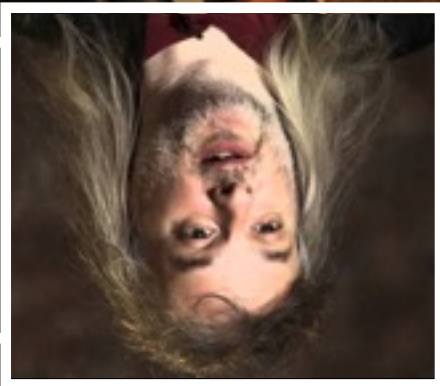
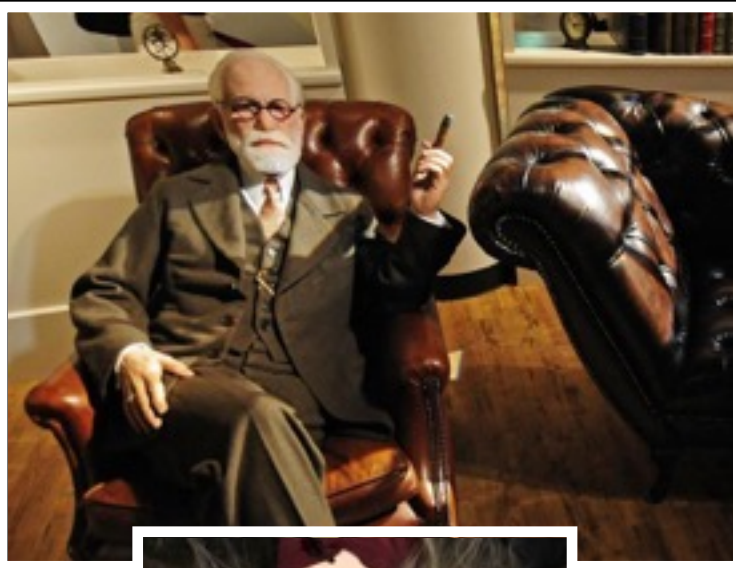
Consciousness correlated to symptom/sinthome  
 (suffering/enjoyment, not neurological wirings)

---

Neurological reduction of consciousness misses  
 irreducible role of self-positing subjectivity

Connecting neuronal state with subjective  
 experience leaves in-itself unexplained (repressed)

Return of the repressed: the real symptoms of  
 living consciousness and indifferent negativity



# Philosophy of Absence/Nothing: Dialectics

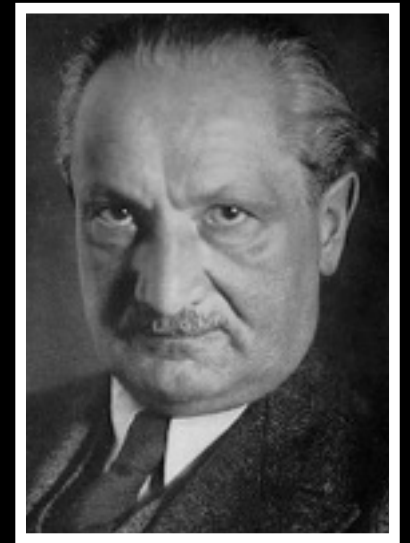
Kant



Hegel



Heidegger



critique of pure  
reason: reason  
desires unity of  
thought-being

presupposition-less  
philosophy opens  
historical dialectic  
of reason (non-being)

rational temporality  
brings thought to  
thought of death  
("being-in/w death")

Subjective experience correlated with an absence of pure being  
(i.e. the presence of death as the greatest challenge for thought)

Absence of pure being as opening for real potentiality of being  
(i.e. subjectivity correlated with its personal potential for being)

