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I am an independent researcher who has developed a functional framework for consciousness, focused on proxy activation and internal looping dynamics. My work arose from a lifelong interest in recollection and subjective experience, first sparked by a childhood incident in which I awoke to a sudden and utterly unforeseeable external stimulus – a bolt of lightning had struck our house, and something inexplicable took place in my mind. I immediately recalled a dream that had led up to it anachronistically: I had seen a burning fuse approaching a cannon, even though there was no way I could have known lightning was about to strike. I later discovered that neither psychology nor neuroscience offered any plausible explanation for what had occurred. That moment became the seed of a decades-long inquiry.

During college, I took courses in logic, including the structural modeling of theories, and majored in accounting and finance. I later spent several years independently modeling double-entry bookkeeping as a formal system in first-order predicate calculus using six binary relations. Though I never published this work, believing it to be of limited importance, the skills I developed through that intricate and precise process of fitting real-world phenomena into a theoretical structure are what allowed me to later formulate the functional framework of human brain function.

My extensive experience as a Portuguese-to-English translator specializing in art criticism was also crucial to the framework's development. Although my early years in framework construction had already demanded semantic analysis and the careful formulation of terms, many years of translation in a field dense with nuance sharpened my ability to approach any given word as a "semantic bundle" and to appreciate the often-unexpected effects that arise when words are fitted together in combinations. Functional frameworks are, after all, built with concepts defined by words.

Through many years as a teacher of English as a second language in Brazil, I also explored theories of linguistics. I began studying the muscular basis of speech and came to understand that there is a continuous outward channel of expression – one that begins deep in the brain and ends in motor commands. Later, when I formulated a model for recollection that would explain the childhood dream, I identified the missing key: neuronal reuse. With that, everything finally fit together. The framework that emerged offers a unified explanation for recollection, imagination, conscious perception, and the full range of subjective experience – including the childhood dream that set this discovery process in motion.

I began to experience conscious perception as something happening on the *output* side of mental function – not the input side, as I had always assumed. Everything looked the same,

but was fundamentally different. I then sensed the need to develop a number of higher-order functional explanations that would account for mental operations. To do so, I pursued parallel studies in psychology, neuroscience, and philosophy, all the while combining these studies with systematic introspective investigation. Over time, this led to the articulation of a framework that treats conscious experience as a real-time internal reuse of the expressive channel of the brain – a non-metaphysical, physically grounded model of experience.

Once I had the entire framework developed, I discovered that it was impossible to convey to other people through the form of a conventional essay or book. Each of the terms needed careful definition, but that became overly technical and complicated to convey in writing. That's when I realized I would need to do it in dialogue form, through the give and take of two interlocutors. I therefore wrote a series of philosophical conversations in which the precise meanings of key terms are developed and clarified through discussion – making them accessible while refining them enough to fit together into a coherent framework. The dialogues are available online at: <https://sites.google.com/view/7dialogs/dialog-1>