

Observations from a Systems-Theoretic Perspective - Framing Talk

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Description

This document is part of an archival bundle of **Primary Materials from the 2016 CogNovo ColLaboratoire Workshop on Network Consciousness**. The workshop asked whether highly-connected networks—such as the Internet—could be said to be conscious, or could become conscious, approaching the topic through the lenses of embodied, situated, enactive, extended, and distributed cognition.

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ARE NETWORKS (BECOMING) CONSCIOUS? - OBSERVATIONS FROM A SYSTEMS-THEORETIC PERSPECTIVE

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COGNOVO SUMMERSCHOOL | AUGUST 2016 | PLYMOUTH, UK

PRELUDE: AN ICONOGRAPHY OF CONSCIOUSNESS









PRELIMINARIES

THIS DOESN'T WORK

CONSCIOUSNESS
EXPLAINED

AWAY



DANIEL C. DENNETT

Author of *Brainstorms* and coauthor of *The Mind's I*

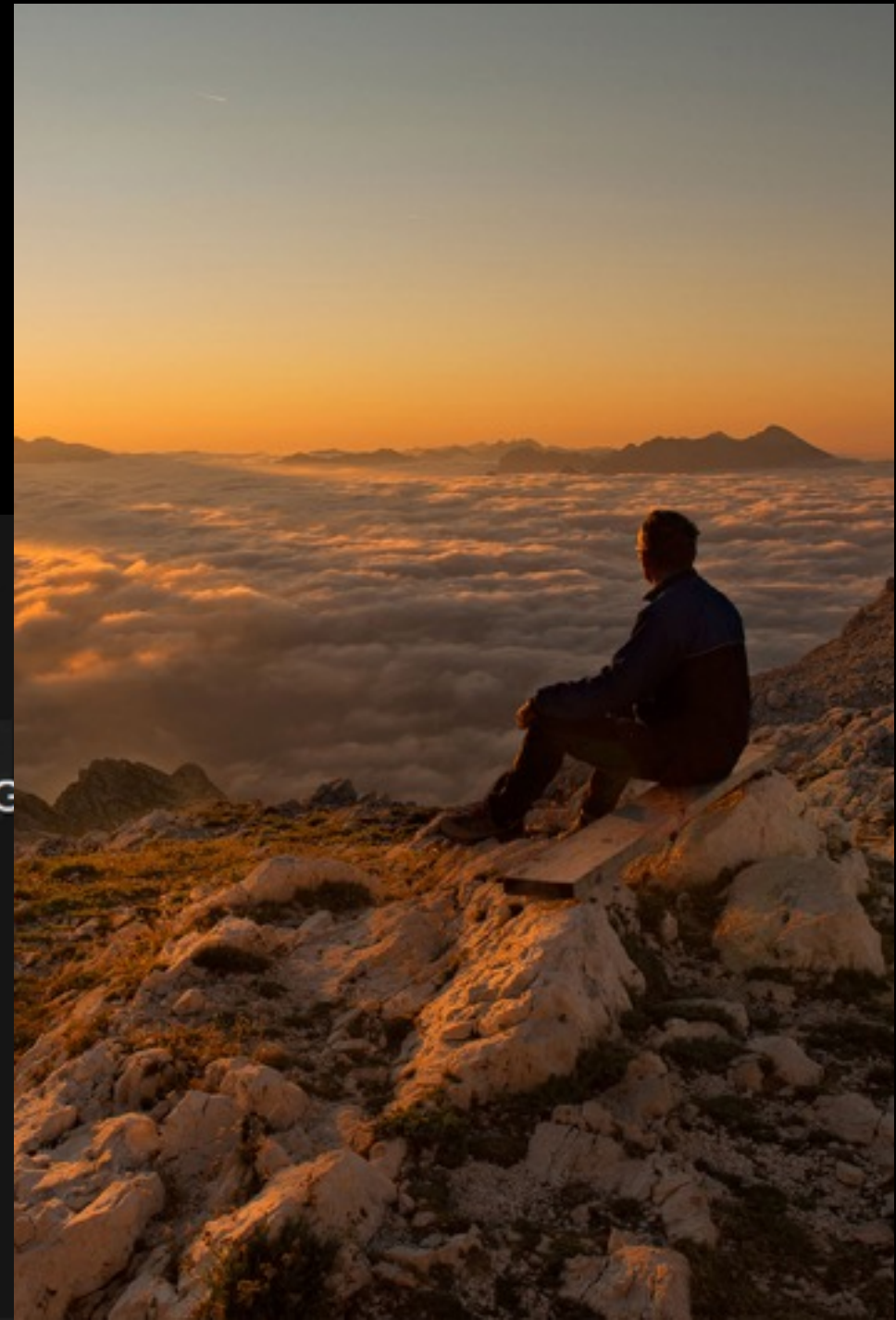
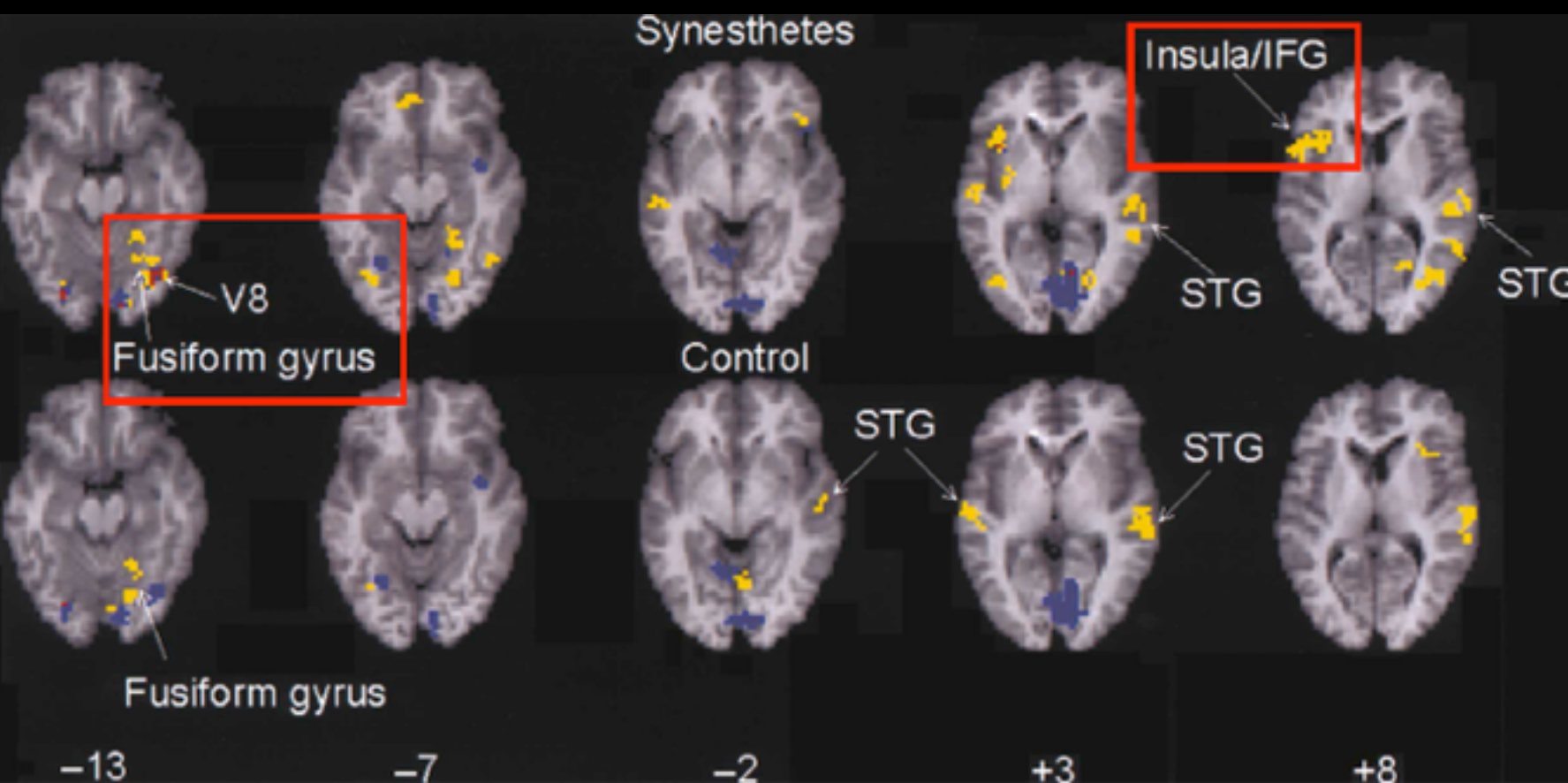
THIS MIGHT WORK



