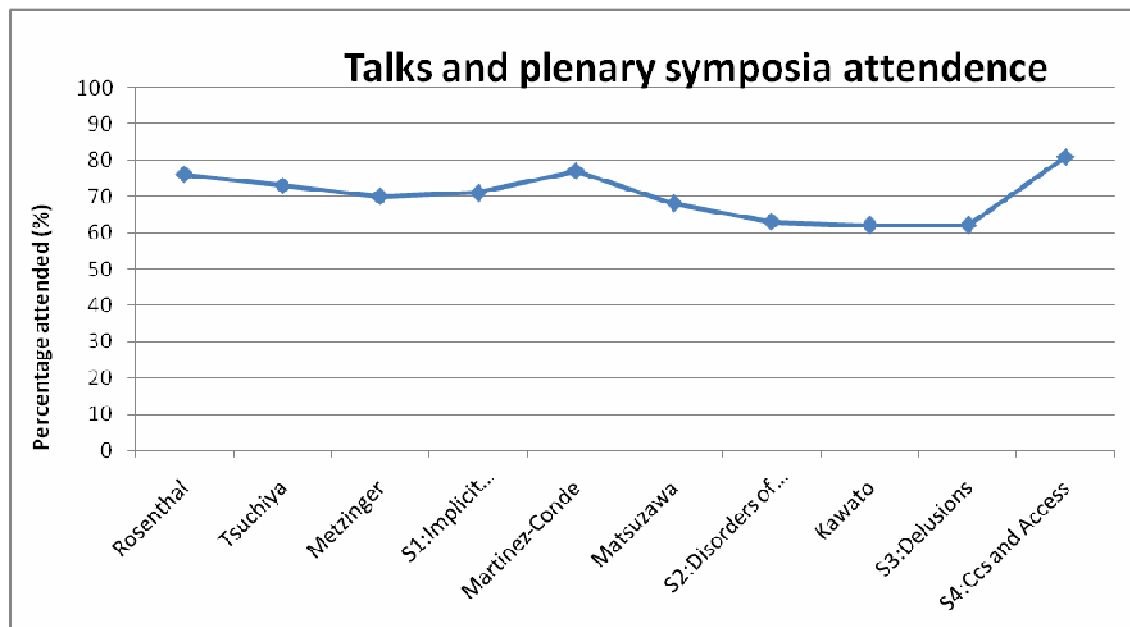


## OVERVIEW

ASSC12 took place on June 19-22, 2008 at the Gis Convention Center in Taipei, Taiwan. The meeting began on Thursday, June 19, following a day of optional tutorials and an opening ceremony. The conference website is archived at <http://www.ym.edu.tw/assc12/index.php>. 278 people registered to attend the meeting, 273 of whom were sent a survey. 151 participants completed the survey (55%)<sup>2</sup>. The following report is based on survey results and is written primarily to provide guidance for future conference organizers. As such, the central aim of this report is to catalogue what went well at the conference and why.

Many were of the opinion that the hospitality, organization, entertainment and presentation of the ASSC12 conference were easily the best so far. Some of the highlights included the opening ceremony which gave a sense of Taiwanese culture, the student and after parties and the banquet. There were, however, mixed opinions about the content – especially of the relevance and quality of some of the symposia and the posters. However, most agreed that the quality of talks is steadily improving with each ASSC conference. Generally the conference was a resounding success, with a good number attending, and most people rating the talks as either “good” or “excellent.”



<sup>1</sup> Many thanks to Olivia Carter and Derek Smith for additional comments, and to especially to Chien-Hui Chiu for information about conference procedures and other statistics. Correspondence regarding this report can be sent to the author at [pdroege@psu.edu](mailto:pdroege@psu.edu).

<sup>2</sup> The survey was sent to all the registered attendees. 151 of these completed the survey. Partial completions were not included.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Of 151 respondents, 77% were ASSC members (16% full, 19% affiliate, and 42% student members). By far, the majority of participants (46%) were poster presenters. Also, large proportions of the attendees were either interested observers (19%) or speakers in concurrent sessions (21%). As such, this suggests that these three categories of attendees should be encouraged to attend future conferences.

Tutorial presenter	8	5%
Keynote speaker	6	4%
Plenary speaker in a symposium	8	5%
Speaker in concurrent session	31	21%
Presenter of a poster	69	46%
Interested observer	29	19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>100%</b>

Computer scientist	8	5%
Neuroscientist	36	23%
Philosopher	43	28%
Psychologist	52	34%
Member of the public	4	3%
Other <sup>3</sup>	12	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>100%</b>

This year, psychologists form the largest group, with 34% of attendees being either psychologists, neuroscientists or philosophers.

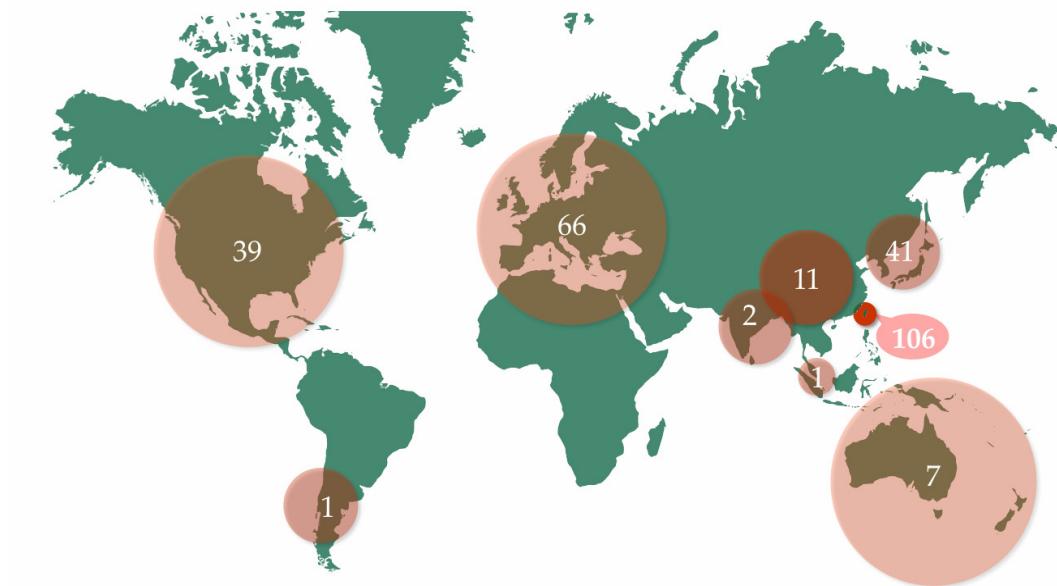
ASSC1: Los Angeles (1997)	4	3%
ASSC2: Bremen (1998)	5	3%
ASSC3: London, Ontario (1999)	4	3%
ASSC4: Brussels (2000)	9	6%
ASSC5: Durham, North Carolina (2001)	2	1%
ASSC6: Barcelona (2002)	3	2%
ASSC7: Memphis (2003)	6	4%
ASSC8: Antwerp (2004)	14	9%
ASSC9: Caltech (2005)	20	13%
ASSC10: Oxford (2006)	31	21%
ASSC11: Las Vegas (2007)	23	15%
This is my first ASSC meeting	111	74%

### International participation

Total Registrants	Asian Countries	Western Countries	Other Countries
278	160	110	8

<sup>3</sup> 1 vision scientist, 1 dentist/hypnotherapist, 1 physicist, 1 medical student, 2 linguists, 1 artist, 1 student

Figure 1: World Map of Participants<sup>4</sup>



*Comments:*

\* Total attendance (278) was about the same as in previous years (ASSC-11, 251, ASSC-10 316, ASSC-8 250), which makes the first conference in Asia a clear success. Given the high number of participants who attended the conference for the first time (111), it was clearly wise to expand the regular conference locations to include Asia.

\* It would also be worthwhile to better utilize the opportunity to solicit new members at annual conferences. The director, board chair or president should include a brief pitch, advertising the many benefits of ASSC membership. In addition, the conference booklet could include an ad listing these benefits as well.

## ACADEMIC CONTENT

### *TUTORIALS*

Six tutorials were held. There were three concurrent tutorials in the morning session and three in the afternoon session. Each was three hours long. 138 tutorial attendees paid 50 USD per tutorial. While 6 tutorials were scheduled, a tutorial by Antoine Bechara on Emotions, Feelings and Decisions was cancelled. Tutorials presented were:

T1. Tim Bayne & Jakob Hohwy: Conscious States and Conscious Creatures: Explanatory Strategies in the Science of Consciousness

