

The Keating Higgs-Inflaton Equivalence (KHIE) Hypothesis

Terry Bollinger

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<https://youtu.be/rIQQXpjVCEU&lc=Ugx2eMDXdyivkP8sKHp4AaABAq>

A Comment on the [Closer To Truth](#) (YouTube) post:
Brian Keating - What Would Multiple Universes Mean? (Aug 12, 2023)
<https://youtu.be/rIQQXpjVCEU>

4:09 BK *"I think the most intellectually satisfying [alternative to inflation] would be something that doesn't have an unknown scalar field, or maybe that scalar field is the Higgs, and then, okay, we know it, and it connects to it."* Despite how casually you introduced the idea, I would assess your insight here about a possible link between the well-known Higgs field and various hypothetical inflaton fields as one of the more exciting and potentially impactful insights I've encountered.

Here's why: In terms of the social history of science, it's far more likely that the evidence of the deeper structure of the universe is in front of us, possibly glaringly so, but that our current socially induced cognitive "settings" make it almost impossibly difficult to see this evidence. I don't mean that as a euphemism but as a literal statement. Shared cognitive biases translate in our brains into fast-think, pre-conscious, perception-level data reductions that filter out our ability to "see" certain classes of patterns before they ever reach the level of conscious awareness. Such blindnesses exist even with — perhaps especially with — large, well-proven sets of experimentally verified evidence, especially if there is already a sizeable accompanying corpus of interpretation. In the rare cases where such ideas penetrate to the level of active awareness and consideration, the same fast-think biases that prevent us from noticing the patterns often generate powerful emotional reactions. The idea becomes so "obviously" wrong that the very act of discussing it becomes offensive [\[1\]\[2\]](#).

One of the most delightful examples of socially induced biases blocking the visibility of profuse evidence was the half-century delay in broad acceptance of Alfred Wegener's "continental drift" idea. Massive evidence in favor of Wegener's idea was available even at that early time, including items as simple as how well South America's east coast matches Africa's lower west coast not just topologically but geologically. The idea, however, was scoffed off as lacking evidence by American geologists as late as the 1960s [\[3\]](#).

Does the question become this: Is evidence for Dr. Keating's casual suggestion that the Higgs field may *be* the inflaton field of some multiverse variant an example of an idea for which we *already* have abundant evidence right in front of us, but, due to how we've trained our collective fast-think mechanisms to view the Higgs field, we literally cannot see what is in front of us? Is the proper solution to understanding inflationary models not collecting more data or impossible-to-see data but simply looking at the excellent particle physics data we *already have* from some entirely new angle?

So again: Even though Dr. Keating introduced his idea of exploring the Higgs field as a hidden-in-plain-site inflaton field casually within an interview, I don't think folks should take his idea of looking at the Higgs field from new, "bigger than one universe" angles should too lightly. If he is right, this simple change in perspective could transform into a data-rich turning point for reassessing and revisualizing our universe's deep structure.

References

- [1] Not surprisingly, most forms of racism, stereotyping, and logic-resistant reasoning also rely on the fast-think mechanism. As with your astrology example, these occur when fast-think is attached to trigger patterns that don't accurately reflect how the world works. Before declaring fast-think a bad thing, however, it's essential to recognize that it is one of the most astonishingly powerful neural innovations in the history of life and one whose underlying mechanism we still do not understand, even in principle. Fast-think is essential to our ability to navigate and survive in a complex world that presents us with more data than we can process in time to survive. The problem is that naturally occurring biotech tends to be a two-edged sword, as with powerful human-developed tech. Well-applied fast-think — that is, fast-think that responds quickly to genuinely predictive patterns — plays a prominent role in making vertebrate life possible and "interesting." Conversely, and especially when combined with false or contrived patterns, fast-think is also the source of some of the greatest horror stories in human history. Awareness of such dangers is vital to the effective use of any tech, whether created by humans or naturally occurring. Oblivious misuse of fast-think is an excellent example of the dangers since such misuse has killed vastly more people than nuclear technology.
- [2] In the history of quantum mechanics, Wolfgang Pauli was especially prone to this highly emotionally charged response. The most notable example was Pauli's career-destroying critique of Ralph Kronig for Kronig daring to propose to him that point-like electrons might have "spin." Kronig never recovered, but Pauli later reversed his position and got a Nobel Prize for Kronig's idea. (Nobel Prizes... sigh.) Oddly (to me), Pauli and Kronig kept in touch and remained friends after all of this. Historically, however, Pauli, not Kronig, always benefited from this friendship. That's why we call the mathematical form of Kronig's deeply insightful idea the "Pauli" spin matrices.
- [3] My all-time favorite example of how absolutist fast-think dismissal of evidence can become in nominally science-driven communities is this 1962 quote about plate tectonics:

"For all these reasons, the theory of continental drift was abandoned by nearly all geologists. ... Theories in science live or die by the sword of experiment, and no matter how attractive they may seem to the layman, unless they agree with observation, they cannot be taken seriously."

— Arthur Beiser, *The Earth* (LIFE Nature Library, 1962), page 89.