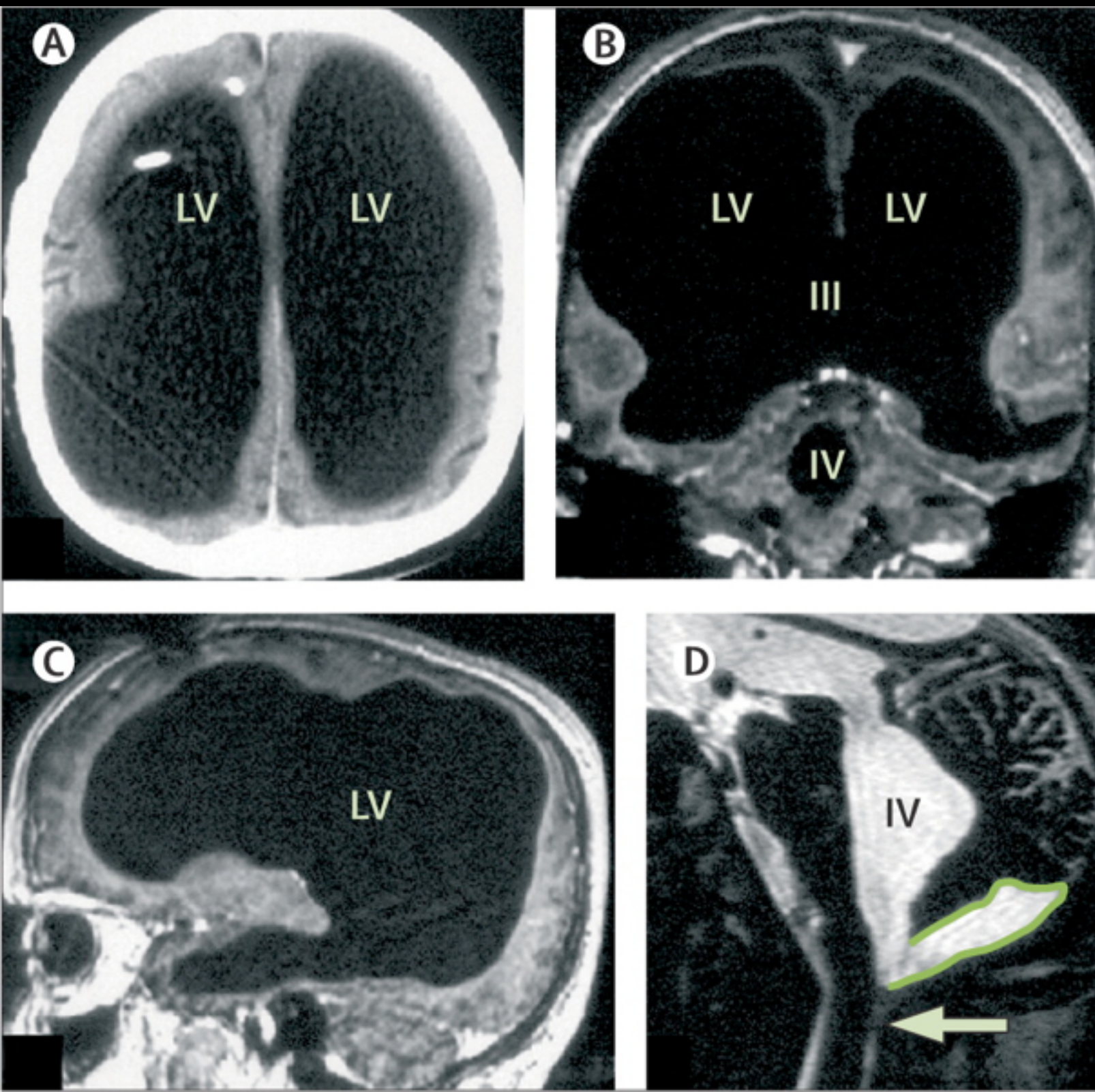
1ST PERSON PERSPECTIVE PHENOMENOLOGY VS. 3RD PERSON PERSPECTIVE OBSERVATION



LANGUAGE

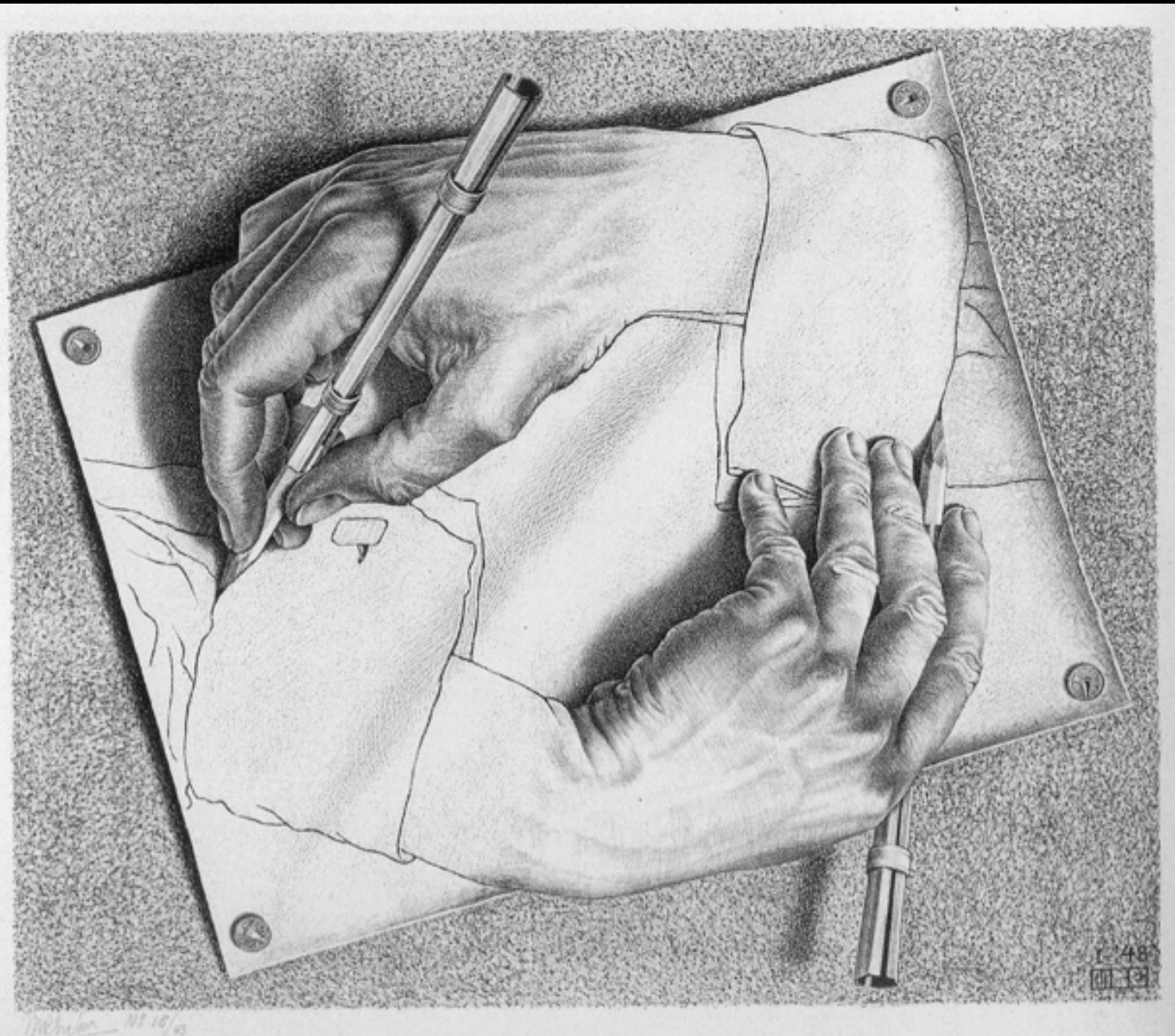


TOPOLOGY?



CONSCIOUSNESS

OBSERVING CONSCIOUSNESS



SYSTEMS THEORY/(IES)