T2. Andrew Brook: Terminology in Consciousness Studies

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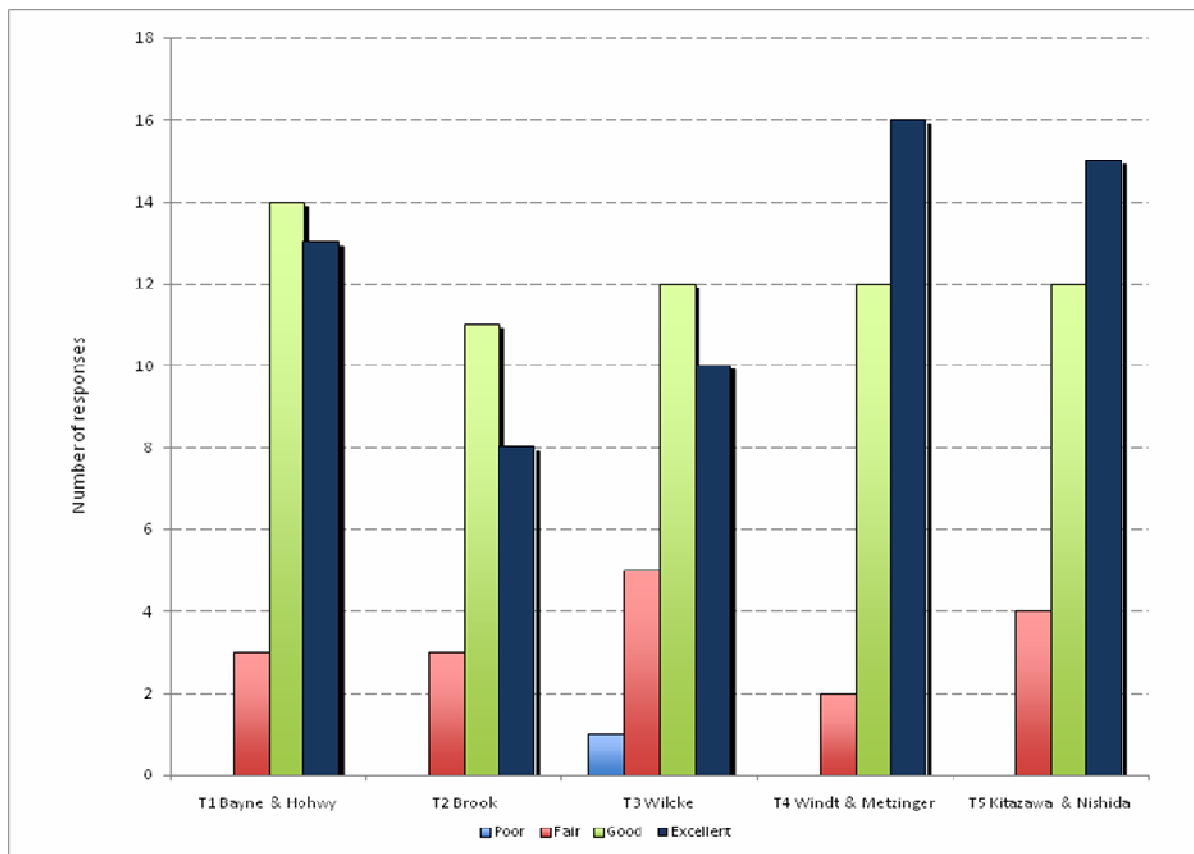
<sup>4</sup> Table and graph of international registrants was provided by the ASSC 12 organizers: Jong-Tsun Huang, Allen Y. Hiong, Yuk-Man Leung, Chen-Tung Yeh, Su-Ling Yeh, Shulan Hsieh, Gary C.-W. Shyi, Chien-Chung Chen, Chou Po Hung, Caleb Y.-Y. Liang, Yunn Wen Lien, Keng-Chen Liang, Chon-Haw Tsai, Yei-Yu Yeh, Chien-Hui Chiu.

T3. Juliane Wilcke: The Evolutionary Function of Consciousness

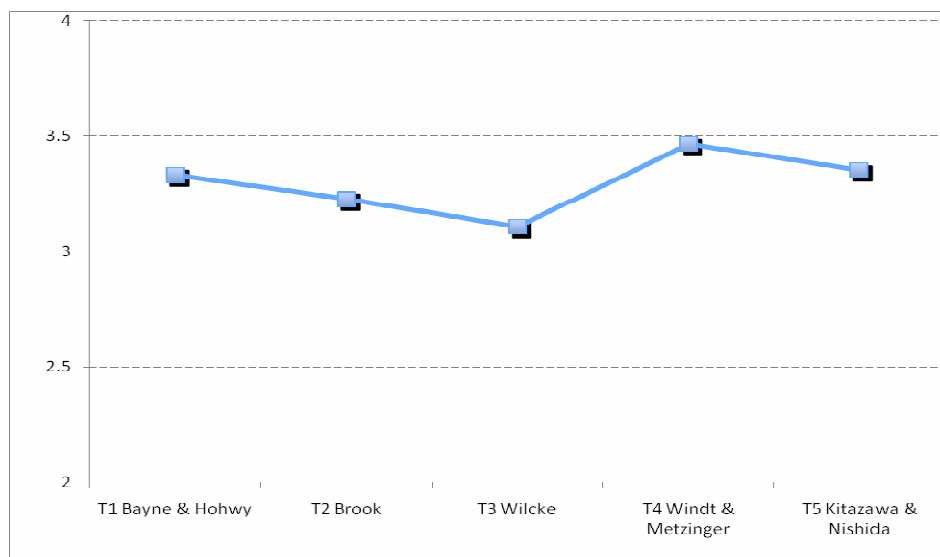
T4. Jennifer Windt & Thomas Metzinger: Neurophilosophical Approaches to the Dreaming Mind—a Contrastive Analysis of Dreaming and Wakefulness

T5. Shigeru Kitazawa & Shin'ya Nishida: Adaptive Anomalies in Conscious Time Perception

Tutorial evaluations are presented in two forms. The first table presents total responses in each of 4 rating categories: poor, fair, good, excellent. The second table presents a weighted average of ratings in order to compare tutorials within and between years. These results were determined by converting each response into a score of 1-4. The scores were summed and divided by the number of responses to achieve the weighted average. A score of higher than 3.0 indicates the average ranking is greater than 'good' (i.e., there are more responses for 'excellent' than 'fair' and 'poor'), whereas a score of less than 3.0 indicates the average evaluation was less than 'good' (i.e., there are more responses for 'fair' or 'poor' than 'excellent'). While higher scores do indicate a more positive response, it is likely that a score at either extreme of the range is increasingly difficult. An examination of previous years' scores suggests a practical upper bound of 3.6 and a lower bound of 2.2.<sup>5</sup>



<sup>5</sup> Description and evaluation of weighted average from Patrick Wilken's ASSC10 Report.



Response to tutorials was very good overall as every tutorial received a weighted response over 3.0. Windt & Metzinger delivered the highest rated tutorial at 3.46, and was very well attended (27). The Kitazawa & Nishida and the Bayne & Hohwy tutorials were also very well received at 3.35 and 3.33 respectively, with attendance number of 30 and 24. While the Wilke tutorial (3.22/22 attendees) had a better overall rating than the Brook tutorial (3.10, 18 attendees), it was the only tutorial to receive poor ratings. The mixed opinions may have been due to the expectation that senior people lead tutorials, as expressed in some comments below.

### **General praise:**

*Time control is perfect.*

*They are wonderful. I do learn much from the tutorial.*

*I didn't attend, but it seemed to be organised well.*

### **Comments on individual tutorials:**

*Windt and Metzinger's tutorial [T4] was one of the best I have ever attended at an ASSC event. they should be congratulated for doing such an excellent job.*

*Andrew [T2] is a good organizer.*

*It was not a workshop rather lecture. [T3]*

*I don't think there was much consistency between the two speakers; it would have been better if Tim had continued with philosophy after his introduction instead of the shift to the experimental results. I didn't see the connection between both parts. [T1]*

*I think he could have spent more time going over the many unique definitions in the field of consciousness studies, rather than just giving an overview. [T2]*

*Good. [T1]*

**Comments about workshop format:**

*In the two workshops I visited so far, we ended up doing a sort of seminar. It would probably help to start a workshop with an introduction, then try to select some specific workshop problems/questions and formulate the discussion goal for each of them, and then divide the group into sub-groups that work on the different problems.*

*More working with group.*

*Make it more interactive.*

*More interaction will be fine.*

*Leave more time for students to ask questions, as we were cut short to fit the time slot.*

*I would prefer the workshop presenters to make a good review of the field rather than presenting their own studies.*

*Demonstrations (Movie, Figure) were very good.*

**Advanced preparation:**

*In previous years a reading list with pdfs of relevant papers was made available on the website prior to the meeting. This would really have helped bring attendees up to speed. It seemed like on the same three people were asking questions or contributing my sessions.*

*Online materials for preparation.*

*More specific introduction ahead would be more helpful.*

**Suggestions for content:**

*It is a pity that this conference held in Asia but no consciousness studies from the Eastern points of view.*

*Topic: Neuroscience / psychology of decision making.*

*If it is possible, please organize workshop session concerning the history of neuroscience or psychology.*

*Quantum physicist's idea on consciousness.*

*I'd very much appreciate the following people as tutors of future workshops: Victor Lamme, Axel Cleeremans, Anthony Marcel, Stan Dehaene, Kristof Koch.*

*Cognitive Modeling (e.g. perception, decision making, multi agent systems).*

*As tutorials seemed to be attended mainly by students (who had performed few or no experiments), I found it odd that there was no tutorial on methodology and methodological issues. Apart from that, I think that there was a good selection of topics.*

*One potentially interesting workshop topic would be the instantiation of conscious states in the absence of a cerebral cortex (i.e., ontogenetic and phylogenetic implications).*

*I am interested in android research.*

### **Complaints:**

*It is a pity! Dr. Behcara didn't come.*

*The acoustics weren't very good! [T4]*

*Make sure that the acoustics and the whole AV setup in general is of good quality.*

*Allowing more social angles.*

*Don't give tutorials to junior people. They are expensive, and junior people often don't have the necessary breadth to give tutorials.*

*It is generally a good idea to have senior people, rather than students (a student together with a senior person can work very well, but a student/young post-doc on their own maybe less well). Handing out literature in advance is a good idea.*

*Avoid western cultural chauvinism.*

*Tutorials are too expensive to attend.*

### **Comments:**

\* As noted by the positive overall ratings, the tutorials went very well. Despite technical difficulties mentioned for the Windt and Metzinger tutorial and some objections to style (see below), attendees expressed favourable responses to all of the tutorial sessions.

