

Video: Why and how did consciousness evolve?

In a recent episode of [Closer to Truth](#), [Robert Lawrence Kuhn](#) interviewed University of California cognitive scientist [Donald Hoffman](#) on a challenging topic, “Why did consciousness emerge? (7:41 min, December 10, 2022).

Follow the latest news and policy debates on sustainable agriculture, biomedicine, and other ‘disruptive’ innovations. Subscribe to our newsletter.

[SIGN UP](#)

There was a time when there was no consciousness in our universe. Now there is. What caused consciousness to emerge? Did consciousness develop in the same way that, say, the liver or the eye developed, by random mutation and fitness selection during evolution? Inner experience seems to be radically different from anything else. Are we fooling ourselves?

Donald Hoffman is the author of [Visual Intelligence: How We Create What We See](#) and coauthor of *Observer Mechanics: A Formal Theory Of Perception* (Norton, 2000).

[See the original post here](#)