SYSTEMS

Systems

Machines

Organisms

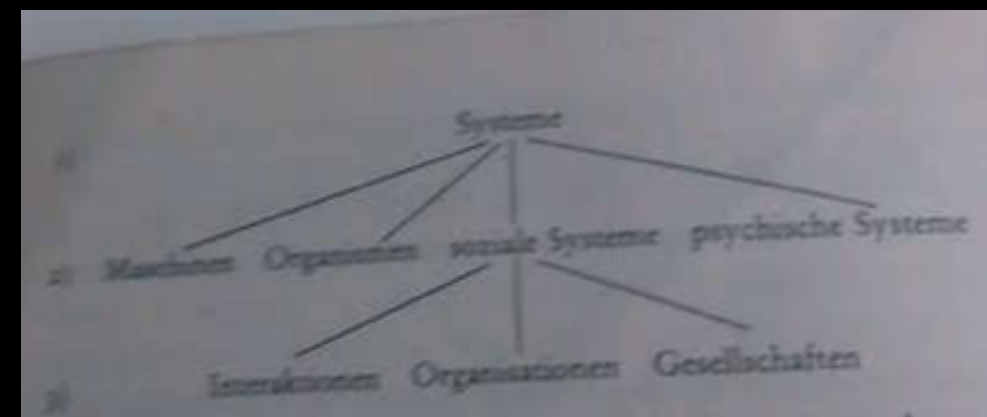
Social Systems

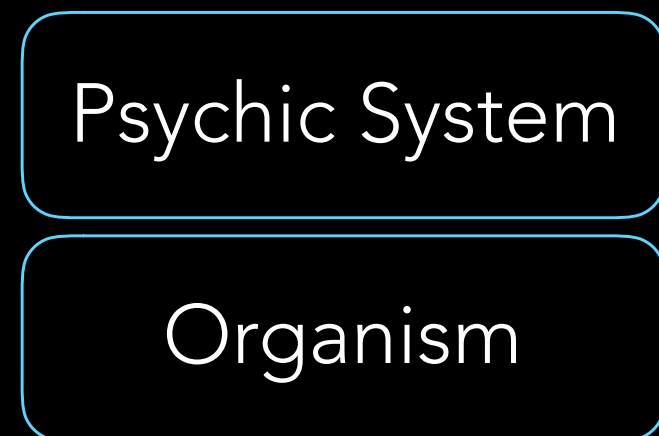
Psychic Systems

Interactions

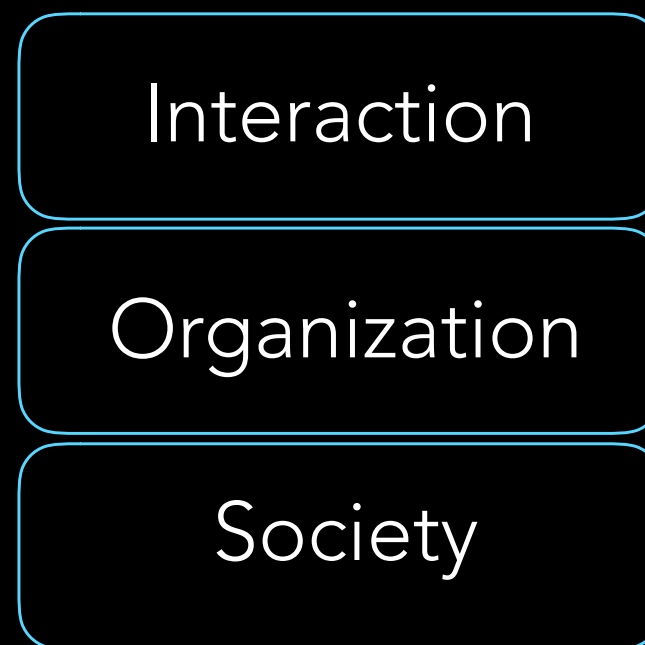
Organizations

Societies

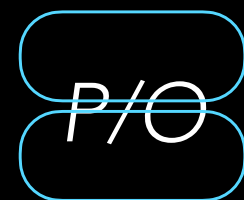
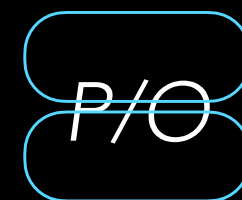
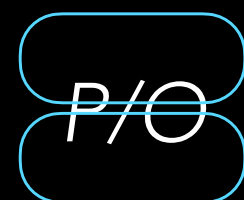
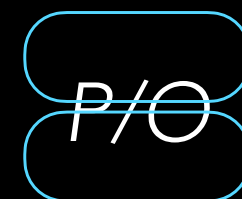




