You Think, Therefore I Am:
Crowdsourcing Consciousness

Justin Campbell
Philosophy & Psychology
Utah State University
Where would I go to step-into your mind?
The Theater of Consciousness

• There is an intimate feeling that subjective experience is like a movie
  • If you could somehow “peek inside” you’d find no such theater
• Our experience is the product of a storm of electrical activity from nearly 100 billion neurons
Reading Minds

Without any direct access, we intuit the minds of others.
What is this object?

How did you know?

You don’t know how you know, you just do.
How Do We Make Sense of Experience?

- Behavior
- Experiences
- Language
- Culture
- Context
Crowdsourcing Consciousness

• The function of consciousness is **social**
  • Attributing consciousness to others helps one navigate a shared social environment
  • e.g., allows you to predict intentions, beliefs, desires

• The models constructed about other’s minds, **and our own**, are informed largely by dynamic social phenomena
  • e.g., culture, previous interactions, socialization

• **In sum**, our experience is crowdsourced
We should not think of the mind as a single isolated "private island". Rather, it may better be conceived as an "archipelago".