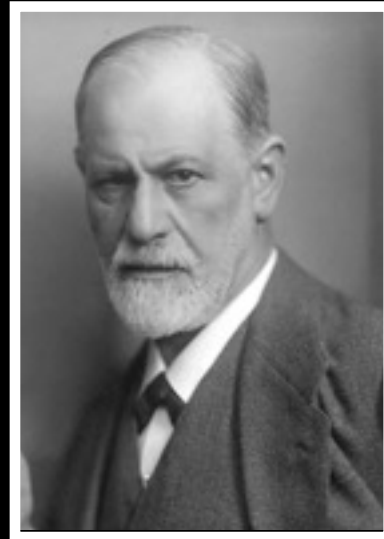


# Philosophy of Absence/Nothing: Psychoanalysis

young Freud



old Freud



Lacan



thought-problems  
of being in libidinal  
desire, i.e. unity  
of eros (neuroses)

eros in tension  
with fundamental  
non-being (death,  
inorganic)

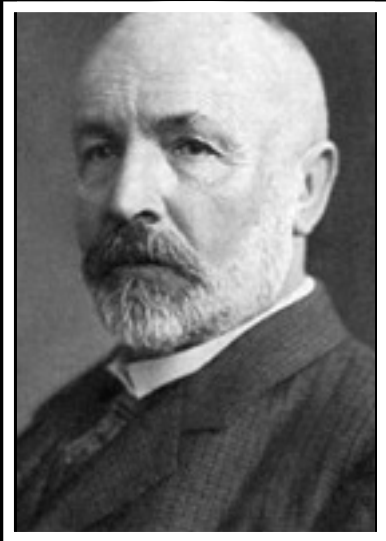
truth of tension  
in death drive as  
excess pleasure  
from non-being

Problems of libidinal subjectivity found in  
impossibility of unity with being

Impossibility of unity with being becomes source  
of new forms of subjective enjoyment

# Philosophy of Absence/Nothing: Mathematics, Physics

Cantor



Gödel



Heisenberg



no infinite number =  
infinite infinities;  
maths paradox

logical completion  
requires inconsistency;  
logical incompleteness  
allows consistency

knowing position,  
negates momentum;  
knowing momentum,  
negates position

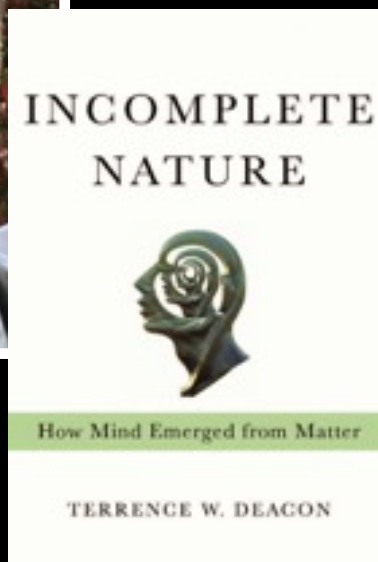
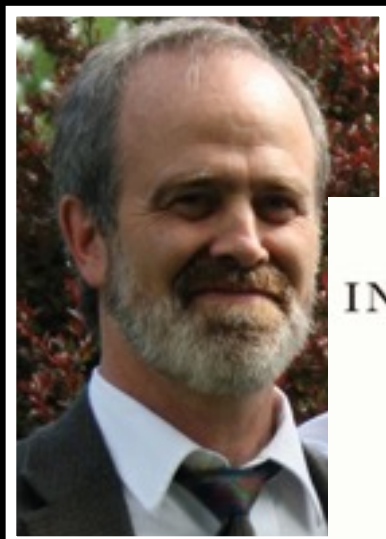
Rational quantification grounded in open-ended paradox;  
Logical rigour grounded in irreducible incompleteness;  
Physical knowing isolates spatiality at expense of temporality:  
=

subjective use of reason, logic, knowing requires absence  
of unity with being (paradox, incompleteness, temporality)

# Neuropsychanalysis + Subjectivity

Can we think the hard problem of consciousness outside of the neuroscience frame? What might Freud say about neuroscience?

