

The 2025 *Computational Phenomenology of Pure Awareness* Prize

€ 20.000,-

For the best contribution to computational phenomenology that substantially advances our understanding of the [experience of pure awareness](#), either as a stand-alone phenomenon (e.g. during full-absorption episodes occurring during meditation practice or NREM sleep) or in combination with other forms of phenomenal content (e.g. during dual mindfulness practice or extended periods of non-dual awareness).

[This model](#) could serve as a possible starting point, but alternative and novel approaches (including those outside the active inference framework) are also welcome. Submissions must take the form of a scientific paper of maximum 8000 words (excluding the abstract, references, and any appendices and supplementary information). Submissions exceeding this word limit will not be considered. The paper need not have been submitted to a journal or published by the deadline, but if not, it must be available as a preprint when submitted for the prize. Preprints and papers published before 1 January 2025 are not eligible. The competition accepts joint submissions. A person may contribute to more than one submission, but can only be lead (first) or senior (last) author for one submission. Each submission must be accompanied by an ethical statement explaining how any risks of artificially creating phenomenal states or genuine conscious experiences, especially of suffering, and even if inadvertently, have been excluded. Each proposed model should be accompanied by 1) a working simulation (preferred) or sufficient conceptual/technical detail to specify a working simulation in principle; and 2) an explicit list of empirically testable predictions (preferred) or arguments for why the model is testable in principle, including detailed directions for investigation.

Jury: Shamil Chandaria, Karl Friston, Jakob Hohwy, Thomas Metzinger, Anil Seth, Lars Sandved-Smith, Heleen Slagter

Deadline: September 30th, 2025

Submission to: mpe@uni-mainz.de