\* A few commentators noted the value of an interactive workshop over a lecture-style format. It would seem that the tutorial sessions would be an ideal locus for a more discussion-based style. On the other hand, not all presenters are comfortable with a more free-form structure and the variety of participant backgrounds – across fields, expert to novice – would make planning difficult. One solution is to be clearer that the sessions are tutorials, not workshops, so participants aren't misled into thinking the sessions are more interactive than intended. Additionally, it might be useful to prepare guidelines for tutorials, including suggestions for effective discussions and other ways to actively engage participants. The ideal format may be a lecture style with considerable opportunity for questions and discussion.

\* As in previous years, several commentators suggested that literature be provided in advance. This suggestion could be included in the guidelines for tutorials, and pdf attachments to tutorial proposals could also serve as one of the criteria for evaluation. Conference

organizers could then simply upload pdfs onto the conference website for tutorial participants.

## *KEYNOTE TALKS*

Keynote speakers included four invited speakers, the Presidential Address and the William James Prize speaker.

David Rosenthal: Why Are Mental States Ever Consciousness?

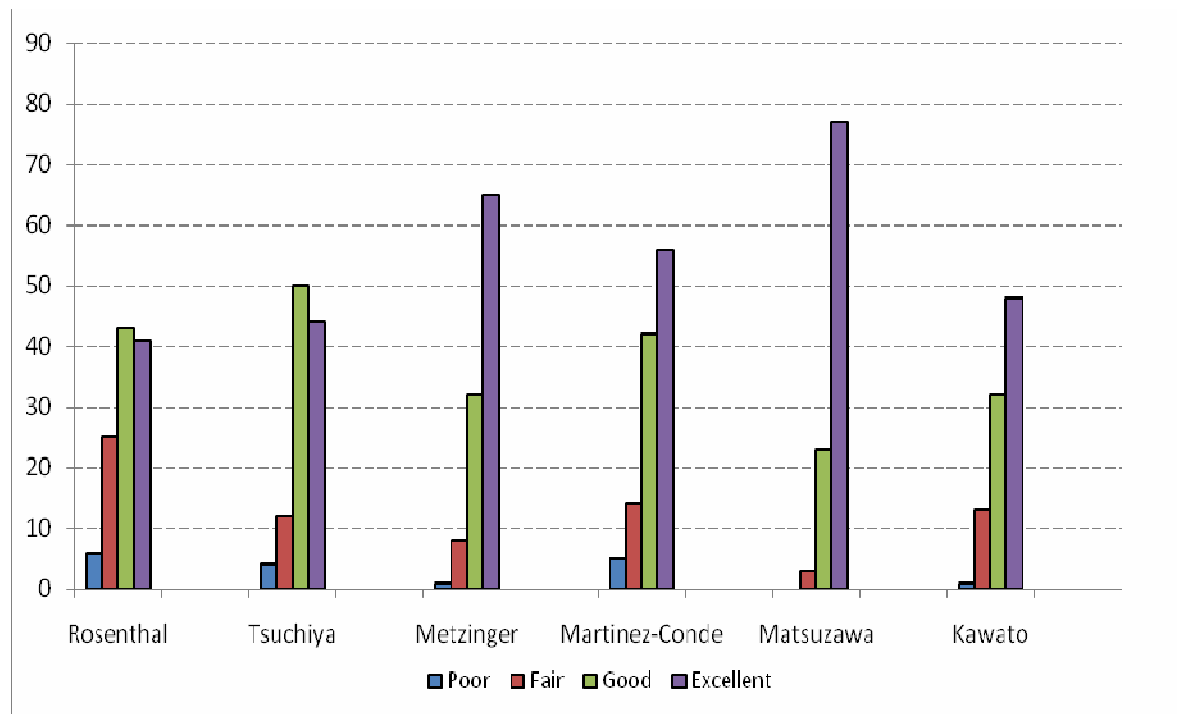
William James Prize speaker: Naotsugu Tsuchiya: A novel powerful technique to dissociate physical input from subjective experience: Continuous Flash Suppression (CFS)

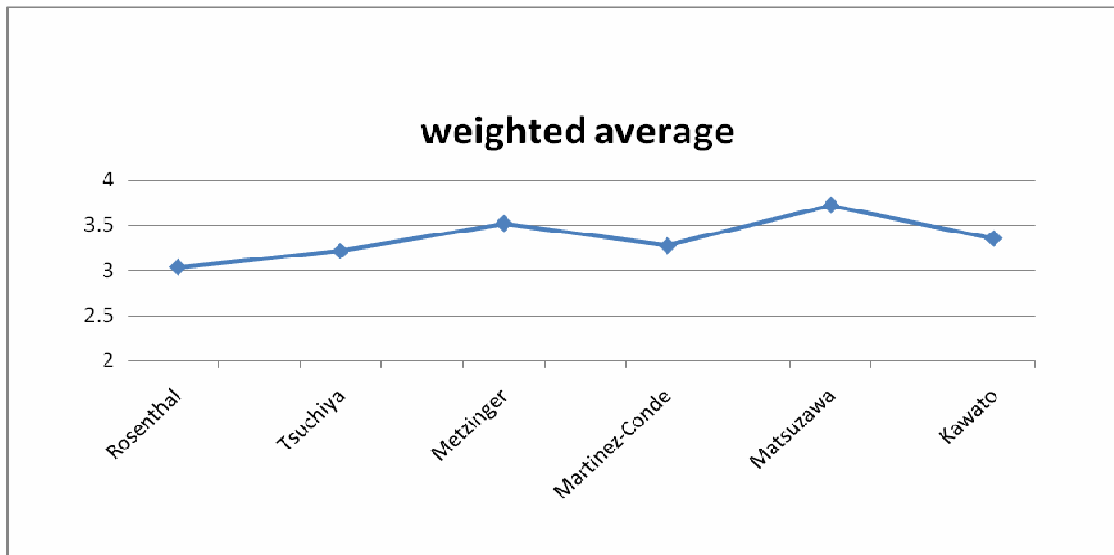
Thomas Metzinger: The Phenomenal Self and the First-Person Perspective

Susana Martinez-Conde: Microsaccades: Windows on the Mind

Tetsuro Matsuzawa: Comparative Cognitive Science: Trade-off Theory of Memory and Symbolization in Humans and Chimpanzees

Mitsuo Kawato: Computational Advantages of Internal Models as Self-Consciousness





All keynote talks were rated highly. Matsuzawa received the highest weighted average (3.7), followed by Metzinger (3.5). Responses to Kawato (3.4) and Martinez-Conde (3.3) were only slightly lower, and both Tsuchiya (3.2) and Rosenthal (3.0) were rated favourably as well.

#### **Comments on talks:**

*Matsuzawa: very interesting but relation to study of consciousness was not clear (conclusions from evidence appeared to be missing)*

*Kawato: very diverse findings, overall scope of talk was not very clear*

*most of the talks didn't seem too relevant to consciousness. metzinger's was by far the best in this regard, and the only one who really had anything deep to say conceptually about the problem of consciousness. rosenthal also said interesting things.*

#### **General suggestions:**

*More time for questions needed*

*The online broadcast is great!*

*More interactions between speakers*

*Clarify exact timing before*

*Please make sure that the keynote speakers are not only great scientists / philosophers but also good speakers! For a keynote that is very important I think.*

*More examples needed.*

*i have heard a number of people complain that tsuchiya got the prize because his former adviser was on the committee and the director of the assc. this is obviously unfair, but is*

*something the assc should try avoid. in the same vein, don't give keynotes to junior board members (esp. if their husband's are on the scientific program committee). it gives the impression that something fishy is going on.*

### **Suggestions for future speakers:**

*I would like to recommend Prof. Igor Aleksander, from Imperial College and Murray Shanahan from the same. Also, Owen Holland (Essex University, UK) and Nadia Berthouze (UCL, UK).*

*Lamme didn't show up, invite him next time, where was that Chalmers-guy?*

*I would have to research for specific recommendations, but either the panpsychic or more environmental (on the philosophy of life and consciousness in nature) seemed missing. Too much emphasis in the speakers on consciousness arising out the human brain, the humans sense of self, etc. - in short, anthropocentric.*

*Hermann Haken: Synergetics (Self Organization, nonlinear dynamics) of the Brain  
J.A.S. Kelso: Complexity in Brain Functioning*

*Dr. Ryota Kanai*

*Shaun Gallagher on embodiment and/or time*

### *Comments:*

\* Overall, the keynote lectures were very well appreciated. Matsuzawa's talk was extremely well received, being both entertaining and scholarly. His videos of the memory and symbolization in chimpanzees were found, by most in the audience, to be quite astonishing. Martinez-Conde was appreciated for a clear and interesting talk that was impressive in its use of audio-visual presentation. Metzinger provided an in-depth philosophical talk that many considered the best of the keynote lectures.

\* Keynote speakers all received extremely high ratings, which was undoubtedly one reason that the conference overall was so successful. Nearly all the survey respondents who attended the Matsuzawa talk considered it to be excellent. Likewise, the Metzinger, Martinez-Conde and Kawato talks all received more ratings of excellent than any other rating. Responses to the Rosenthal and Tsuchiya talks, though somewhat less enthusiastic, were overwhelmingly good to excellent.

