

# The Relevance of Jung to Consciousness Studies

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**Abstract:** *Unconscious processes affect conscious ones. They are therefore relevant to consciousness studies. Carl Jung's conception of a genetically-based collective unconscious as a predicate for consciousness has sound arguments to support it. Building on Jung's ideas, Erich Neumann was able to link progressive stages in culture to developments in the evolution of consciousness. Thus we have an explanation for something that must be so, but is little understood: that consciousness evolved. This article postulates that consciousness evolved through the natural selection, not of genes, but of cultural styles, and that revisiting Jung in a neo-Darwinian context can bring much to the debate over consciousness.*