

## Role of Preconscious in Research on Time and Space

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### Abstract

The purpose of this study is to draw attention to the somewhat unusual procedure that appear to have brought effective help in theoretical research about time and space: the effective role of the preconscious throughout the search, knowing that this report is written by a physicist, not a psychoanalyst.

**Keywords:** *Preconscious; Time; Space*

### Introduction

It's obvious, time and space are difficult to master. The critical analyses of what is currently admitted, reproduced and repeated can be considered a failure. The unknown nature of time and space led to an awareness of the need to proceed otherwise, whereas conscious thought was unable to succeed. The question shortly became a kind of mental obsession: this obsession of discovering the nature of time and space has probably triggered a specific activity of the unconscious, of which certain valuable information has been gradually provided to the conscious by the preconscious. An assumption that would need to be confirmed.

### Unconscious and preconscious

One must draw the attention on the role played by the preconscious, which must not be confused with the intuition: the concept has been introduced by Freud [1,2], in replacement of the subconscious, which was considered a part of the unconscious. Let's make a trivial comparison with water which is boiling in a saucepan covered with a heavy lid: from time to time, the lid rises and a jet of steam escapes. We have no direct access to the water boiling, as we have no direct access to the unconscious. On the other side, the jets of steam delivers information about what is going on inside, as well as the preconscious does. Given that the signal is tenuous, short, erratic and unpredictable, a careful attention is required, in order to save the information delivered. The preconscious is active once in a while during the night, as well as anytime during the day.

### The conscious thinking

At the beginning of the research on time and space, during the very late 1990's, we started to take stock of knowledge, and to replace the everyday language and the usual metaphors by a rigorous terminology: this was a decision of the conscious.

An unlimited inquiry through scientific and non-scientific publications, since the invention of writing over 5000 years ago [3] made appear that the nature and the properties of time and space were unknown. time and space were not even defined with consistency.

Attitudes and reactions to the question of time are indicative of preconceived ideas. Everyone has their own certainty about time and everyone can repeat an unnumerable number of metaphors. For example: “time flies”; but this metaphor implies that time has a speed, which is related to time; therefore, the metaphor is a sophism. In addition, for many, time is a sensitive subject because, in many cultures, it was invented by Gods in order to control their creations.

Nobody knows what space is; it includes most of scientists.

### The preconscious

The following examples lead us to think that we are facing a particular operating mode of the thinking which corresponds to the definition of the preconscious.

Some decisive ideas have then been suggested by the preconscious, at completely unexpected times. Unfortunately, I am not able to say how it works. Here are some examples:

- Instead of investigating immediately on time and space, a sudden idea suggested to start by the study of time units and space units.
- Suddenly, another idea came about the use of interdisciplinarity. For example, search the first traces of temporality and spatiality, through Literature, Archaeology and History. Two illustrations: It allowed us to find out the first trace of time (Sumer; 2800-2500 BC) [4]. The targeted review of Latin literature allowed us to observe an example of gradual conceptualization of space [5]. This effective investigation led to the right way for defining time units, space units, time, space, and space-time.
- A basic questioning came the same way to my mind: if time and space are physically existing, they have necessarily been discovered somewhere in the Universe. If not, they have necessarily been invented. It obviously led to a prolific line of research.
- Another questioning concerning The duration of the present aroused an important questioning; which is a mystery for many. The answer came suddenly: if the word present means “present event”, the duration can be measured with a clock. If it means “present time”, the duration of “present time” is a sophism.
- I would mention another example of which I am not able to remember if the event resulted from preconscious or conscient thinking: At the very beginning of my research it suddenly occurred to me the obvious need to take into account the difference between a phenomenon and a corresponding concept. For instance, the Sumerians observed the repetition of the movements of the Moon: the lunation is an observable reality from which they have invented the lunar month, which is a concept [6].

Afterward, the idea of concept has played a crucial role for describing the nature and the properties of time and space.

### Conclusion

Thanks to the efficient activity of the preconscious, it results that time is not a phenomenon and that space has no materiality [6].

Time and space could be an interesting subject for an anthropological inquiry. It would probably show that the preconscious is not active with everyone at a significant level, or that the preconscious is not heard or even not listened at all.

The explanations of psychology or psychoanalysis would certainly be extremely valuable for researchers.

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