## **MEMBERS' SYMPOSIA**

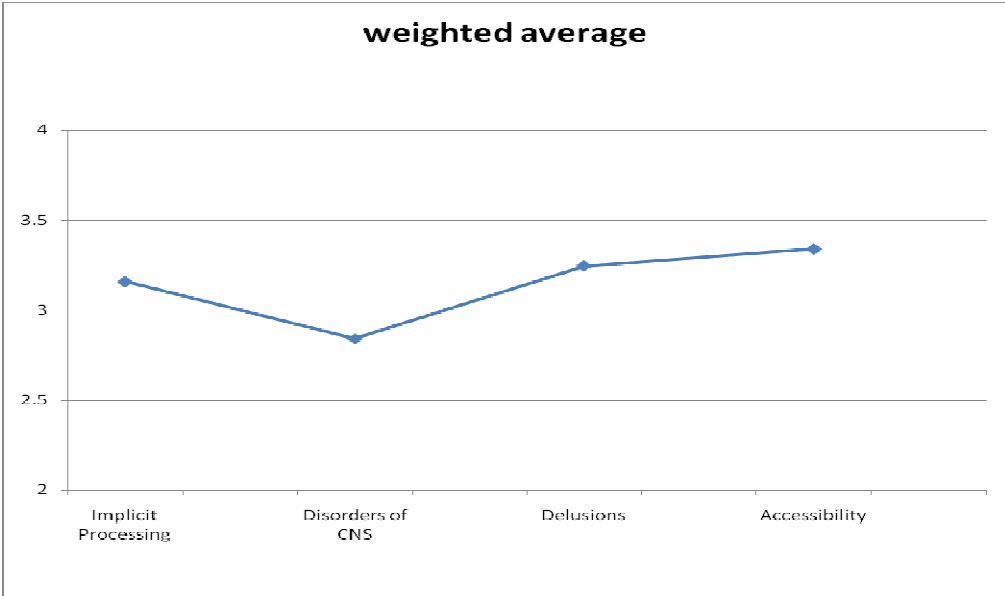
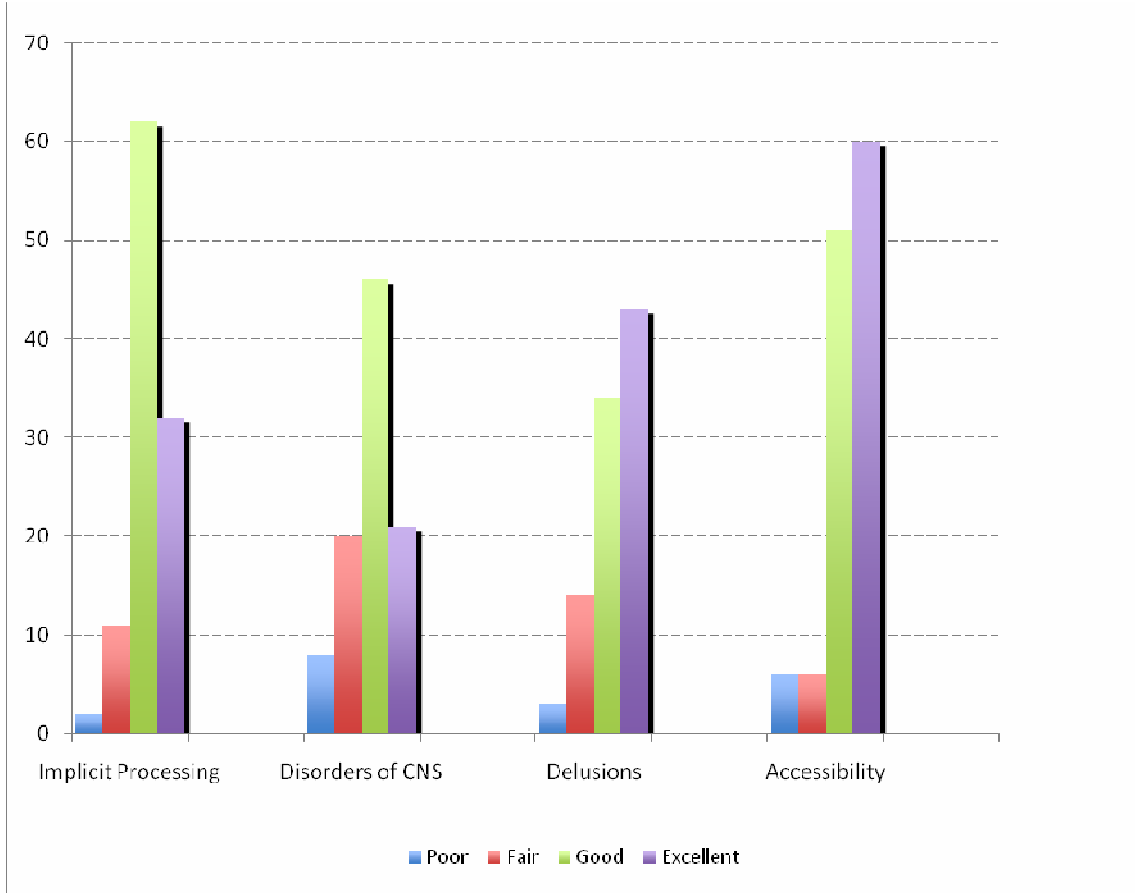
Four of the symposia proposed by ASSC members were selected for the meeting:

Symposium 1: Implicit Processing and Awareness (Hochstein, Humphreys, Spence, Tanaka)

Symposium 2: Basic Neuroscientific and Clinical Approaches to Disorders of CNS Arousal (Pfaff, Jones, Di – Laureys was absent)

Symposium 3: Delusions (Bayne, McKay, Gold, Langdon)

Symposium 4: Consciousness and Accessibility (Koch, Kouider, Block – Lamme was absent)



Symposia generally elicited a good response, although not as high as the keynotes. Symposium 4: Consciousness and Accessibility went very well (3.3), as did Symposium 1: Implicit Processing and Symposium 3: Delusions (both 3.2). Though the overall rating for

Symposium 2: Disorders of the CNS (2.8) was undermined by several fair and poor ratings, by far the majority of attendees considered the symposium to be good or excellent.

**Comments on symposium format:**

*Tell the speakers to prepare to speak only about 20 minutes. (it's always the same problem...)*

*It would be nice if all symposia would be structured like symposium 3 (brief overview of subject in first talk, maybe also brief overview of controversial theories/findings to guide non-expert attendees)*

*I think it would be far better if the presenters were allowed slightly more time for their individual presentations. Otherwise it may be difficult for the audience to engage interesting discussions with little too little information and/or background.*

*Conceptually clear, well structured, talks. Make clear why the topic is relevant to consciousness studies and what exactly it contributes to the advancement of these studies. Point out progress that has been made, open questions and future directions of inquiry. Leave enough time for questions/debate. Get new/different people (A- and P-consciousness is cool, but there should be other topics that are relevant...)*

**Comments on individual symposia:**

*both implicit processing and clinical approaches to CNS were too dense to be readily accessible to a broader audience; the delusions symposium apparently had little do with consciousness per se and it's a mystery why bayne (who knows a lot about the subject) organized it this way; the consciousness and accessibility symposium should have been much better but block's talk was barely accessible and koch was all over the place with slides that you could barely see (admittedly if lamme and dehaene were there it would have been much better), but kouider was just too junior with very little interesting to say to really stand in their stead. overall very disappointing.*

*Dr.Koch spoke too fast.*

*The symposium 2 (Pfaff, Jones, Di) was poorly organized and talks were not well timed.*

*The final discussion b/t speakers of symposium 4 is a great success! It's very interesting & stimulating! Future meetings MUST keep having it!*

*For the last symposia on Consciousness and Accessibility it would have been good if the discussion afterwards had been more organized maybe even with prepared questions from the organizers.*

*Symposium 4 format was excellent, in my opinion debate is better then separate talks*

**General comments:**

*The symposia were all pretty bad.*

*It was really not that clear what the relevance of many of them had to consciousness.*

*Should be more diverse*

*I find the unusual studies the most interesting, in this case, delusions.*

*consciousness is sometimes not the central issue in the talk, which is strange*

*more debate more fun*

*Again, some of the presenters had very interesting data but were simply very bad at presenting it and accordingly it was hard to follow, which was a great pity.*

**Suggestions for future symposia:**

*Neuroscience / psychology of decision making.*

*NCC theories (and basic neuroanatomy of consciousness) are in need of a review at ASSC -- people keep using them, but they haven't been discussed much at ASSC of late.*

*Computational Modeling Approaches*

*Complex Systems / Chaotic Dynamics of Brain functioning*

*Measuring nonlinear dynamics parameters of brain processes*

*suggestions: embodiment, time (temporal consciousness), background affectivity/background feelings (and their relevance for conscious mental life at large)*

*Comments:*

\* While all the symposia received positive commentary, the most enthusiastic comments were for the debate in Symposium 4. One reason for its success may be its diversion from the standard format. The debate between major scientists and philosophers was widely considered to be the highlight of the entire conference. It was interesting seeing famous faces discussing issues in depth, while also allowing audience participation. The success of this debate suggests that this event should be compulsory for future conferences.

\* There was quite a lot of negative feedback about the relevance and denseness of some of the sessions. Suggestions were made to alter the length of the talks. Given the complexity of the field, it is understandable that newcomers may fail to see how say, non-linear dynamics, is relevant. A way to resolve this problem would be to require symposium organizers to explain the overall motivation behind the session and discuss each speaker's specific contribution to consciousness theory as part of the introductory remarks.

