Degrees of Consciousness

Does consciousness come in degrees? If ‘yes’, then some creatures (or mental states) are more conscious than others. If ‘no’, then such claims are either false or incoherent. I’ll (1) argue that the most prominent objection to degrees of consciousness conflates questions about degrees with questions about indeterminacy, (2) examine the semantics of ‘more conscious than’ expressions, (3) develop a general analysis of what it takes for a degreed property to count as degrees of consciousness, and (4) apply the analysis to various theories of consciousness. In the end, I’ll argue that the most interesting question might not be whether consciousness comes in degrees (it probably does), but instead which degreed properties count as degrees of consciousness.