Stop Caring about Consciousness

The best empirically-grounded theory of first-personal phenomenal consciousness is global workspace theory. This, combined with the success of the phenomenal-concept strategy, means that consciousness can be fully reductively explained in terms of globally broadcast representational content. So there are no qualia (and there is no mental paint). As a result, the question of which other creatures besides ourselves are phenomenally conscious is of no importance, and doesn't admit of a factual answer in most cases. What is real, and what does matter, is a multidimensional similarity space of functionally organized minds.