## **CONCURRENT TALKS**

The Scientific and Program Committee members voted on the abstracts of talks and posters (N = 243) in which they or their lab members were not authors. The following instructions in rating proposals was given to all committee members:

Committee members should vote on ALL abstracts (barring those in which there is a clear conflict of interest), including those that fall outside their area of expertise (e.g., philosophy for the scientists). The meeting is meant to be interdisciplinary and at the least abstracts should be accessible to all. If committee members only vote on a subset of the abstracts (e.g., vision) its becomes much more problematic to combine and rank abstracts overall.

Voting is on a 1 to 5 scale, with half votes allowed (1: immediate reject, 2: poor, 3: good, 4: very good, 5: outstanding). Generally scores below 2.5 will be considered for rejection, above 4.0 for a talk.

Qualities to look for in an abstract are: (1) Originality; (2) Relevance to research on consciousness (good, but seemingly irrelevant work should be marked down); (3) Clarity of ideas (ASSC-10 is an interdisciplinary meeting; abstracts should be intelligible for all members of the conference committee irrespective of background).

Abstracts generally fall into three categories: philosophical, empirical (i.e., original data being presented), and theoretical (non-empirical, but also non-philosophical). We are trying to encourage more empirical work at our meetings and a slightly higher mark should be awarded abstracts which present new data (say +1/2).

Membership status, and author preference for paper/poster slots, should be ignored in assessment.

There were 36 talk slots (28 empirical, 8 philosophical); overall the top 126 ranked empirical talks, and 67 ranked philosophical proposals were accepted. The raw cut-off score for a talk was a z-score<sup>6</sup> of 0.35. 40 out of 193 proposals were withdrawn (20%), a high percentage probably due to the cost of travel for poster presenters.

**General remarks:**

*not only invite assc-members. the others might sometimes even be better ;)*

*concurrent talks (at least the science ones) were of reasonable quality and often these talks were more interesting than the symposia.*

*Include more philosophy!*

*very variable*

*it would be good if talks were grouped better*

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<sup>6</sup> TECHNICAL ASIDE: Readers wishing to follow the technical logic here should note that the distribution of votes cast will have both a "mean vote" and a standard deviation (measured as a "z-score", either side of the mean). Both measures can readily be calculated by entering the scores into an EXCEL spreadsheet and applying the formulae AVERAGE and STDEV respectively. If we take this distribution as approximating to a normal distribution, and if we presume that the voting scale has been roughly standardized to have a mean vote of 2.5 and a z of 1, then committee practice is that scores below 2.5 (half of them) will be considered for rejection, and above 4.0 (z positive 1.5; representing only 7 per cent of the total) for a talk. (Thanks to Derek Smith for this explanation.)

*Presenters reporting very specific scientific results should be encouraged to spend more time discussing the context and significance of those results.*

*It was good that the chairs were strict with regard to the time limits.*

*more interactive*

*native english speakers consider to often everybody is a native english speaker (to fast)& some (mostly eastern) speakers have insufficient english speaking ability to be comprehensive let alone be able to explain something). these "language problems" I noted on almost 50% of the concurrent talks!*

*I felt in this conference that many researchers held talks on a topic only loosely connected to consciousness. I wonder whether this is due to terminological inconsistency between neurosciences and psychology/philosophy. I am not sure whether it is possible to do anything about it - it might be just a reflection of the actual research in the neurosciences, whereby the topic of research is not yet clearly understood.*

*They were so diverse it is hard to make a comment. One difference between ASSC Taiwan and Arizona's conference was that more of the premier professors attended students lecture's - honoring a bottom up approach and this, I think, is to be greatly encouraged*

*Again, try to get some different people who may be doing excellent work, but might not come to ASSC for whatever reason. Try to somehow include them more (this requires a lot of initiative on the part of the organizers).*

*Perhaps a vote on topic scheduling would be good (i.e., concurrent or in different sessions), to minimize the chance that people have to miss something they are interested in.*

*Some of the venues were not ideal.*

*Make more debates among them for us.*

*Comments:*

*\* There are no striking themes in the comments on concurrent talks. Some commented on content, seeking more of this or that. Others repeated the desire for a more interactive conference. The suggestions that speakers become more included in the overall conference, e.g. by attending talks by students, fit with the call for a deeper level of engagement across hierarchical lines.*

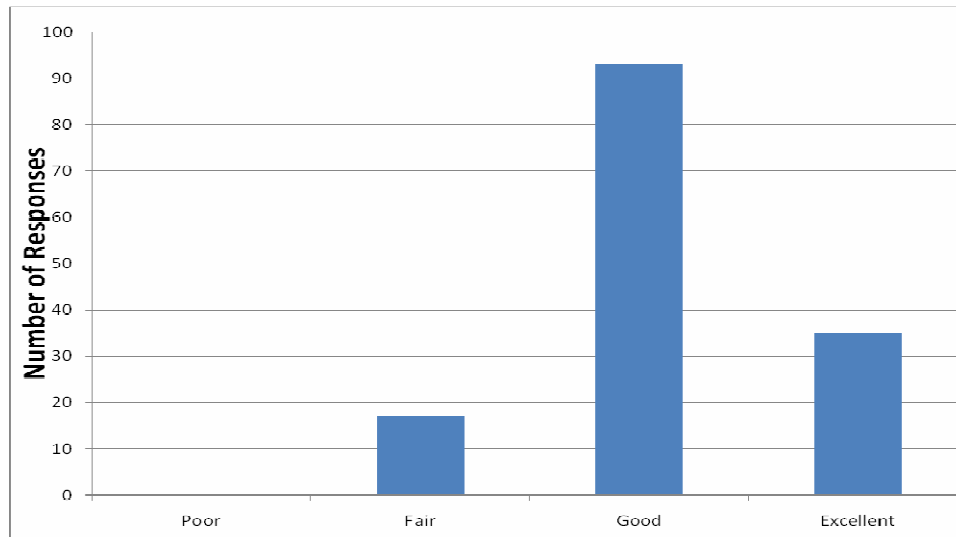
*\* Here again the question of relevance is raised by some commentators. In this case, organizers could specify that speakers include at least one slide explicitly connecting the topic of the talk to consciousness research.*

## *POSTER SESSIONS*

Two, 2-hour long poster sessions were held in late-afternoon sessions on the second and third day of the conference. The sessions were held in 2 separate meeting rooms dedicated to posters.

There were two venues, with 60 posters each, tacked (tacks provided) on 30 two-sided sandwich boards. The area of the posterboard was 90 cm wide x 120 cm tall. Each of the two rooms was 103.5 m<sup>2</sup>. Overall, the posterboards were lined up into 4~5 rows, with about 1.5m space between the rows.

As the graph shows, the response to the poster sessions was predominantly 'good' with some reviews of 'excellent,' and a few of 'fair.' The weighted average of 3.1 is the highest rating in the last few years. (ASSC11:2.9, ASSC10 3.0)



### **Space, time and snacks:**

*the poster venue was the best it's been in a number of years. i thought the posters were generally ok.*

*the rooms are too small*

*Good, but the room for poster session was slightly small.*

*More space.*

*more space, more fresh air, snacks + drinks would be nice*

*a bit more time would be nice*

*At Caltech, coffee & snacks were provided at the poster session; that did wonders for attendance. This year the poster room was cramped and stuffy -- it was hard to stay in the room for long.*

*Have a bigger poster hall. The crowdedness and noise level was not very conducive for perusing the posters, or for discussions. Also, it would be good if the posters could be put on earlier, so that people can check them out, and approach specific presenters for discussions during the poster sessions.*

*The space b/t poster boards is very appropriate and this makes the presentation & discussion very comfortable!*

*It was really hard to see enough of the great posters and talk to the presenters in such short time. Either extend poster sessions or reduce number of posters. Also, one could think of letting posters be exposed on the boards for longer parts of the conference*

*I think that the poster hall should be wider.*

*Have posters up for longer!*

**Comments on content:**

*They were excellent.*

*No "crazy"/esoteric stuff, please! (Admittedly, there was very little of that, but we should have none). Check more thoroughly for relevance to consciousness studies - a lot of posters are only marginally relevant.*

*i like this year's style*

*No clearly nonsensical posters. No borderline cases. Everything should be good. Formatting guidelines and support for people from humanities.*