Subjectivity determined by absence (“something missing”):  
Kant’s “noumena”; Hegel’s “absolute negativity”; Heidegger’s “being-toward-death”; Freud-Lacanian “death drive”; Cantor’s “infinity paradox”;  
Godel’s “incompleteness theorem”; Heisenberg’s “uncertainty”



“Absentials” / “Absential Science”

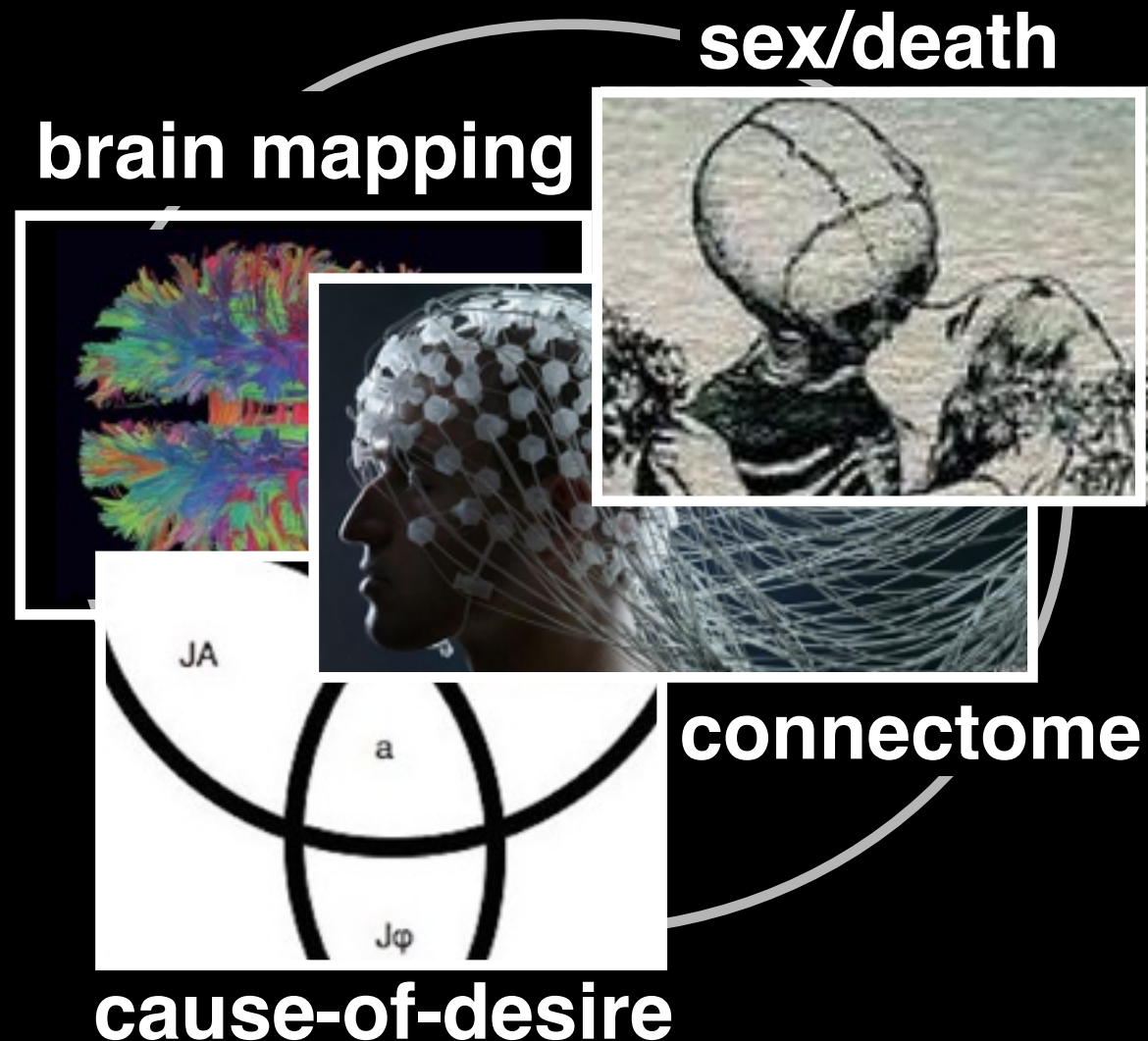
“a something-that-is-not-a-thing”  
having “physical consequences”

“phenomena whose existence is determined  
with respect to a certain absence”



# Foundation of Neuroscience to Psychoanalysis

How do advances in neuroscience effect psychoanalytic theory/practice? → science can deepen psychic mystery



How could possible breakthroughs in neuroscience (mapping the brain, BCI, AGI etc.), re-condition, re-organize, re-constrain possibilities for subjective experience and desire? What impacts will these breakthroughs have on expression of libidinal attachments, and existential dramas (interpretations of death)?

