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**Stream A:** Consciousness and Naturalism

**Title:** Feelings, concepts and pathways for resolving prioritised needs

**Abstract:** Feelings can be construed as states of readiness or unreadiness for action, which is directed to resolving prioritised needs. Attention is interpretable as such an activity, whose results are perceptions; whether pertaining to the external world, via sensory prediction matching, or to the internal world of memory searches, consistency checks, action rehearsals and other conceptual confirmations. In either its external or internal role, attention momentarily isolates 'what contextually matters' from the rest of the world. Hence, perceptions might be fundamentally meaningful only in terms of felt needs and their 'pathways' of resolution. Yet the ground of meaning plainly extends to inferentially simulating the felt needs and attentional representations of others, not to mention cause-and-effect pathways resolving disequilibria within the environment. Arguably, this could be facilitated by a control feedback system for optimising attentional competence around 'demonstrating' or 'showing'. If abstract pathways of need-resolution were thereby distinguished, it could consciously associate feelings and concepts with perceptions that are otherwise meaningful just contingently, such as memes and other affordances.

**Bio:** Merin lectures in the Common Units at Charles Darwin University. He's a beginning PhD candidate, tackling Philosophy of Mind with an interest in Artificial Consciousness.