*important!*

*Comments:*

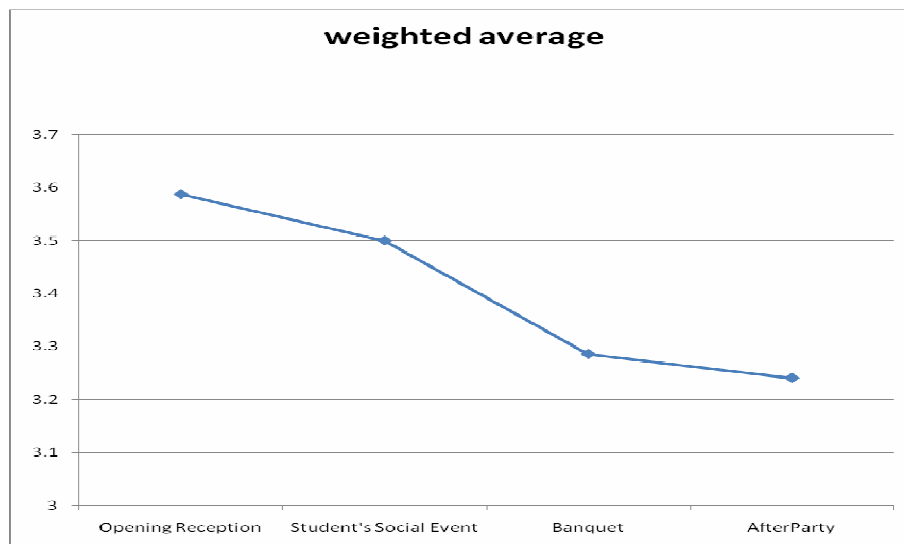
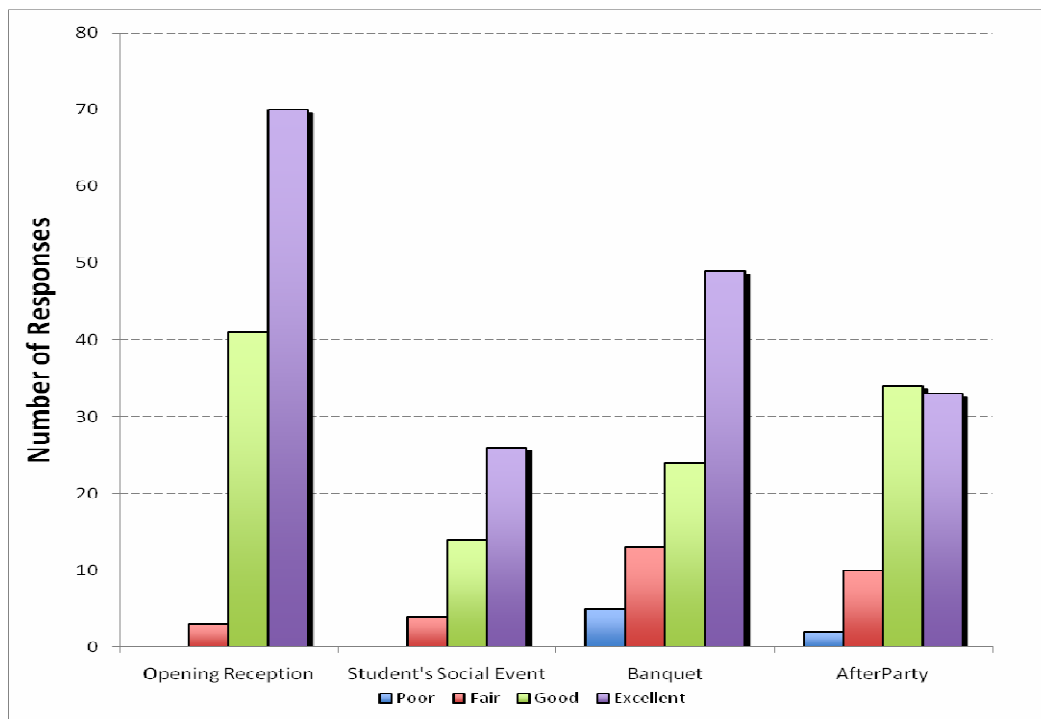
\* The poster session is often difficult to manage. Sufficient space is needed and the timing must allow participants to peruse the varied offerings without rushing off for dinner or other distractions. Reviews of this year's session are mixed. Some thought the space adequate, while others felt cramped. Since the issue of space is an ongoing problem, a minimum per/poster space should be specified, and organizers should then limit themselves to accepting only the number of posters that will fit comfortably within the designated space.

\* In ASSC9, held at Caltech, the poster session took place outdoors, with plenty of space to move, and plenty of time was allotted for the session. In ASSC11, held at Oxford, the posters were displayed in large tents erected on a lawn. Again, this was very large, compared with the two small rooms provided at the Taipei conference. Given that so many conference participants present posters, it is important to make this venue as comfortable and productive as possible.

\* The very few negative comments about poster content focus on relevance and presentation. This suggests that the standards of evaluation for the posters are sufficiently high to make the session valuable for both attendees and presenters.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

Four social events took place at the conference: the opening reception, Gala Banquet, student social and the new addition of an After Party. Response to all the social events was very favourable, as is shown by the graphs. The student social in particular was a big success this year.



## *RECEPTION at the Gallery of National Taiwan University History*

The opening reception for the conference was held at the Gallery of National Taiwan University History on the first evening of the conference. Weighted response to the reception was very good (3.6).

### **General praise:**

*if in Berlin the helping students will be as committed as the Taipei students, Berlin would be a lucky city*

*great reception.*

*The food, wine and everything of this year's reception are perfect!*

*Absolutely excellent.*

*The number of helpers made the whole event run very smoothly and enjoyable.*

*It was good! A room without divisions could be better for talking in groups and finding/seeing people.*

*considerate and unforgettable.*

### **Venue:**

*It was great to locate the reception in a museum.*

*Great venue for initial mingling and meeting new members*

*The Dinosaur-Hall in the Natural Museum of Science would be a super-cool location... More importantly though, make sure that people aren't shuffled out because the space is being paid for by the hour. Attendees should have as much time as they like to mingle and chat. Provide light snacks and make sure that there are places for dinner in the immediate vicinity so that people can easily move from the reception to dinner if they desire.*

### **Suggestions for improvement:**

*make sure people are not pushed out too early in berlin. make sure that there is plenty of food as well as drinks (or at least food options are available close by). make sure vegetarians are catered for.*

*Food for the vegetarians should be better*

## **GALA BANQUET**

The Gala Banquet was held on the third day of the conference at the Shanghai Shanghai, a top quality restaurant, which is styled on 1950's Shanghai. Tickets for the banquet cost \$65,

which was less than ASSC11 but still more than in other years. Overall response to the banquet (3.3) was good, yet the banquet remains an area where conferences could improve.

**Cost:**

*Keep it affordable for poor people (students/postdocs/philosophers). avoid the disaster of vegas.*

*Be aware of costs for self-funding students.*

*If the banquet had been good, it would have been worth the cost. The other food was excellent but this event was disappointing.*

*Please don't be more expensive.*

*It seems possible to find very decent food in TW with the price much less than \$65. This direction may allow more people to attend in the future.*

*Lower the price.*

*take the local expense into consideration*

*Try to keep it as low as possible to attract more people to come.*

*Try to make it not too expensive to allow the many student's and younger participants to attend.*

*Less fancy and expensive is more student-friendly.*

*Make it more compatible with food quality.*

*A student price for the banquet*

**Vegetarian considerations:**

*Good vegetarian options are always appreciated.*

*now the environmental protection is very important, so eat less meat and junk food*

**General comments:**

*More freedom for taking places*

*Not twenty courses needed :-) It was very special.*

*no live music, please*

*Slightly pricy but had a good time. Made new contacts at the veg table. No opportunities for dancing or letting loose a little.*

*It will be hard to top this year, but try to get good value for the money.*

*This year's restaurant is very good! The food and wine are very nice! It's also good to have a band singing songs this year!*

*I would prefer a reception style for the dinner. It's always rather expensive and not worth for it. I want to interact with other people during the dinner.*

*Something like the Hofbrauhaus?:)*

*I am sure that the banquet was wonderful for the Taiwanese, but for me it was a little bit too exotic. But the wine was wonderful and the venue as well. All the other receptions had been wonderful.*

## **AFTER PARTY**

A new event at this year's conference was the After Party held, logically, on the last evening of the conference. The site was located about 15 minutes from the conference location at the Cafe Lumiere, an atmospheric, relatively small venue, with soft music allowing conversation and accompanied with complementary snacks. Attendees rated the event good to excellent (3.2).

*Comments on all social events:*

\* The opening reception was interesting, consisting of a combination of meeting the fellow conference attendees, finger food, wine, and most important, a display of artefacts and interesting displays about the achievements of Taiwan University. The reception spanned three floors and several rooms. There was a short speech by a distinguished official during the reception. Directions to the event were very clear, unlike, for example, directions to the After-Party or the Student Party. The absence of seating was actually a positive thing, since members could roam the room, mingle and get to know the people with whom they would be spending the rest of the week with

\* The performers at the Gala Banquet were dressed to reflect 1950's Shanghai, and so was the selection of music. The food was excellent, with many small courses of various tastes. Each circular table hosted eight or nine diners, and the seating arrangements were suitably mixed to allow people of diverse backgrounds to dine together and converse. The live music was not too loud as to prevent stimulating discussion. The only small drawback was that the trip to the restaurant was quite long, and some had problems finding their way back to their hotels.

\* As usual, the cost of the banquet was the subject of the most criticism. Many comments highlight the inability of students to afford such a high price. It would be worth considering a discounted price for students in order to give them the opportunity to get maximum benefit from the conference.

\* The After Party at Cafe Lumiere was an excellent occasion for all types of conference attendees to mingle and exchange contact details at the last minute. The weather was pleasantly warm and a bit humid, and the party spilled out onto the front porch and the street. Moderate use of alcohol and some lovely finger food made the evening enjoyable, and the company and networking was very useful, especially for students and newcomers to the Association.

\* All the social events were vibrant, fun and provided excellent opportunities for the attendees to meet with speakers, for students to talk informally with professionals, and for students to socialise and meet other students with similar or complementary interests. Food was excellent; perhaps the only negative aspect was the slight incomprehensibility of the maps showing the location of the party venues. The quiz, a highly anticipated event, also never took place; many found this to be a great pity.

## *STUDENT SOCIAL*

The student social was held on the second evening of the conference after the first poster session. Its location at I Swear Cafe was an easy walking distance from the venue, which is an important consideration in planning student events. Response to the event was very favourable (3.5).