# Foundation of Neuroscience to Psychoanalysis

	Libidinal attachment	Existential Drama
early 20th century:	unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, contribute to repression	infant mortality, scarcity, poverty, contribute to repression
Technical intervention	contraceptives, women's rights, sexual education	anti-biotics, technical abundance, socialist programs
early 21st century:	emotional, social problems contribute to repression	degenerative disease contribute to repression

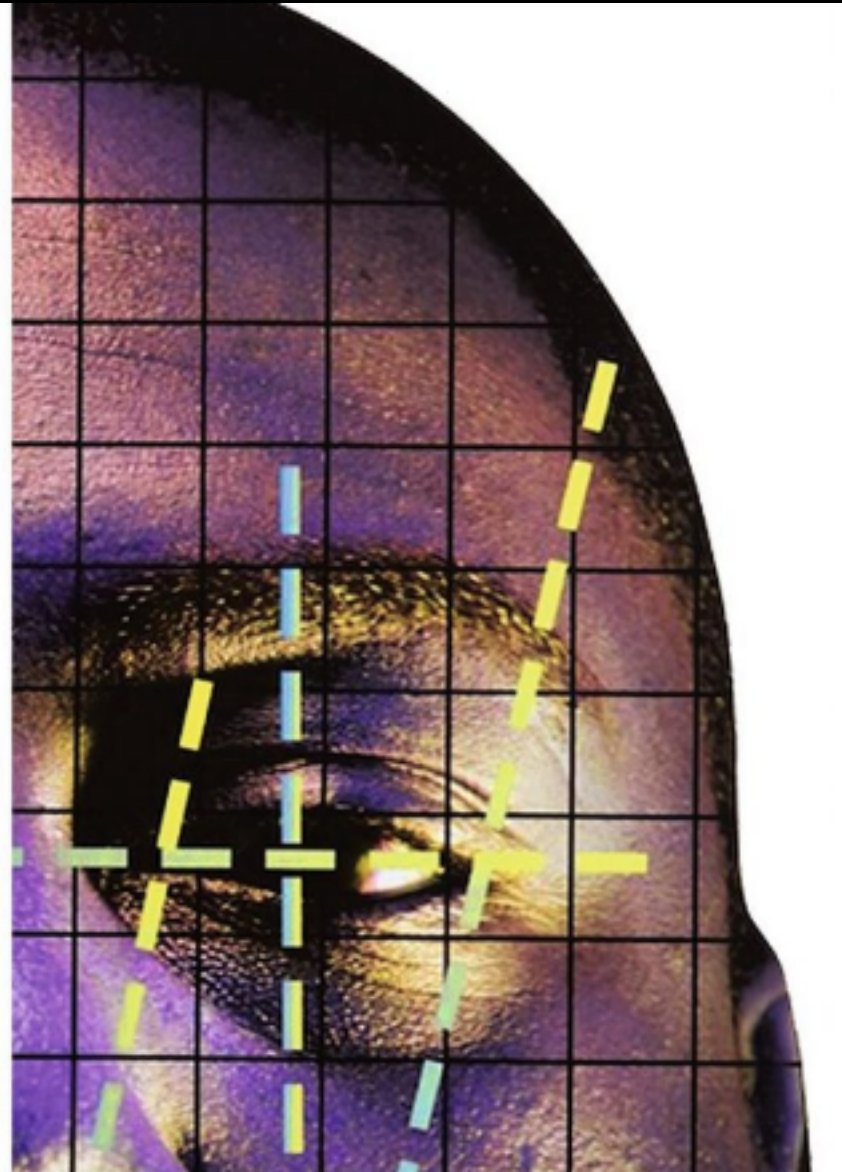
# Foundation of Neuroscience to Psychoanalysis

	Libidinal attachment	Existential Drama
early 21st century:	emotional, social problems contribute to repression	degenerative disease contribute to repression
Technical intervention	brain-computer interface whole brain emulation ???	artificial general intelligence technical enhancement ???
early 22nd century:	???	???



