

CENTER FOR COGNITIVE SCIENCE

University at Buffalo, State University of New York

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

280 Park Hall
North Campus
2:00 pm –4:00 pm

“Maps, Gaps, and Traps: Metaphors for Understanding Consciousness”

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The metaphors we use to talk about the problem of consciousness can both illuminate and restrict our understanding. They can reveal otherwise hidden aspects, or blind us to things outside their perspective. The much invoked metaphor of the "explanatory gap" - first coined by Joe Levine - provides a good case study (others might include Chalmers's Hard Problem/Easy Problem distinction, or Nagel's equation of being a conscious x with "there being something that it's like to be an x".) The gap metaphor is both powerful but ambiguous in ways that can lead us astray if we do not can take care. I will explore the metaphor and its many meanings, in hope to dispel confusion and foster greater understanding of the mind/matter basis of consciousness.

**Refreshments will be available
Everyone is welcome to attend!**

For information please call the Cognitive Science Office at (716) 645-3794 or check
<http://wings.buffalo.edu/cogsci>