P/O (Person)



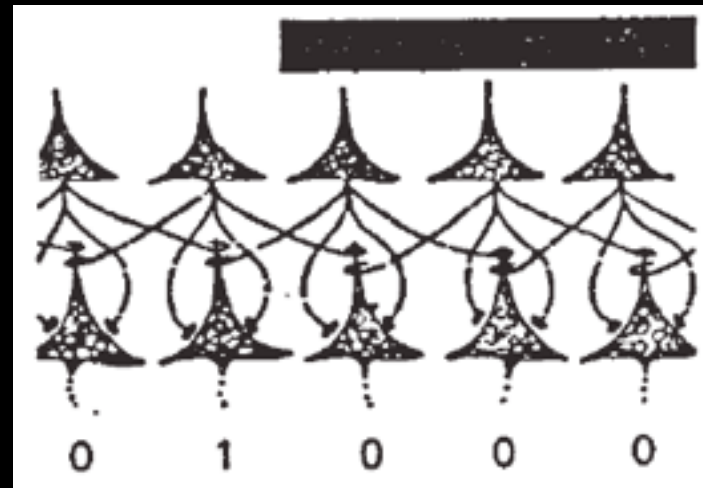
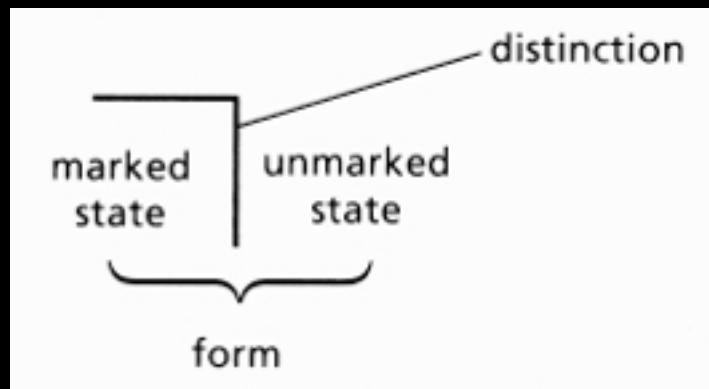
Social System



OBSERVERS



DISTINCTIONS



DISTINCTIONS AS LOGICAL OPERATIONS

SPENCER-BROWN

DISTINCTIONS AS EPISTEMOLOGY

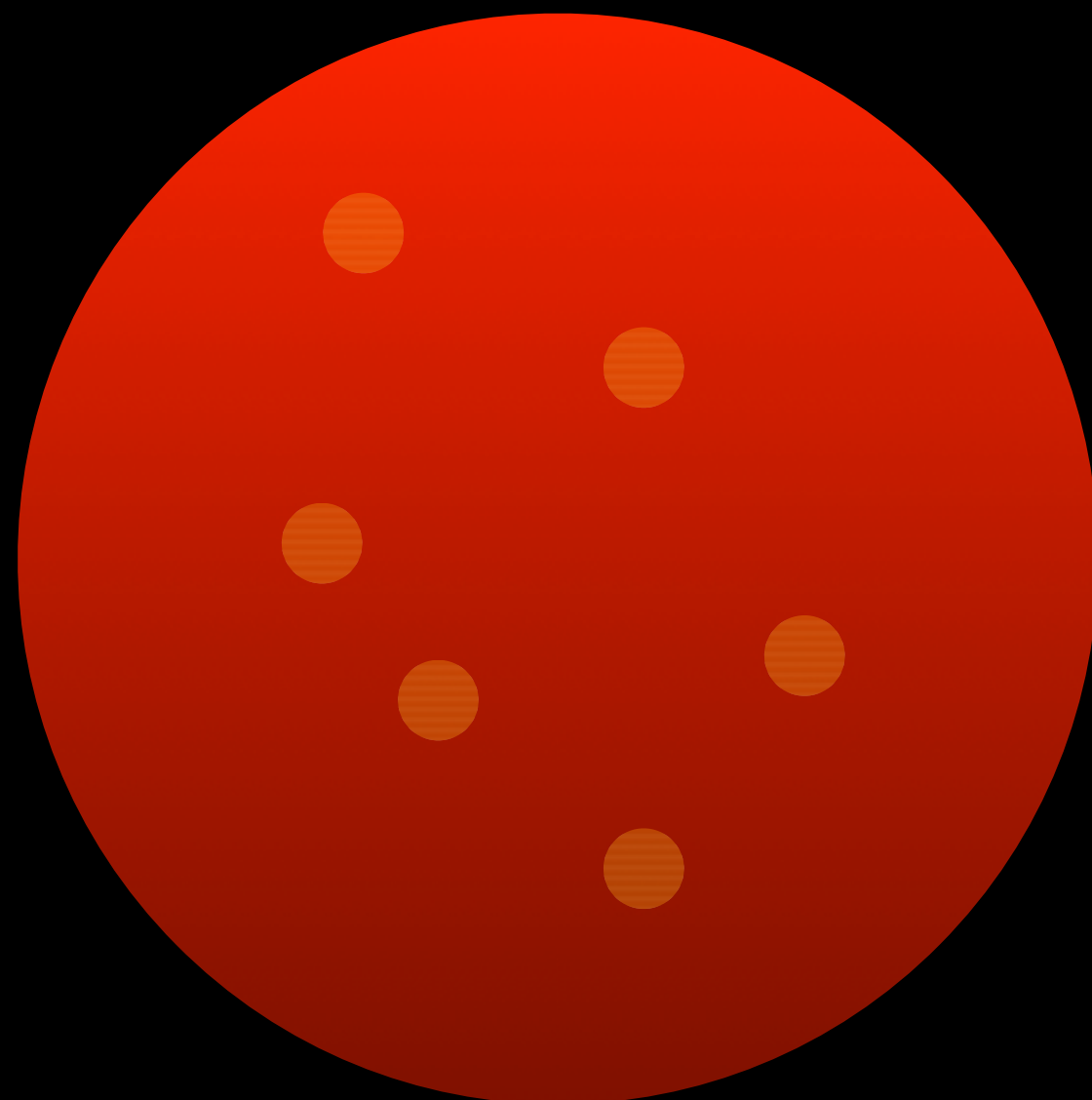
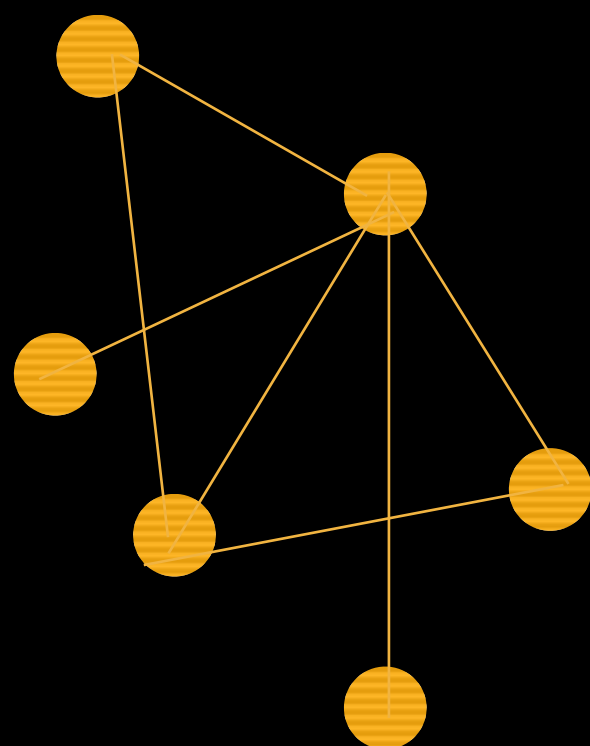
SECOND ORDER CYBERNETICS,
(RADICAL) CONSTRUCTIVISM

