

Several scientists have observed that the only way for scientists to evaluate human consciousness is by using a mirror of one sort or another. Also, there are certain built in ideo-synchronicities in the human mind

Xenophanes Paradox, The Penrose triangle, Einstein, Godel's theorem, Mannheim's paradox, and the limits of logic and rational analysis The Penrose triangle, also known as the Penrose tribar or impossible triangle, is an optical illusion that depicts a three-dimensional object that appears to be impossible to create in reality. It's a triangular structure where each corner appears to connect logically, but the shape violates Euclidean geometry.



Wolfgang Pauli "To me it seems the most important and exceedingly difficult task of our time is to work on the construction of a new idea of reality."
It would seem "our reality" isn't working all that well.
Albert Einstein: We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them

Xenophanes Paradox & Frame of reference vs. Mannheim's Paradox

Xenophanes (believed to have been born roughly 570-560 BC.) did advocate that a “truth of reality” did exist but – like St Augustine, St Gregory of Nyssa, and many other Christian spiritual leaders – held that absolute truth is beyond mortal human capabilities. It is said that Xenophanes was the first philosopher to distinguish between belief and knowledge. I should highlight in my research I came across an article which emphasized how the rational bias of Greek Philosophy had altered the original understanding of “knowledge” as being up close and personal – as opposed to a rational argument.

Xenophanes argument – human ways of thinking can unduly shape conclusions arrived at that people make.

But if horses or oxen or lions had hands
or could draw with their hands and accomplish such works as men,
horses would draw the figures of the gods as similar to horses,
and the oxen as similar to oxen,
and they would make the bodies of the sort
which each of them had. — Fragment 15

Roughly 800 years later, St Augustine of Hippo, – Saint Augustine, (354 AD – 430 AD), a theologian and philosopher, made the same observation that people – human beings tend to view God in terms of their own human frame of reference. Hume made the same exact observation. Of course, now modern science has identified the Default Mode Network – which functions to envision others and derive their intentions from observations. It is also called the “Theory of Mind” process. It is well known that most autistics (not all) – who have a deficit in social skills and the Default mode Network processes have difficulty envisioning God as a being.

Xenophanes observation that a person's frame of reference can at times unduly shape their worldviews is a precursor by several millennia of Mannheim's Paradox. Mannheim's Paradox basically says that every system of thought is a frame of reference which has limits because every system has assumptions of one sort or another.

Mannheim holds that historical and political thought is determined by the socio-historical location of the thinker and the political aspirations and material ambitions

of the group or groups to which he belongs. Such thought is inherently value-laden, one-sided, distorted, and therefore false. In short, all systems of historical-social-political thought are ideologies. And this leads to Mannheim's famous paradox: if all such perspectives are ideologies, an objective and valid social science is impossible, and Mannheim's own reflections on the historical process are "self-refuting" – for his perspective can claim no more objective validity than can other perspectives.⁸ (p.143 Truth and Ideology: Reflections on Mannheim's Paradox by Willard A. Mullins, History and Theory, Vol. 18, No. 2 (May, 1979), pp. 141-154)

Christina Maimone observes, "Ideology is, as Mannheim uses the term, a mode of thought that obscures the real condition of society to the group holding the thought, thereby stabilizing the shared social reality of the mode of thought. Groups are simply unable to see particular facts that would undermine their conception of the world, that would show their collective perception of the social situation to be a misapplication of thought to experience. Ideology is most strongly associated with groups that have a dominant position in society. Their ideology serves to secure their place in the social order, although the development of their mode of thought was not consciously controlled in this direction."

So, what Mannheim is saying is that ideologies are mindsets or modes of thought that filter information – seek certain types of information and filter out other types of information. That is consistent with modern neuroscience research on selective attention. The model of mindsets that filter information applies then to ideologies such as capitalism or communism. It would also apply to religious, spiritual and social science ideologies as well.

As Claudia Nielsen pointed out, the psychiatrist McGillChrist states: "The scope of inquiry and understanding of the Materialist Doctrine with its rigid adherence to the actually arbitrary principle of quantification and over-emphasis on physiological characteristics [and laboratory experiments – Kay Deaux] is severely restricted and limited in the analyses that can be performed." Rene Guenon also notes that "rationalism" "asserts itself chiefly by the suppression of the entire supra-individual domain."

1. "Selective attention," also called "selectivity bias"—the tendency to orient oneself toward and process information from only one part of our environment to the exclusion of other parts, no matter how obvious those parts may be." – David DiSalvo

2. “Selective attention is often described as the ability to focus on and prioritize relevant information while filtering out irrelevant information. This prioritization transpires in attending only to a given channel in dichotic listening tasks – D Plebanek & V Sloutsky state that

3. “Attention may sound dull, but it is an essential aspect of consciousness. In fact, it governs what it is that we turn out to be conscious of, and therefore plays a part in the coming into being of whatever exists for us “We bring about a world in consciousness that is partly what is given, and partly what we bring, something that comes into being through this particular conjunction and no other. And the key to this is the kind of attention we pay to the world.” Iain McGilchrist

4. Filtering & selective attention: William James stated that attention “implies a withdrawal from some things in order to deal effectively with others.” “[interaction with stimuli] is indeed accomplished, quite literally, within the approach circuit of the rostral tectum...these simple circuits are indeed the precursors to the mechanisms that control what has been called “selective attention.”