**PIPOL 9**  
5th European  
Congress of Psychoanalysis

**THE  
UNCONSCIOUS  
AND  
THE BRAIN  
NOTHING  
IN COMMON**



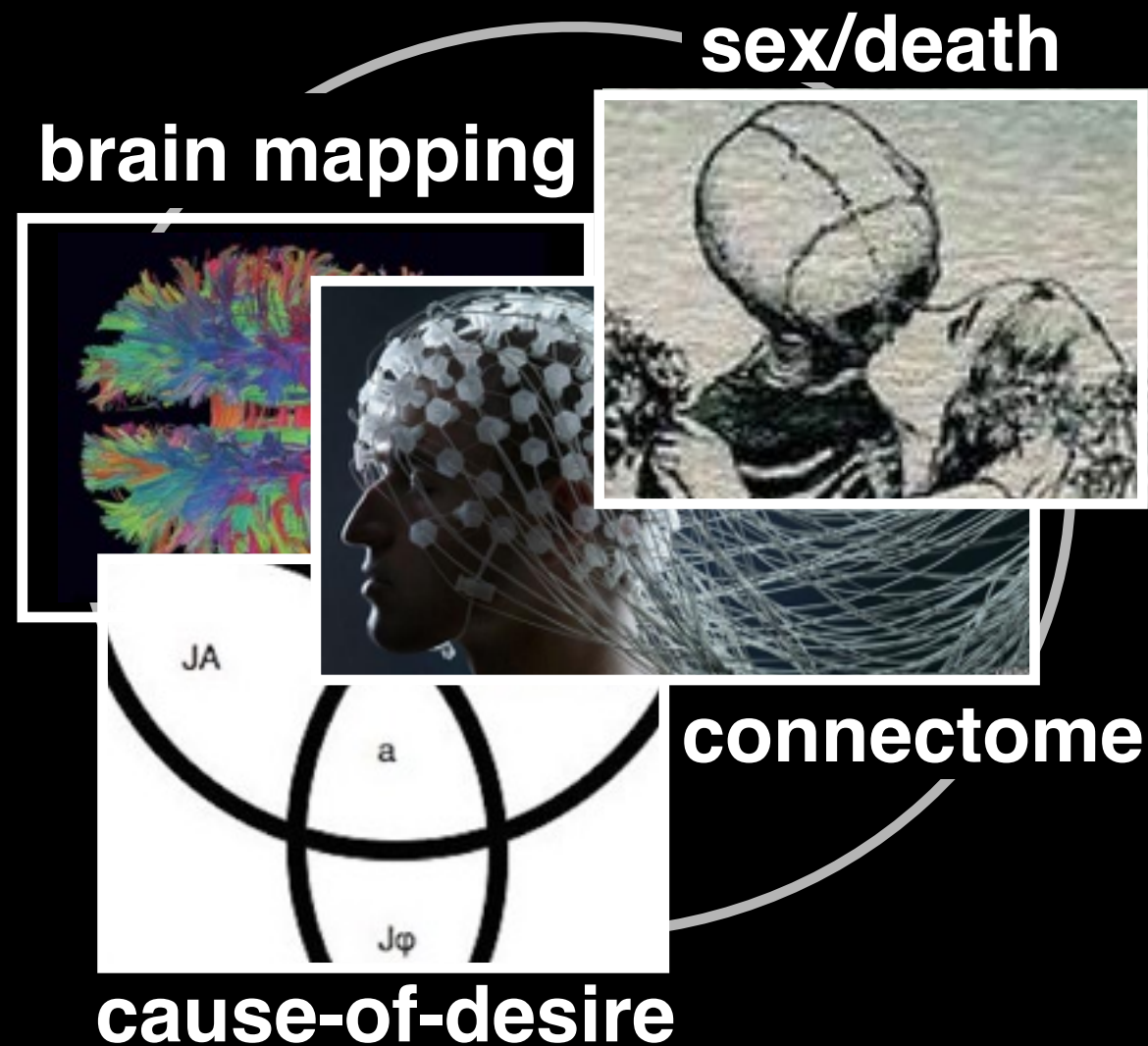
July 13, 14 2019  
Brussels, Belgium

central thesis of conference:  
brain of neuroscience,  
unconscious of psychoanalysis,  
have “nothing in common”