DISTINCTIONS AS OPERATIONS THAT CONSTRUCT MEANING

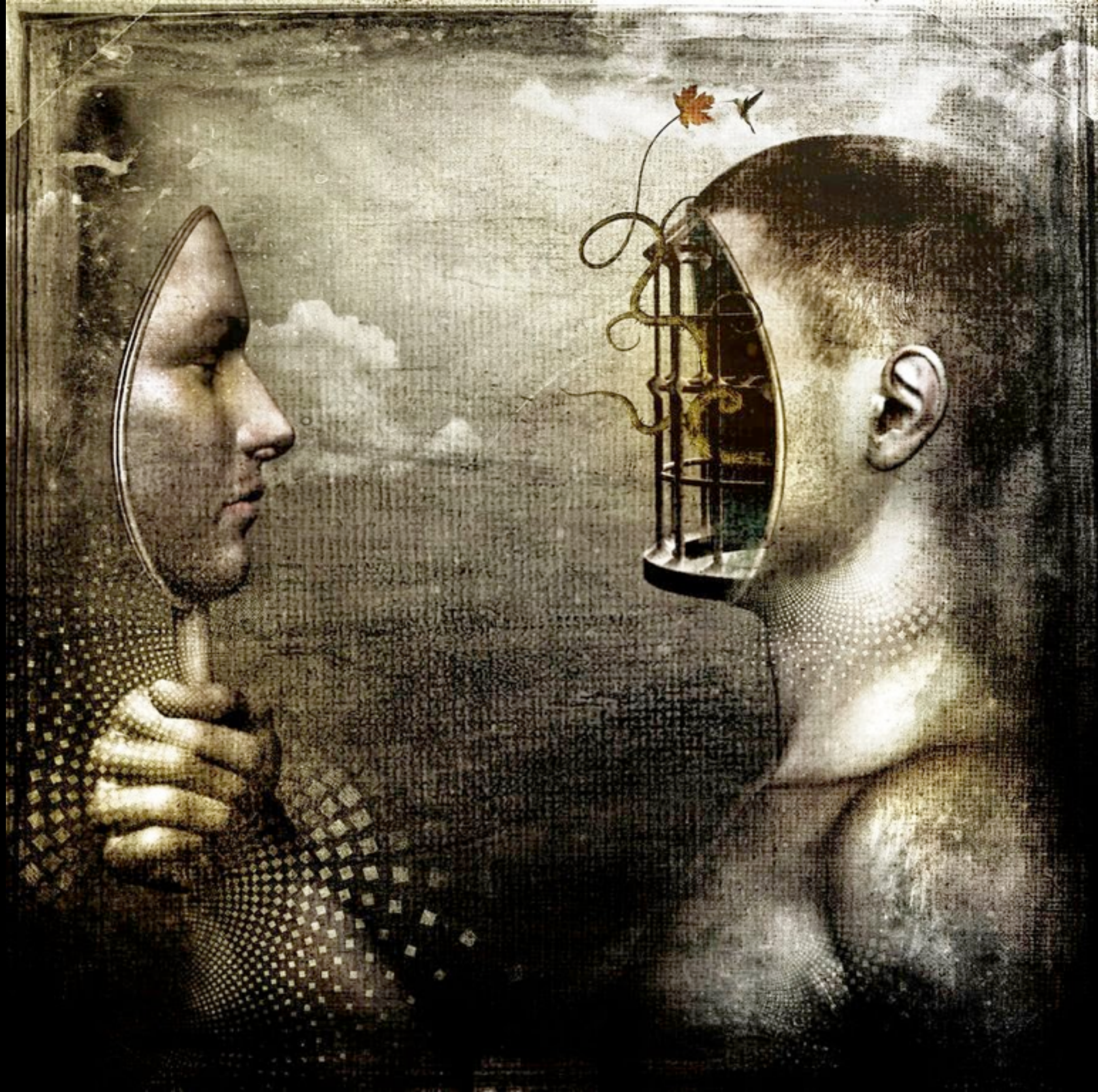
LUHMANN

(Bateson 2000a), (Derrida 1973), (Foerster 1973), (Glanville 2008), (Glaserfeld 2004), (Luhmann 1996), (Luhmann 2000), (Maturana and Varela 1980), (Spencer-Brown 2008), (Watzlawick 2011)

SYSTEM | ENVIRONMENT



SELF



MEANING

ACTUAL \ POTENTIAL

MEDIUM | FORM

ARE NETWORKS
(BECOMING) CONSCIOUS?

