

ABSTRACT

The dissertation is an exploration of the latest neuroscientific theories on consciousness, discussed in relation to key Gestalt concepts. The theories on consciousness constitute a biological and objective analysis of a subjective phenomenon. However the theories are concerned with the same issues as psychotherapy and demonstrate sensitivity to the subjective nature of the topic. The neuroscientific arguments reflect the holistic, field theory outlook of Gestalt rather than the prevailing dualism of western thinking. The dissertation includes analysis of the neuroscience theories that have implications for development, which are then related to concepts such as: sense of self, creative adjustments, fixed gestalts, the unconscious, transference and interruptions to contact. The dissertation finally provides a brief review of therapeutic implications in light of the debates discussed. This project is very much a speculative analysis that highlights possibilities for further investigation.