5. “Tell me to what you pay attention and I will tell you who you are!” – Ortega y Gasset

6. Selective Attention in Neuroscience: “It is argued that selectivity in processing has emerged through evolution as a design feature of a complex multi-channel sensorimotor system, which generates selective phenomena of “attention” as one of many by-products.”

Rebe Guenon observes that rationalism is “defined by a belief in the supremacy of reason, proclaimed as a veritable 'dogma', and implying the denial of everything that is of a supra-individual order, notably of pure intellectual intuition, and this carries with it logically the exclusion of all true metaphysical knowledge....[and] the rejection of all spiritual authority, rationalism and individualism are thus so closely linked together that they are usually confused,” (p.90)

Guenon's assessment is correct. Kenneth Gergen, David Hay and Virgilio Enriquez agree that Rational Individualism (a political ideal) has morphed (from the Age of Reason to the Materialist Age) into a form of extreme individualism. Wikipedia has only three references to social consciousness – the most salient being Karl Marx. In western academia, the Rational Individualism norm holds sway. As a point of information, the English language has no words for the Filipino words, Bayanihan

(helping others in a community context), Kapwa (shared identity), or loob (relational will – equality)

So, in context of Mannheim's Paradigm, materialism is not objective at all and is perhaps the most value laden ideology in the history of humanity. The stereotype that "quantification" unequivocally equates to "science" is widespread. Strict quantification excludes art, music, hope, dreaming, dancing, creativity, poetry, true love, idealism, freedom, as well as justice and even imagination

While I have come across several materialists who believe that quantification gives them absolute knowledge, the Absolute Truth [God – Transcendental Intelligence] is beyond human comprehension Early Christian Mystics, St. Gregory of Nyssa, St. Augustine – Humility & Wisdom without Arrogance "According to the true words of the Lord [Mt 5.8], the pure of heart will see God. They will receive as much as their minds can comprehend. However, the unbounded, incomprehensible divinity remains beyond all comprehension." (St Gregory of Nyssa p.161 Song of songs)

Insights from Xenophanes from "Thought Itself: The History of Philosophy, Logic & The Mind" with Eric Gerlach Greek Philosophy Xenophanes

"Many have argued that in modern times, since the 1800s, the growth of technology has changed human thought such that we now understand our world and ourselves metaphorically in terms of mechanics rather than living spirits. Rational is understood to be a series of operations rather than balance and justice, and truth is said to be objective, like an object without purpose or intention. Some such as the French philosopher and sociologist Bruno Latour, have argued that it is our tribe, the Moderns, who are the most mythological and the least aware of our metaphors. Because we increasingly view our reality through machines, much as we have always heard about it from the voices and writings of others, we forget that we construct our reality. We believe that the ancients carved their beliefs in wood and stone, much as Xenophanes says oxen and horses would if they could, but that we Moderns find rather than build our beliefs. As Xenophanes says, we give reality, truth and meaning the same shape as ourselves, as we are increasingly shaped by technology." That is not a bad "overview" of Mannheim's views as well.

Godel's theorem of incompleteness: "[T]he meaning of a system cannot be determined by the logical arguments within the system."

Kurt Godel, the Austrian mathematician, proved in 1931 that any mathematical system would be incomplete, which, curiously, is called the incomplete theorem. Gödel's theorem of incompleteness has proven that all formal systems will be either incomplete or incoherent. That is to say that there will always be questions that we will not be able to answer, using a certain set of axioms, and you will not be able to prove that a system of axioms is coherent, unless You did not use another set of axioms. In addition, Gödel has mathematically demonstrated that in all effective systems (as in a computerized program) of natural numbers which are coherent, these systems will contain true declarations which cannot be proven. A philosophical involvement is that the truth of a rational thinking system cannot be reduced to a logical system of symbols.

Palle Yourgrou writes: "One of the most spectacular results of the Gödel incompleteness theorem is precisely to establish that one cannot reduce the (semantic) notion of mathematical truth in that of (syntactic) concept of proof within a given formal system" (p. 146). That is to say that the meaning of a system cannot be determined by the logical arguments within the system. The proof cannot "simulate the truth". Any thinking system, as complete as it may be, will ultimately be incomplete. In the final analysis, "(the) logic" is not synonymous with "(the) truth".

Einstein has an excellent synopsis of the limits of science - Albert Einstein: "Try and penetrate with our limited means the secrets of nature and you will find that, behind all the discernible laws and connections, there remains something subtle, intangible and inexplicable. Veneration of this force beyond anything that we can comprehend is my religion!"