Sackler Centre for Consciousness Science

Multidisciplinary research on the science of human consciousness

Aims and approach

Established in 2010 with a generous donation from the Dr Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation, the Sackler Centre for Consciousness Science pursues an interdisciplinary approach to basic and clinical science to understand the biological, particularly the neurophysiological, basis of human consciousness. In doing so, the Centre, co-directed by Anil Seth (Professor of Cognitive and Computational Neuroscience) and Hugo Critchley (Professor and Chair in Psychiatry, Brighton and Sussex Medical School) will gain a greater understanding of disorders of consciousness and apply this to develop new methods and therapies for managing mental illness and neurological conditions.

The great strength of the Centre is its strategic goal of integrating leading-edge theoretical and basic research, in areas of neuroscience, psychology, mathematics and computer science, with clinical research in psychology, psychiatry and neurology. Ultimately, the aim is to make the Centre's research translationally relevant by developing new interventions to treat brain disorders.

Research excellence

Sackler Centre research is organised along two interrelating strands. In basic science, the Centre seeks to understand the mechanisms that give rise to consciousness, by integrating theory, computational modelling, and behavioural and neuroimaging experimentation. By developing theories of consciousness from studies in healthy individuals, basic science insights can then be translated into the understanding and management of neuropsychiatric and neurological



and a cutting-edge TMS/EEG