

IS CONSCIOUSNESS A STORY WE TELL OURSELVES?

Is Consciousness a Story We Tell Ourselves?

Internal language and consciousness after chain-of-thought reasoning

Where, When 7 What?

A Symposium at the **AISB Convention 2026**.

1–2 July 2026, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK.

The workshop takes place on the afternoon of **Thursday 2 July** in **Woodlands 3**.

Organizers: Conor Houghton; Jonathan Shock; Seth Bullock.

Programme — Thursday 2 July, Woodlands 3

14h00–15h10 Session A: Panel discussion. *Is consciousness a story we tell ourselves?* with Alexandra Penn, Anil Seth, Christopher Buckley and Max Jones, chaired by Seth Bullock.

15h10–15h30 Session B: Contributed talk. Kristina Šekrst: *One faithful pass over the cuckoo's nest.*

15h30–16h00 Coffee.

16h00–17h10 Session C: Panel discussion. *Is consciousness an experimental question?* with Andy Philippides, Charlène Aubinet, Kevin Mitchell and Jon Shock, chaired by Conor Houghton.

17h10–17h30 Session D: Contributed talk. Luc Steels: *Embodiment and language are the keys to (artificial) consciousness.*

About the Symposium

The aim of this symposium is to sharpen our consideration of consciousness by looking at it through the lens of language an approach that may prove useful, or one that distracts from important issues of embodiment and emotion. We will consider the relationship between language and consciousness and the relationship between language and inference in humans and machines. We will what influence the role of language has on its own structure, and ask what key experiment could help address the relationship between language, consciousness and intelligence.