# Neuropsychanalysis

The brain of neuroscience,  
and the unconscious of psychoanalysis,  
may have nothing in common...



but investigating this “common nothingness”  
can lead to, potentially, deeper understanding of subjectivity

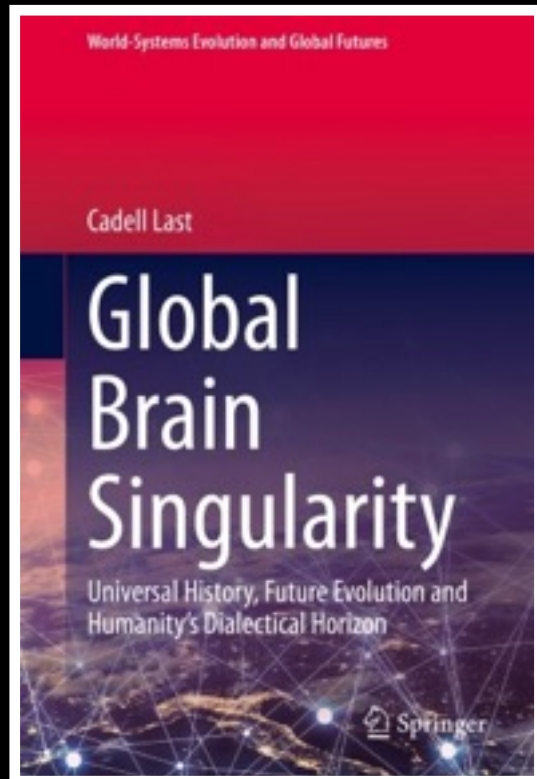
“To drop just one crazy idea: we are indeed nothing more than what a brain scan reveals, but rather something less. Brain scans are supposed to make sense and to be (at least potentially) entirely mappable onto our individuality. But what if they aren’t? What makes us subjects (of the unconscious) is perhaps [...] something that shows only on the brain scan and cannot be mapped onto anything else...”



Alenka Zupančič,  
psychoanalytic philosopher



## Doctoral thesis:



Future technic  
potential from  
perspective  
of subjectivity

## Popular book:

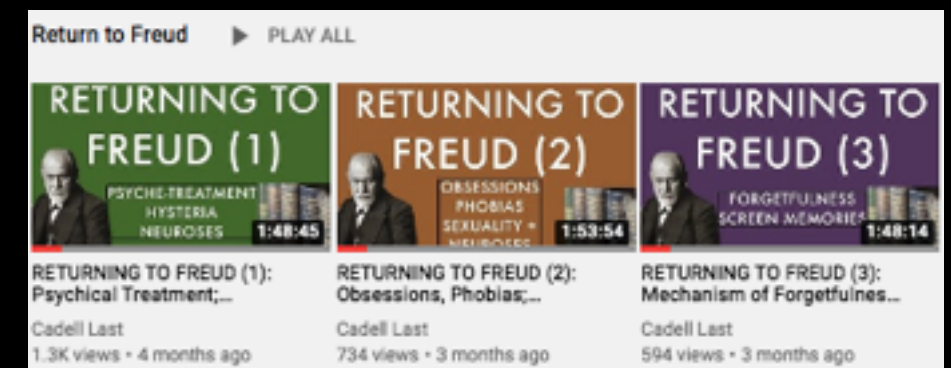


dialectical triologue:  
sexual tension;  
gender paradox;  
metaphysical mystery

## YouTube philosophy:



Psychoanalytically-informed philosophy  
of sexuality/metaphysics (Freud, Lacan)



## Dialectical thinking:



The art of dialectical logic for personal  
development: embodying contradictions

[cadelllast.com](http://cadelllast.com)