## *CONSCIOUSNESS QUERIES*

Consciousness Queries continued the tradition of mentoring programs organized for past ASSC conferences by matching principal investigators with students in their areas of specialization. The aim of this event was to create a forum for small groups to discuss thoughts and ideas on the mind, the brain and the ups and downs of an academic career in consciousness studies. In an informal atmosphere over Friday lunch, students and researchers were able to initiate discussions that, in many cases, continued through the rest of the conference. The principle investigators for the event were:

Andrew Brook (philosophy), Axel Cleeremans (neuroscience), Casey Blood (mathematical physics), Christof Koch (neuroscience), Ned Block (philosophy), Shinsuke Shimajo (neuroscience), Stephen Macknik (neuroscience), Susana Martinez-Conde (neuroscience).

Questions about the format of Consciousness Queries were also asked in the survey to determine student preferences for future events.

### **General remarks:**

*The timing of my talk - which was immediately after this lunch event meant I needed to leave early, but what time I was able to spend was both useful and very enjoyable.*

*helpful*

*Nice format for the lunch. Would have been nice to extend the program somehow through the rest of the conference.*

*It's hard to hear to each other.*

*The meeting time is too short.*

*It was an excellent arrangement.*

*I enjoyed it; it was a good idea.*

*I hope to be graduated next year, so I wouldn't attend then.*

*excellent!*

*It was a great experience but my conversation was more informal than I think was intended.*

*I would like information about the program because maybe I will be participating next year*

*I was put at the wrong table, then tried to switch back to Prof Brook's table but there was no room, so it was a bit botched. I ended up not getting anything out of it.*

*Great interaction and opportunity. Thanks for arranging it.*

*good*

*wonderful!*

*It is cool, but there are some wrong information about the professor.*

*I thought CQ was excellent and hope that it will be repeated next year in the same format!*

*2 mentors would be better for more interaction*

*Great idea! It was very helpful and interesting. Good opportunity to talk to PIs. Small groups were also good as it was interesting to hear the questions and comments of other students with similar interests.*

*necessary and useful.*

*Place too noisy*

*too long*

**Future interest:**

*Yes, I would like information about the program, and would be interested in participating next year.*

*Please inform me about the program next year!*

*It was much better organized this year and worked out really well. I would definitely recommend to repeat this in future conferences. My only suggestion for potential improvement is the food: find better food next time, please!*

*i didn't have time to join this CQ. but I would like to join if i will participate in other ASSC meeting.*

*Yes, I would be very interested in participating. I missed out on this year because I did not have time to write the essay requested.*

*yes, would like to participate next year*

*I would like the information about the program.*

*interested in participating next year.*

*Yes, I would be interested in participating next year.*

*I would like to participate CQ next year*

*I would like information about it.*

*I would like to participate next year. This year, I chose not to because the possibility was given at a time when all my energy was focused on my presentation, and therefore I did not feel I could sit down and figure out what I might ask and what I might gain from such a meeting.*

## ***Timing***

The majority of students expressed an interest in a longer session (1.5 hours) for Consciousness Queries. This time frame seems a good compromise between those who were happy with one hour and those who suggested a longer time. A few commentors noted that the timing of the session was right before concurrent talks was problematic since some students needed that time to prepare. However, since lunch is overwhelmingly favoured as the appropriate meal for the session (see below), it may be difficult to avoid scheduling concurrent talks after Consciousness Queries. A keynote talk would be the ideal item to follow Consciousness Queries as it would limit the possible scheduling conflicts to one senior person.

1 hr	11	17%
1.5 hr	35	55%
2 hr	15	23%
other	4	6%

*Comments:*

*3 – don't know, 1 – 30 min is fine*

## ***Food***

Lunch was voted the best mealtime for Consciousness Queries by a 2:1 margin. Though some would prefer a dinner meeting, the number of evening events makes this option prohibitive for senior mentors. Providing food was, of course, overwhelmingly popular and is always a good incentive for student (and mentor) participation.

Breakfast: 1

Lunch: 20

Dinner: 9

## **Comments:**

*I think we should combine CQ with coffee... not an entire meal.*

*Any of the above but crucially it would be good to avoid having it immediately preceding a session when people may be presenting. I had to miss out on much of the session in order to set up my talk in the session that followed.*

*lunch is fine, but it might not be good for students who are meeting with professors who have a coming talk to deliver.*

*breakfast---that is when I am the most awake!*

*Generally yes. Breakfast might be difficult because the conference starts early and people won't want to meet at 7am. I could work if talks started later. Dinner could also be good, but the problem here is that most evenings are already planned out. Lunch is probably the best time, although it tends to be a little rushed. I guess there is no ideal solution to this problem.*

*Breakfast might be good, everyone is fresh. Lunch worked. Dinner may be difficult as other events are scheduled and mentors will likely have obligations.*

*If you can't understand anything, you can eat.*

*lunch everyday, and a dinner*

*either...*

*No strong preference. Lunch might be best - breakfast is too early and often in hotel anyway; nights are typically taken up by other events. Combining CQ with a meal seems convenient because it can then be fitted easily in a gap in the conference programme, and food could be an extra incentive. I would also have attended if it was at a different time and without meal.  
:-)*

## ***Students per mentor***

In response to a question about the ideal number of students per mentor, the majority cluster around 4. Many said 3-4 or 4-5, so it is reasonable to set a 3-5 student/mentor ratio as a goal.

2 – 2

3 – 10

4 – 17

5 – 11

6 or more – 8

Don't know – 2

*Other:*

*- Dependent on the mentor's schedule.*

*- 2-3 main attendees + possible audience*

*- everyone should be included.*

***Suggestions on how best to serve students:***

**CQ suggestions:**

*The space should be larger.*

*I guess the CQ can take place at somewhere near the venue.*

*More quiet place*

*More time*

**Cost-reduction suggestions:**

*More/better options for student/budget accommodation*

*Assist in finding cheap accommodation (maybe inquire about local hosts? I'm sure some local students would be happy to let other students sleep on their couches/floors for a few days, etc.). Inquire about the possibilities of lowering student fees (for example via sponsoring). Re-introduce the prize for the best poster.*

*The fee is too much to participate a conference for student in Taiwan*

**General suggestions:**

*More events which could potentially help the student along in his chosen career, i.e., research in consciousness.*

*If they were set up to sit with senior researches during the banquet it would be very nice.*

*We need an occasion to help students do self-introduction as an ice-breaker.*

*Note comment above on seating*

*Focused group discussions*

*A student only 1h concurrent session ?*

*There could be a prize for the best student presentation.*

*some groups random divided*

*Keep things low key, not too official. There's enough activities during the day. What I really liked at this years social was that you could just sit there eat and drink and chat with people without too many other things going on.*

*Compared to the 4 other international conferences I've attended, ASSC was fantastic for students. As most students present their research at a poster session, improving those sessions could be important, e.g., posters should be up for longer.*

*providing more interest-arousing activities on consciousness for them to study further.*

*More expert researchers available for the program*

## ADMINISTRATION

The Scientific Committee for the conference included: Ralph Adolphs, Allen Y. Houng, Max Coltheart, John-Dylan Haynes, Dan Lloyd, Stephen L. Macknik, Michael Pauen, and Shinsuke Shimojo.

The Local Organizing Committee was co-chaired by: Jong-Tsun Huang at the China Medical University and Allen Y. Houng at the National Yang Ming University. The committee included the following members: Keng-Chen Liang, Chen-Tung Yen, Su-Ling Yeh, Shulan Hsieh, Gary C.-W. Shyi, Chien-Chung Chen, Chou Po Hung, Yunn Wen Lien, Caleb Y.-Y. Liang, Yuk-Man Leung, Chon-Haw Tsai, and Yei-Yu Yeh.

Additionally, administrative responsibilities were organized into the following areas:

- Conference Coordinator and Secretary General: Bo-Ching (Mendy) Chen
- Finance and Accounting: Huei-Ning (Bella) Yang, Ru-Yu (Karen) Yan, Shu-Ching Kuo
- International/ External Communication, Administration and Operating Officer: Chien-Hui (Lynn) Chiu
- Program Planning and Information Services: Peng (Emma) Chien, Yuan-Chieh (Jack) Yang
- Publicity and Communications: Ru-Yu (Karen) Yan, Chien-Hui (Lynn) Chiu
- Information Technology: Shun-Pin (Michael) Hsu

## REGISTRATION

The registration, payment and abstract submission were designed by the local conference organizers and implemented by a conference company called Achieving Professional Conference Organizer. The cost was roughly 630 USD.

