

# CONSCIOUSNESS FOR REAL

*Towards  
a New Science  
of Human Experience*

**Pari, Italy / June 4-11, 2024**

Information: [www.paricenter.com](http://www.paricenter.com)  
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Pari Center

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with **OWEN A. BARFIELD, EDI BILIMORIA,  
DAVID GLOWACKI, MARCELLO MASSIMINI,  
JONATHAN ROWSON, VANDANA SHIVA,  
ANGELA VOLPINI, MARJORIE WOOLLACOTT**

Curated and chaired by **ÀLEX GÓMEZ-MARÍN**

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Consciousness is more than a 'hard problem' (and also less). It's the intimate mystery of our very existence. Its study, therefore, requires an integrative and conscious approach beyond short-sighted abstractions. From phenomenology and neuroscience to biology and sociology, we will weave together a spectrum of orthodox, heterodox, and heretic approaches to consciousness. Our humble ambition is to tackle it 'for real,' overcoming our ingrained limiting habits of thought and grasping the roots of human experience and its evolutionary future.

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# CONSCIOUSNESS FOR REAL: TOWARDS A NEW SCIENCE OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE

Dates

**June 4-11, 2024**

Location

**Pari, Tuscany, Italy**

Presenters

**Owen A. Barfield, Edi Bilimoria,  
David Glowacki, Marcello Massimini,  
Jonathan Rowson, Vandana Shiva,  
Angela Volpini, Marjorie Woollacott**

Curated and  
chaired by

**Àlex Gómez-Marín**

Event

**The event starts with a welcome dinner  
on Tuesday June 4 at 19:00 and ends  
after lunch on Tuesday June 11.**

Fee

**2175,00 euros**, which includes:

- a 7-night stay in private accommodation;
- breakfast, lunch and dinner at the local restaurant featuring locally sourced produce and traditional dishes;
- water, wine and coffee served with lunch and dinner;
- programmed activities and materials;
- refreshments provided at mid-morning and mid-afternoon coffee breaks.

## The event

Through in-depth presentations and informal discussions in a convivial atmosphere you will learn about, and have opportunities to discuss, the insights and research findings of world-renowned experts on current consciousness research and its future.

Such a multifaceted field is currently enjoying a huge renaissance in terms of general interest and academic momentum. Consciousness is more than a ‘hard problem’—and also less. It’s the intimate mystery of our very existence. Its study thus requires an integrative and conscious approach beyond short-sighted abstractions.

From phenomenology and neuroscience to biology and sociology, we will weave together a spectrum of approaches to consciousness that have, up till now, been largely disconnected, if not avoided, by academia and left to lie beyond the border of what is typically explored scientifically or discussed in public.

We can now more openly and rigorously ask whether such approaches can actually inform us about ‘consciousness for real,’ truly advancing its scientific study as well as transforming science as we know it and, more importantly, our very understanding of the nature of reality and our collective and individual place in it.

Mindfully drawing from orthodox, heterodox, and heretic views on consciousness, our humble ambition is to tackle it ‘for real,’ overcoming our ingrained limiting habits of thought and grasping the roots of human experience and its evolutionary future.

We at the Pari Center seek to bring together world-renowned experts from a great range of disciplines, approaches, and sensibilities to meet together in person and deepen our insights on the workings and origin of human experience, while also exploring creative and rigorous frameworks to integrate such wonderful mysteries hidden in plain sight into a coherent evolutionary understanding. You are cordially invited to join us.

## What a typical day looks like

8:30 - 9:30	breakfast
10:00 - 13:00	formal presentation (including a half-hour break)
13:00	lunch
16:00 - 19:00	presentation or interactive/workshop session
20:00	dinner
21:00	free time (retire to your accommodation for quiet time, engage in informal discussions, or, if there is a village event such as music in the piazza, join in)

For those seeking opportunities for interaction between participants and presenters (ratio around one to four!), these occur not just in the more formal presentations—which will allow time for discussion and Q&A—but also at the workshops, mealtimes, and during the free time.



## *‘The future has an ancient heart.’*

CARLO LEVI

Our founder David Peat compared Pari to an alchemical vessel—a place where transformation can come about—as well as an opportunity to pause for a moment and re-assess one’s life. Participating in an event at the Pari Center means not only meeting with scholars and experts but living for a week in a medieval village, mingling with the local population, eating local dishes and drinking local wines. It also means being able to view the beauty of the surrounding countryside, and participating in a very gentle way of life far from the frenzy of work and city living.

Pari today continues in a remarkable state of preservation. In the 1950s Pari’s population began to drop from 1500 to the present 100 as people left to find work in the cities. The Pari Center maintains a close relationship with the village people and supports the local economy by renting accommodation—furnished apartments—on behalf of our participants, by having the local restaurant provide meals, and by supporting the local businesses.

Pari is located a few kilometers from the main superstrada that connects Siena to Grosseto. The nearest airports are Rome, Florence and Pisa. Once you have arranged your flight, we can guide you on the best means of travelling to the village.



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