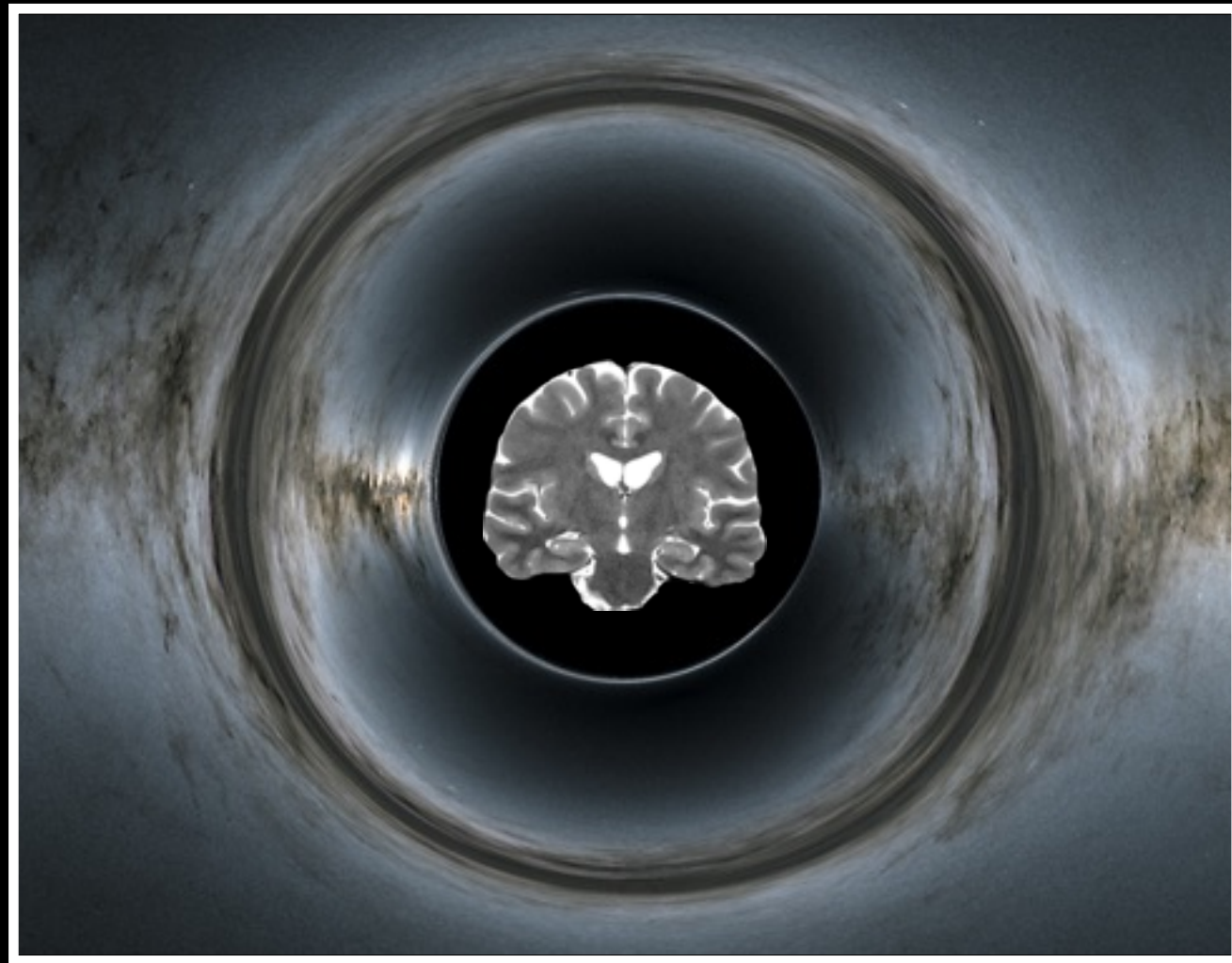
## Psychedelic Psychotherapy:



talk therapy/free association +  
reduction/elimination of ego defences

# The Difference Between Psychoanalysis and Neuroscience

Irreducibility of Absence to Brain States



# References

(1) Zupančič, A. 2020. Answers. European Journal of Psychoanalysis. <http://www.journal-psychoanalysis.eu/answers-by-alenka-zupancic/> (accessed: Jan 18, 2021)