SYSTEMS

Systems

Machines

Organisms

Social Systems

Psychic Systems

Interactions

Organizations

Societies

DISTINCTIONS

STATES OF MIND



SELF

000000000:	00	00	00	00-04	00	00	00-00	00	00	00-04	00	00	00				
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000000020:	1A	00	00	00-73	00	65	00-72	00	76	00-69	00	63	00	→	s	e	r
000000030:	65	00	73	00-2E	00	65	00-78	00	65	00-00	00	34	00	e	.	e	x
000000040:	00	00	5C	00-53	00	79	00-73	00	74	00-65	00	6D	00	\	S	e	v
000000050:	52	00	6F	00-6F	00	74	00-5C	00	69	00-6E	00	66	00	R	o	y	e
000000060:	5C	00	6F	00-65	00	6D	00-37	00	41	00-2E	00	50	00	\	e	\	i
000000070:	4E	00	46	00-00	00	02	AE-00	00	02	00-03	00	00	00	N	F	Go	♥
000000080:	00	00	00	00-00	00	1A	00-00	00	53	00-37	00	74	00			→	S
000000090:	67	00	74	00-6F	00	70	00-78	00	2E	00-65	00	78	00	g	t	o	7
0000000A0:	65	00	00	00-34	00	00	00-5C	00	53	00-79	00	73	00	e	4	p	x
0000000B0:	74	00	65	00-6D	00	52	00-6F	00	6F	00-74	00	5C	00	t	e	\	.
0000000C0:	69	00	6E	00-66	00	5C	00-6F	00	65	00-6D	00	37	00	i	n	R	S
0000000D0:	41	00	2E	00-50	00	4E	00-46	00	00	00-02	AE	00	00	A	f	\	e
0000000E0:	02	00	03	00-00	00	00	00-00	00	00	00-22	00	00	00	.	P	o	7
0000000F0:	43	00	43	00-50	00	72	00-6F	00	6A	00-65	00	63	00	Go	♥		"
000000100:	74	00	4D	00-67	00	72	00-2E	00	65	00-78	00	65	00	C	C	P	j
000000110:	00	00	34	00-00	00	5C	00-53	00	79	00-73	00	74	00	t	M	r	e
000000120:	65	00	6D	00-52	00	6F	00-6F	00	74	00-5C	00	69	00	e	4	\	.
000000130:	6E	00	66	00-5C	00	6F	00-65	00	6D	00-37	00	41	00	n	R	S	e
000000140:	2E	00	50	00-4E	00	46	00-00	00	04	AE-00	00	02	00	.	\	e	x
000000150:	03	00	00	00-00	00	00	00-00	00	1A	00-00	00	65	00	♥	P	o	7
000000160:	78	00	70	00-6C	00	6F	00-72	00	65	00-72	00	2E	00	→	N	♥	Go
000000170:	65	00	78	00-65	00	00	00-34	00	00	00-5C	00	53	00	x	F		e
000000180:	79	00	73	00-74	00	65	00-6D	00	52	00-6F	00	6F	00	p	.	→	.
000000190:	74	00	5C	00-69	00	6E	00-66	00	5C	00-6F	00	65	00	x	4	r	\
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Figure 4.12 – The configuration data of the driver

SYSTEM | ENVIRONMENT



471



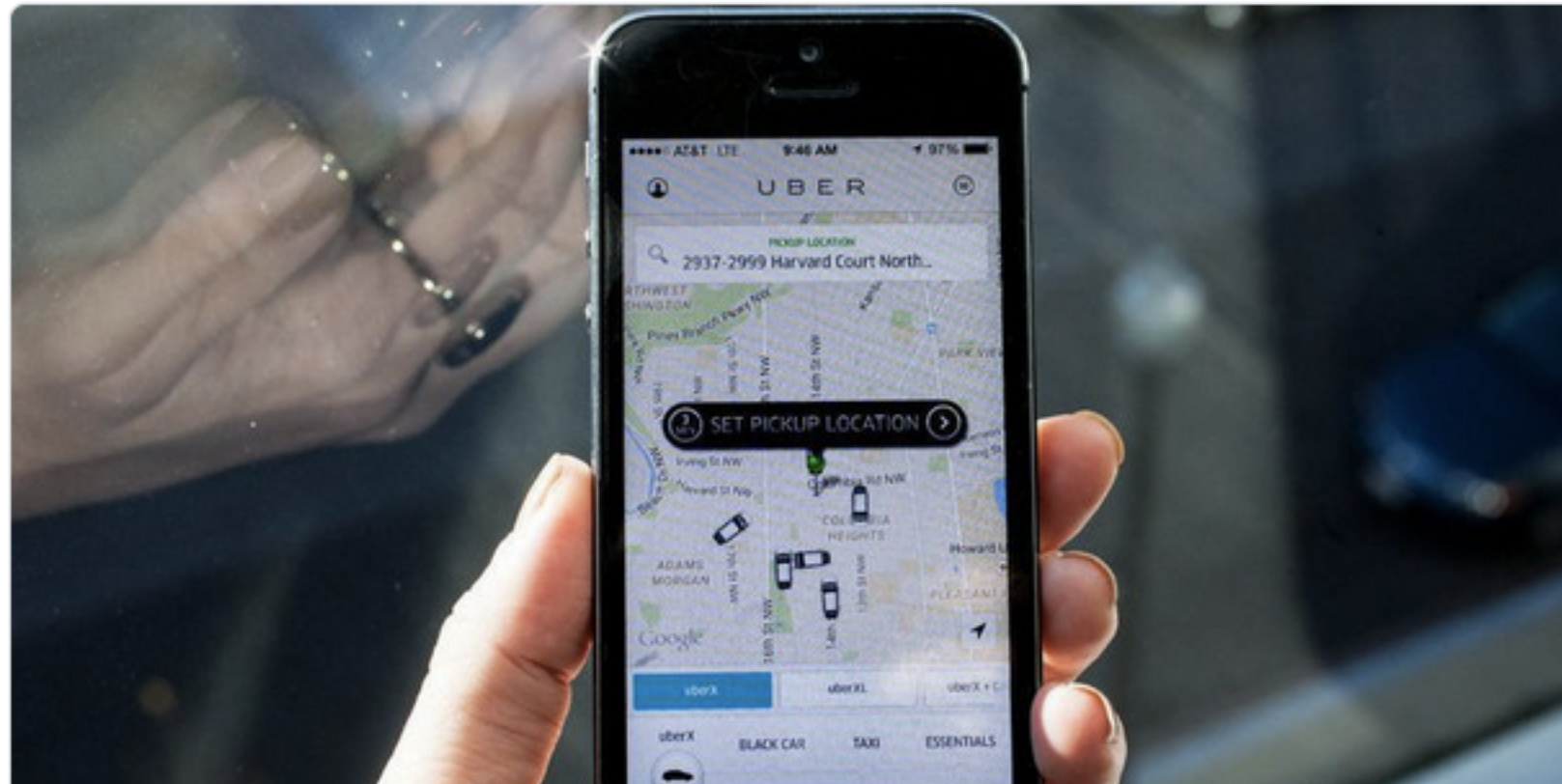
327

**Internet of Shit**

@internetofshit

**Following**

Really fun: some apps may be exploiting this –
Uber found you'd accept up to 9.9x surge price
if your battery's low



