

## The Explanatory Gap

Marvin E. Kirsh <sup>1</sup>

[Kirsh2152000@yahoo.com](mailto:Kirsh2152000@yahoo.com)

<sup>1</sup> The California State University Los Angeles  
Department of Anthropology

I am asking of the big and small adventures, into the cell, out to outer space, if we have not missed the facts of an important intersection to know that its' presence is one of coincidence and of a peculiarity of human thinking from observation to make big concepts of small lines when they fall together in the same plane. In the example of neural structure and function and consciousness, the mind, what do we try to bridge with explanation?

I do not think that structure and function can be bridged; not that the physical units are not inter-convertible/compatible with one another, but a temporal path for knowledge, dynamic, self feeding, generating internally is always, necessarily, on the upswing, at a high, in its macro stages at the same time that the physical nature it extracts from is on its low, down swing--at the point of observation in theory construction if one is in the visible range the other is not present visibly at all on the same page. The gap is always nebulous. But at certain moments only, or at points of coincidence, when corresponding lines that might represent structure and function separately are parallel and not discriminated from one another (as i believe is the case regarding evidence for the theory of relativity) and when description rather than rigorous structural analysis is made feasible by personal insight from the observers own perspective with criteria of judgment from which a genuine relation to mutually witnessible topics is enabled.

Medieval philosophers felt they had to be in a trance to overcome their surroundings in order to know truth of the world; a replication complex on a chromosome wobbles around in a path that looks to have hardly room for happenstances, but we know that all processes proceed only because they proceed towards an open; though not an open space as one might imagine the tubular path of a chromosome, but one that would appear as infinite from the first perspective in analogy to the appearance of space to have no end from a human perspective--it is on a smaller scale that it may have dimensions compatible in ratio to that of an active area such as a gene to the whole length of the DNA in a chromosome--to try to find the harmonies of a potential weaving machine able to have created such disparate measures that are simultaneously functional in both minute and infinitely big stitches becomes blinding to the eye, comparative points cannot be seen on the same map at the same time although both are of the same structure and functioning, of the same device the mind employs as it, by necessity, constructs conceptual representations in order to navigate the world.

I believe our explanatory gap searching is evolved from an active asceticism founded on a poor world-communal happenstance that we pound hard back at the doors of this paradox delivered by other than a healthy open but struggling 'nature' whose conquering has come to effect unconsciously, not a conquering of the self, but of both the self and nature. Perhaps a better preoperative assessment is needed before a metastasis is made of a cancer that is only potentially malignant.