Registration fees were as follows:

	Early-Bird Registrants	Regular Registrants
<b>ASSC Member</b>	USD 200	USD 350
<b>ASSC Student Member</b>	USD 140	USD 280
<b>Non-member</b>	USD 300	USD 450

## CONFERENCE FORMAT

### **Format suggestions:**

*I would add one more day. Perhaps start on Wednesday, finish on Sunday.*

*More concurrent talks?*

*no overlap with hbm (very inconvenient for neuroscientists)*

*More time for concurrent and symposium speakers, even if this requires other adjustments to the programme.*

*I would prefer a larger choice of concurrent sessions; I would also prefer a more interdisciplinary focus, as I had the impression that many concurrent sessions were either philosophically or empirically oriented, but not truly interdisciplinary. Finally, I thought the poster session was too short - it would be better to have a space where the posters could be displayed throughout the conference (also, a larger space would be preferable - this way, it was very cramped). Aside from that, I thought the conference was very well organized!*

*we should use more computer or internet technology to have conference online*

*I wonder whether 20 minutes is a good format for a philosophical talk. Developing an argument in all necessary detail may be impossible, depending on the topic.*

**General praise:**

*None - it was excellent.*

*No, I think it was quite alright*

*Everything seemed fine.*

*No everything was excellent.*

*No, it works very fine.*

*It is good to have the conference start before the weekend and continue through it.*

*I think the current schedule is perfect. Don't reduce the number/duration of coffee breaks, they're essential. (Antwerp had too few, and it hurt.)*

*I think the length is just right at the moment*

*The format is very good. I would not put keynote talks as first talk in the morning.*

*That was fine.*

*This year's format is pretty nice!*

*current format seems to work.*

*The length of the conference and sessions was fine, including the length of the poster sessions, but posters should be up for longer.*

*Make full use of poster presentation time in which we often communicate with each other.*

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE TOPICS & SPEAKERS**

*As I said before, Igor Aleksander (Imperial College, UK), Murray Shanahan (IC, UK), Owen Holland (essex uni, UK) and Nadia Berthouze (UCL, UK).*

*I would like to recommend Dr. Murat Ozgoren from Dokuz Eylul University as possible speaker to future conference.*

*I like the philosophy stuff*

*lamme and dehaene (who couldn't attend).*

*alex maier gave the best talk i heard. get him to organize a symposia on modern techniques to study the ncc.*

*Maybe Antonio Damasio?*

*social neurosciences and consciousness, Josh Greene for instance*

*Bieri*

*emotions*

*More foundational discussion of the neural basis of consciousness: this used to be a staple at ASSC, and has been absent of late.*

*Nicholas Logothesis, Isabel Gauthier On Expertise vs. face module, Henrich Bulthoff (MPI)*

*Donald Hoffman - Observer mechanics*

*Owen Flangan*

*about volition genetical relation and with self-regulation emotion*

*Incoming President should be present!*

*Environmental philosophy/philosophers as it relates to the emerging philosophy/science of consciousness. If the science of consciousness is equated with the mechanistic approach to or attempt to so reduce consciousness, as in the so-called hard problem - that is just one point of view. We also need non-mechanistic approaches, talks on altered states, natural healing and the implications for a science of consciousness (am also a naturopath). I am working to submit some writings on a "connective theory of consciousness" - which brings these issues play. I am new to the field, so I would have to research which environmental philosophers have touched on this, probably very few. Carolyn Merchant, in the Death of Nature, comes close. At the Arizona conference, I had the most rapport with Frank Eichenhoffer (California Institute of Integral Studies) and the well-represented panpsychic group of concurrent speakers*

*Social cognition, emotions, responsibility/free will (?)*

*Synergetics / Complex Systems Res. / Nonlinear Dynamics / Bifurcation Theory as applied to brain functioning*

*Neural code/information processing*

*More on multilayer depth recording.*

*Stanislas Dehaene - consciousness & attention*

*my general comment is that much of the work presented here, though very interesting, was not directly relevant to the study of consciousness, or else suffered from an absence of an underlying theory of consciousness.*

*David Chalmers, Thomas Nagel*

*All plenary speakers must talk DIRECTLY to the issue of consciousness. No local heroes that have never been at ASSC conferences before.*

*implicit learning, hypnosis*

*topics: embodiment, time, background feelings, consciousness and its critics (i.e. people that take issue in general with the construal of consciousness/conscious states as research topics)*

*Nathan Batalion ( batalionn@earthlink.net )*

*It may be interesting to include a section on neuroethical issues.*

*Tim Bayne*

## QUESTIONNAIRE

*good questionnaire*

*Because you have more of a bottom up approach I took the time to answer this survey, and not for Arizona. So you may want to reiterate this or how the members' opinions matter and will be factored in.*

*Ask directly for the three major glitches /negative experiences of participants, if they had any.*

*More specific questions might be more helpful. i guess the committee of next year's conference should really be the ones putting these questions together, as I assume it will be them who will depend on the answers the most.*

*Design it so it doesn't send the user to the top of the page after answering each question.*

# ASSC12 Taipei Conference Survey

1 What is your membership status with the ASSC?

ASSC Full Voting Member  
ASSC Member  
ASSC Student Member  
Non-Member (can be either student/non-student)

2 What is your main involvement with the conference? Please select the response that is most relevant.

Tutorial presenter  
Keynote speaker  
Plenary speaker in a symposium  
Speaker in concurrent session  
Presenter of a poster  
Interested observer

3 Please choose the best response that describes you.

I am a computer scientist  
I am a neuroscientist  
I am a philosopher  
I am a psychologist  
I am an interested member of the public  
Other, Please Specify

4 On which continent do you live?

North America  
Europe  
Asia  
Other, please specify

5 Which ASSC meetings have you attended in the past? Please select all that apply.

ASSC1: Los Angeles (1997)  
ASSC2: Bremen (1998)  
ASSC3: London, Ontario (1999)  
ASSC4: Brussels (2000)  
ASSC5: Durham, North Carolina (2001)  
ASSC6: Barcelona (2002)  
ASSC7: Memphis (2003)  
ASSC8: Antwerp (2004)  
ASSC9: Caltech (2005)  
ASSC10: Oxford (2006)  
ASSC11: Las Vegas (2007)  
This is my first ASSC meeting

6 How would you rate the student social event held on Friday night?

Poor          Fair          Good          Excellent          Did not attend

7 Did you participate in Consciousness Queries (CQ), the student mentorship program?

If yes, please comment on the program below.

If no, please note whether you would like information about the program or whether you would be interested in participating next year.

8 What time length is best for a mentorship gathering like CQ?

1 hour

1.5 hours

2 hours

Other, please specify

9 Do you think it is a good idea to combine CQ with a meal?

If yes, what would you think would be best; breakfast, lunch or dinner?

10 What do you think should be the maximum number of students per mentor?

11 Do you have any suggestions for how students could be better served by next year's meeting?

12 How would you rate the quality of the tutorials you attended?

Poor

Fair

Good

Excellent

Did not attend

T1. Tim Bayne & Jakob Hohwy: Conscious States and Conscious Creatures: Explanatory Strategies in the Science of Consciousness

T2. Andrew Brook: Terminology in Consciousness Studies

T3. Juliane Wilcke: The Evolutionary Function of Consciousness

T4. Jennifer Windt & Thomas Metzinger: Neurophilosophical Approaches to the Dreaming Mind—a Contrastive Analysis of Dreaming and Wakefulness

T5. Shigeru Kitazawa & Shin'ya Nishida: Adaptive Anomalies in Conscious Time Perception

T6 [note: tutorial presenter did not attend, but this information was not confirmed in sufficient time to remove this entry from the survey. The space appeared blank.]

13 If you were at any of the workshop sessions do you have any specific comments (good or bad) about the sessions you attended?

14 Do you have any suggestions for future workshop presenters or topics?

15 How would you rate the overall quality and relevance of the talks you attended?

Poor

Fair

Good

Excellent

Did not attend

David Rosenthal: Why Are Mental States Ever Consciousness?

William James Prize speaker: Naotsugu Tsuchiya: A novel powerful technique to dissociate physical input from subjective experience: Continuous Flash Suppression (CFS)

Thomas Metzinger: The Phenomenal Self and the First-Person Perspective

Susana Martinez-Conde: Microsaccades: Windows on the Mind

Tetsuro Matsuzawa: Comparative Cognitive Science: Trade-off Theory of Memory and Symbolization in Humans and Chimpanzees

Mitsuo Kawato: Computational Advantages of Internal Models as Self-Consciousness

16 Do you have any suggestions for future keynote speakers, or comments about the keynote talks you attended?

17 How would you rate the plenary symposia you attended?

Poor

Fair

Good

Excellent

Did not attend

Symposium 1: Implicit Processing and Awareness (Hochstein, Humphreys, Spence, Tanaka)

Symposium 2: Basic Neuroscientific and Clinical Approaches to Disorders of CNS Arousal (Pfaff, Jones, Di)

Symposium 3: Delusions (Bayne, McKay, Gold, Langdon)

Symposium 4: Consciousness and Accessibility (Koch, Kouider, Block)

18 Do you have any comments about the symposia you attended or suggestions for future symposia topics?

19 Overall how would you rate the quality of the concurrent talks you heard?

Poor Fair Good Excellent Did not attend

20 Do you have any suggestions on how to improve the quality and presentation of the concurrent talks?

21 Overall how would you rate the quality of the posters you saw?

Poor Fair Good Excellent Did not attend

22 Do you have any suggestions on how to improve the quality and presentation of the posters in future meetings?

23 How would you rate the opening ceremony performed by Na-Cha Studio of Folk Arts?

Poor Fair Good Excellent Did not attend

24 How would you rate the overall quality of the opening reception at the Gallery of National Taiwan University History?

Poor Fair Good Excellent Did not attend

25 Do you have any comments about this year's reception or suggestions for next year's reception in Berlin?

26 How did you find the quality of the food and wine at this year's Gala Banquet at Shanghai Shanghai?

Poor Fair Good Excellent Did not attend

27 The cost of this year's banquet was \$65. How would you rate the value of the banquet, all things considered?

A great value  
Worth the cost  
Too expensive

28 Do you have any comments or suggestions for next year's banquet?

29 How would you rate the After Party which took place on Sunday night?

Poor Fair Good Excellent Did not attend

30 Are there specific topics and/or speakers that you recommend for future conferences?

31 Do you recommend any changes in the format of the conference. For instance, the length of conference, days of the week in which it is held, length and timing of sessions, and so on?

32 How was your conference participation funded?

Grant  
Faculty travel budget  
Self-funded  
Other, please specify

33 Do you have any suggestions on how to improve this questionnaire for next year's meeting?

34 Do you have any other final thoughts or suggestions?