This Is Your Brain On Uber

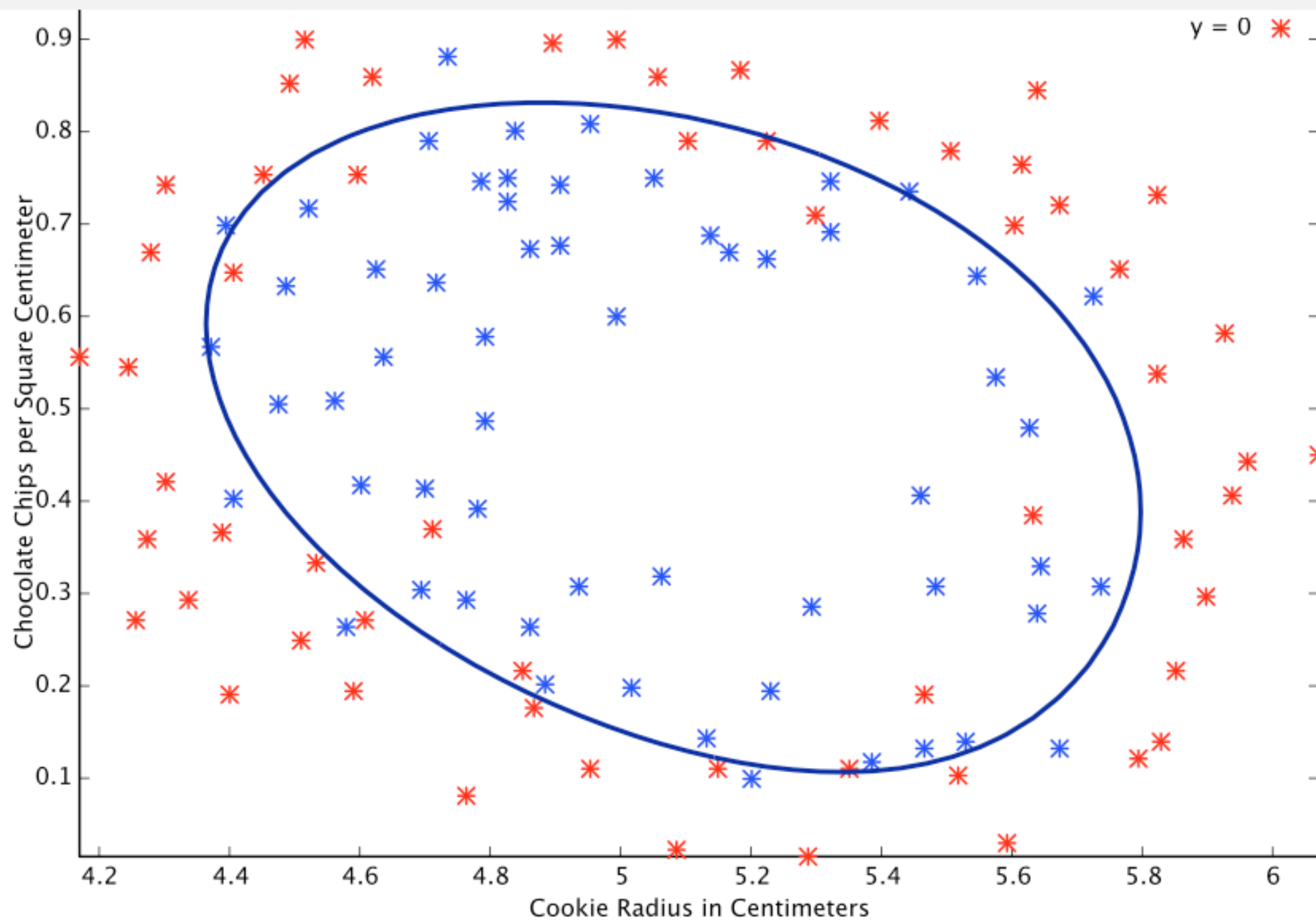
This week we feature Keith Chen, a behavioral economist at UCLA and the head of economic research at Uber. Keith explains why surge pricing makes us nuts and d...

