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# Thornhill, R. & Thornhill, N. W. The evolutionary psychology of men's coercive sexuality

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Greenfield, P. M. (1991) Language, tools and brain. BBS 14:531-595.	423
Velmans, M. (1991) Is human information processing conscious? BBS 14:651–726.	423



#### Recent Issues in the Cognitive Science Literature

#### November 13-14, 1992

Papers related to the colloquium are invited. The main invited speakers are Patricia and Paul Churchland, UCSD. Maximum length: 35 minute reading time. Deadline for submission is August 1, 1992. For further information and submissions contact: Dr. Paul Tibbets, Dept. of Philosophy, Univ. of Dayton, Dayton, OH 45469-2260. From Cambridge University Press:

# A Cognitive Theory of Consciousness.

#### Bernard J. Baars

Conscious experience is notoriously one of the most difficult and thorny subjects in psychological science. Its study has been neglected for many years, because it was thought to be conceptually confusing, and the relevant evidence was believed to be poor. This book suggests a way to specify reliable empirical constraints on a theory of consciousness, by contrasting well-established conscious phenomena --- e.g., stimulus representations known to be attended, perceptual and informative --- with closely comparable unconscious ones --those that are pre-perceptual, unattended, or habituated. By focusing on clear and undisputed findings, Baars suggests that we can outline a large body of solid evidence, on which to build theory. Many findings converge to show that consciousness seems to reflect a basic architecture of the nervous system --- a "global workspace" in a distributed set of neural processors. This view helps to clarify many difficult questions. Consciousness is, Baars concludes, an essential *functional* part of the nervous system, a major biological fact, playing an indispensible roles in all psychological tasks.

"With this model, the author sweeps through dozens of phenomena that are well known to students of sensation, perception, learning, abstraction, language, thinking, and problem-solving. In each case he interprets the phenomenon in terms of the global workspace model and thus produces an admirable piece of scholarship. Also commendable is his attempt ... to match the assumptions of the model with the ... neurophysiology. Chapter 7, which rejuvenates William James' ideomotor theory of thought and action, is illustrative of the power implicit in the global workspace model. Even phenomena on social perception and self-image ... are interpretable within his framework. ...Bernard Baars' A Cognitive Theory of Consciousness deserves to be read by many."

Ronald T. Kellogg in Contemporary Psychology (451 pp. 1989. ISBN 0-521-30133-5)

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