

Herbert W. Harris, M.D., Ph.D.

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My research develops a naturalistic framework for mind grounded in predictive neuroscience and active inference. Central concepts include **Query Acts**, which conceptualize conscious experience as inferential “questions” posed by predictive systems, and **Active Intersubjective Inference (AISI)**, a model in which the self emerges through recursive inferences about how others perceive us. My broader work develops a theory of *Intersubjective Predictive Agency*, integrating predictive processing, social cognition, phenomenology, and psychodynamic theory. Current projects explore implications for self-consciousness, free will, ethics, personal identity, developmental psychology, computational neuroscience, and psychodynamically informed psychotherapy.

Education and Training

- Yale University School of Medicine, Residency in Psychiatry (1990–1994)
- Hospital of Saint Raphael, Rotating Internship (1990–1991)
- University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, M.D. (1990)
- University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Ph.D., Experimental Pathology / Neurobiology (1989)
- Georgetown University, B.A. in Philosophy (1983)

Academic and Professional Appointments

- Founder and Principal, Herbert Harris Consulting LLC (2025–present)
- Executive Vice President, Translational Medicine, Tonix Pharmaceuticals (2020–2024)
- Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of North Carolina School of Medicine (2003–2005)
- Clinical Faculty, Department of Psychiatry, Howard University (1996–2000)
- Chief, Geriatric Psychopharmacology and Geriatric Clinical Neurosciences Programs, National Institute of Mental Health (1996–1999)
- Senior Staff Fellow, Laboratory of Neurosciences, National Institute on Aging (1994–1996)
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Laboratory of Molecular Psychiatry, Yale University School of Medicine (1993–1994)

Areas of Research

- Philosophy of mind
- Consciousness studies
- Active inference and predictive processing
- Psychodynamics and phenomenology

- Philosophy of psychiatry
- Neuropsychiatry and computational psychiatry
- Race, identity, and narrative medicine

Selected Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Harris, H. W. (2025). Active inference and psychodynamics: A novel integration with applications to depression and stress disorders. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 16, 1630858.
- Harris, H. W. (2025). Qualia as query act: The phenomenology of predictive error coding. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 16, 1531269.
- Bergmans, R. S., Clauw, D. J., Flint, C., Harris, H. W., Lederman, S., & Schrepf, A. (2024). Chronic overlapping pain conditions increase the risk of long COVID features, regardless of acute COVID status. *Pain*, 165(5), 1112–1120.
- Brennan, F. X., Gardner, K. R., Lombard, J., Perlis, R. H., Fava, M., Harris, H. W., & Scott, R. (2015). A naturalistic study of the effectiveness of pharmacogenetic testing to guide treatment in psychiatric patients with mood and anxiety disorders. *The Primary Care Companion for CNS Disorders*, 17(2).
- Harris, H. W., & Schaffner, K. F. (1991). Molecular genetics, reductionism, and disease concepts in psychiatry. *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, 17, 125–151.

Books and Edited Volumes

- Harris, H. W., Blue, H. C., & Griffith, E. E. H. (Eds.). (1995). *Racial and ethnic identity: Psychological development and creative expression*. Routledge.

Selected Essays and Public Philosophy

- “Psychoanalysis 2.0” (2025), 3 Quarks Daily
- “The Social Origin of Free Will” (2025), 3 Quarks Daily
- “Self-Consciousness as a Team Sport” (2025), 3 Quarks Daily
- “Topsy-Turvy” (2023), *New England Review*
- “Portrait of the Artist as a Black Man” (2021), *Solstice Literary Magazine*

Honors and Awards

- Michael Steinberg Creative Nonfiction Award (2021)
- Innovator Award, Jazz Pharmaceuticals (2006)
- NIMH Employee Recognition Award (1997)
- APA/NIMH Minority Fellowship (1992)