A multidisciplinary examination of the nature of consciousness.

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The Boundaries of Consciousness: Neurobiology and Neuropathology

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—FOREWORD by Eelco F.M. Wijdicks, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, MN, U.S.A.

"Laureys and contributors have taken up the task to link biocognitive theories, functional neuroimaging, and clinial descriptions of known comatose states, and the result is impressive. The authors have mined this complex and disputatious field and its entire consolidated work is very readable... It is probably one of the most ambitious books in this field.."

—FOREWORD by Stanislas Dehaene, INSERM, Orsay, France, President-elect of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness

"The distinguished panel of philosophers, modelers, psychologists, physicians, and neuroscientists assembled here provides an accessible, yet in-depth perspective on many of those fields of research. Rarely has such a diversity of points of view been made available in a single volume. Browsing through them provides an exciting window into the forefront of consciousness research, as well as the associated philosophical, ethical and clinical issues...
Cautiousness remains deeply needed as we begin to converge on a set of methodologies for studying consciousness, and of theories with which to assess the results. The present volume, by confronting many points of view in the field, is likely to serve as an important landmark on the way to this ultimate goal."

DESCRIPTION:

This book has a bold ambition. It aims to confront the latest theoretical, philosophical and computational insights in the scientific study of human consciousness with the most recent behavioral, neuroimaging, electrophysiological, pharmacological and neuropathological data on brain function in states of impaired consciousness such as: brain death, coma, vegetative state, minimally conscious state, locked-in syndrome, near-death experiences, out-of body experiences, hysteria, general anesthesia, dementia, epilepsy, sleep, hypnosis, and schizophrenia.

The interest of this is threefold. First, the exploration of brain function in diseases of consciousness represents a unique lesional approach to the scientific study of consciousness and adds to the worldwide effort to identify the 'neural correlate of consciousness'. Second, patients with altered states of consciousness continue to represent a major clinical problem in terms of clinical assessment, treatment and daily management. Third, new scientific insights in this field have major ethical and social implications, which are the topic of the last part of this book.

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An official book of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness. This volume resulted from a special satellite meeting held as part of the eighth annual ASSC meeting.

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