npr.org

MEDIUM | FORM

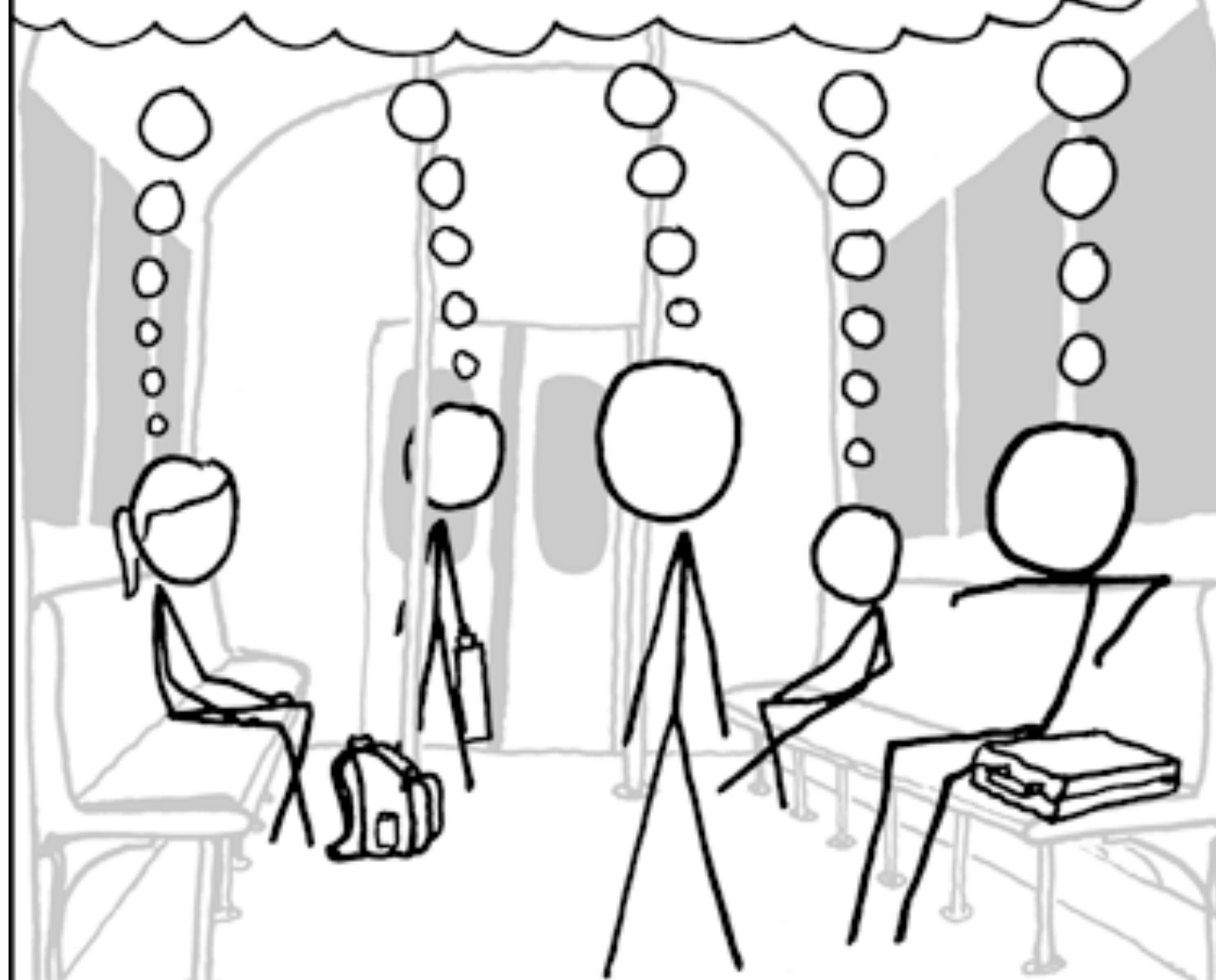


MEANING



OBSERVERS

LOOK AT THESE PEOPLE. GLASSY-EYED AUTOMATONS
GOING ABOUT THEIR DAILY LIVES, NEVER STOPPING
TO LOOK AROUND AND *THINK!* I'M THE ONLY
CONSCIOUS HUMAN IN A WORLD OF SHEEP.



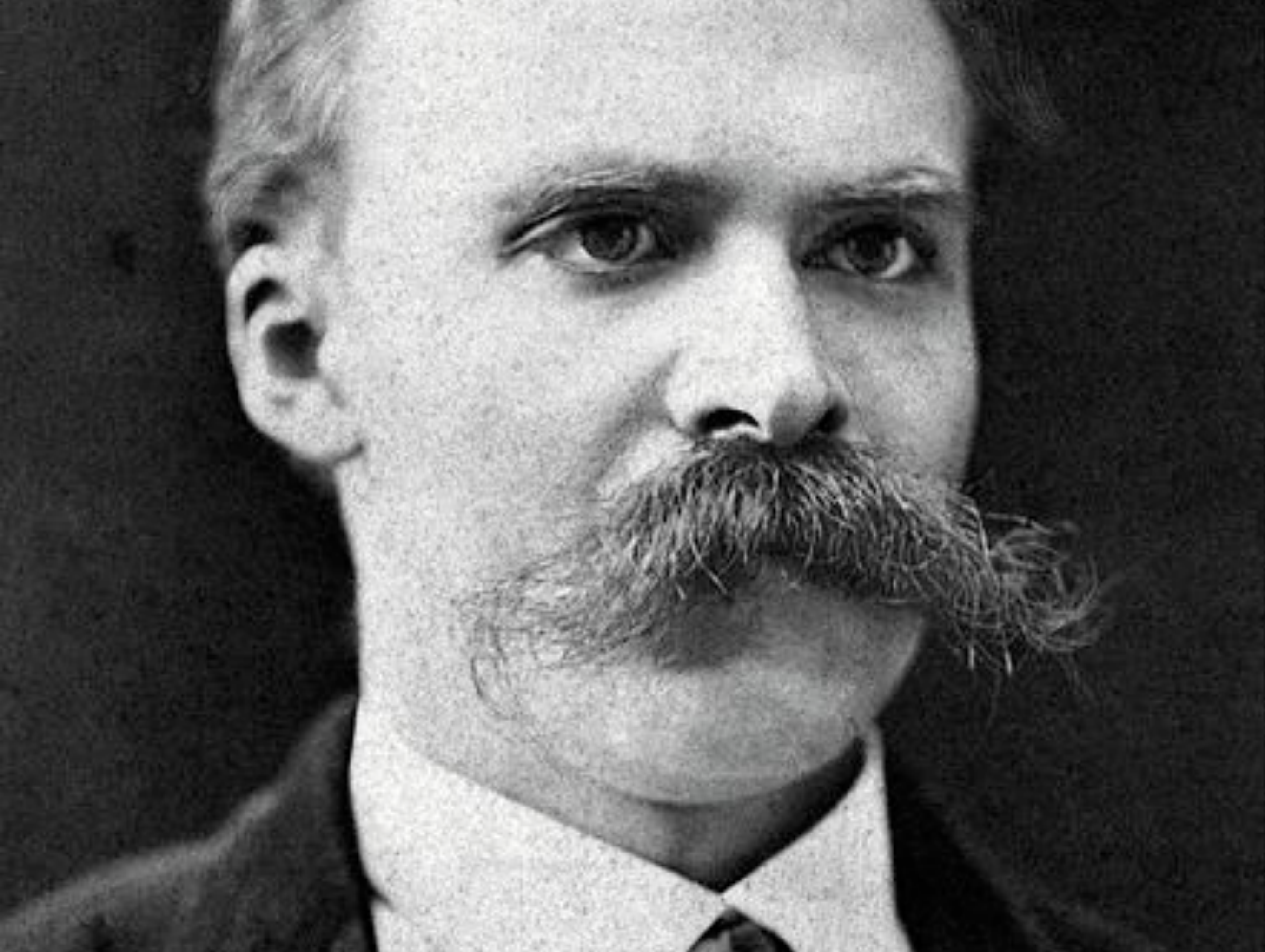


IMAGE CREDITS

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- Consciousness P3: <http://garethjyoung.com/how-we-misunderstand-consciousness-and-where-we-might-look/>
- Consciousness P4: <http://quotesgram.com/consciousness-quotes-zen/>
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- Spy vs. Spy, http://5cense.com/10/storni_loop.htm
- Stuxnet, <http://www.slideshare.net/hiepnhatrang/stuxnet-under-themicroscope-16184017>
- Third person / First person perspective, <http://www.kindercloud.com.au/counselling/>, <http://www.udel.edu/ILP/images/home-main.jpg>.
- Uber surge pricing, <https://twitter.com/internetofshit/status/760132042860404736?lang=en>

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THANK YOU

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