

The Paradox of Conscious Commitment: How Suppression of Intelligence Enables Culture and Identity [F] [A] (2026)

Robert Galida – June 2026

Paper 3 in a series on conscious suppression; [see Paper 1: Intelligence Without Consciousness for the full taxonomy of intelligence and consciousness.](#)

Abstract

If consciousness can suppress intelligent correction (Papers 1 & 2), why did it evolve? This paper proposes a functional trade-off: the capacity for **conscious commitment** – identity-binding, phenomenal investment in a belief, value, or group – enables forms of social cohesion and long-term cooperation that are unavailable to purely intelligent (non-conscious) systems. The suppression of moment-by-moment correction allows individuals to maintain group loyalty, ideological coherence, and cultural continuity even in the face of counterevidence. This trade-off explains the persistence of fantasy attractors in human societies and the evolutionary advantage of a system that can sometimes override its own error signals. The paper provides a formal sketch (basin depth as a function of identity-fusion), reviews empirical evidence from cultural evolution and social psychology, and offers diagnostic criteria for distinguishing adaptive commitment from pathological suppression. The claims

are presented as hypotheses, not established conclusions; the model is a conceptual scaffold for empirical testing.

1. Introduction: The Evolutionary Puzzle

Consciousness is costly. It requires large brains, complex neural integration, and significant metabolic energy. If intelligence alone – the ability to navigate constraint fields and correct errors – is sufficient for adaptive behavior, why did consciousness evolve?

Standard evolutionary accounts propose that consciousness enhances flexibility, deliberation, and social coordination (e.g., Humphrey, 1976; Dennett, 1995). But these accounts struggle to explain a conspicuous feature of human psychology: **conscious commitment to beliefs that resist correction**. Individuals and groups routinely maintain false, harmful, or inefficient beliefs because those beliefs are identity-defining. The same conscious system that can reason flexibly also produces martyrdom, ideological rigidity, and collective delusion.

Papers 1 and 2 in this series introduced the mechanism of **conscious suppression**: phenomenal, identity-constitutive investment deepens an attractor basin, causing the person to *detect* error signals but fail to escape. (Restated briefly: a deeper basin requires a larger perturbation to exit; conscious commitment increases basin depth, effectively reducing corrective permeability k in specific domains.) This mechanism underlies political fantasy attractors (Paper 1) and clinical disorders like addiction and OCD (Paper 2). From an evolutionary perspective, this looks like a bug – a costly vulnerability.

This paper argues it is also a feature. The capacity for conscious commitment enables **adaptive self-binding**: the

voluntary or culturally induced suppression of immediate correction for the sake of long-term group cohesion, trust, and cultural transmission. The same mechanism that produces fantasy attractors also produces loyalty, sacrifice, and shared identity. The trade-off hypothesis is that natural selection favored the capacity for conscious suppression because the fitness benefits of group coordination and cultural transmission outweighed the costs of occasional error persistence.

2. Definitions and Framework (Self-Contained)

From Paper 1:

- **Intelligence** – the ability to navigate a constraint field; to detect perturbations and update behavior to maintain persistent trajectories.
- **Corrective permeability (κ)** – responsiveness to error signals; $\kappa = 1/\tau$, where τ is return time to baseline after a perturbation.
- **Basin depth (B)** – the magnitude of perturbation required to displace a system from one attractor to another. Deeper basins require larger perturbations. In the attractor framework, B is related to but distinct from κ : a deeper basin (higher B) typically reduces κ (lengthens return time), but they are not identical. This paper uses the relation as heuristic: conscious commitment increases B , which effectively reduces $\kappa(d)$ for the relevant domain.

New definitions for this paper:

- **Adaptive commitment** – a temporary or context-bound

reduction in κ (or increase in B) that serves the individual's or group's long-term fitness.

- **Identity fusion** – the merging of a belief or group membership with self-representation, such that abandoning the belief would feel like losing oneself.
- **Cultural attractor** – a belief, practice, or value that persists across generations due to cognitive or social biases (including, but not limited to, suppression of correction). This definition is provisional; a fully operationalized version is open for development.

The key distinction is between **pathological suppression** (low κ that reduces fitness, as in addiction or fantasy politics) and **adaptive suppression** (low κ that increases fitness by enabling cooperation, trust, and cultural learning). The same type of mechanism produces both; context and domain determine the outcome.

3. The Trade-Off Model (Sketch)

Formally, consider a system with baseline intelligence (κ_0). A conscious commitment to a group, value, or identity imposes a **domain-specific reduction in effective corrective permeability** by deepening the attractor basin for beliefs relevant to that commitment.

Let $\kappa(d) = \kappa_0 - \Delta\kappa(d)$, where $\Delta\kappa(d)$ is the reduction in corrective permeability for domain d . $\Delta\kappa(d)$ is hypothesized to be a function of identity-fusion strength F and social reinforcement R . A schematic monotonic form: $\Delta\kappa(d) = g(F, R)$ with $\partial\Delta\kappa/\partial F > 0$ and $\partial\Delta\kappa/\partial R > 0$. The exact functional form is an open empirical question; the current model is a conceptual scaffold.

The hypothesis is not that evolution maximizes κ globally.

Rather, an **adaptive strategy** allocates Δk selectively across domains, increasing basin depth (reducing k) for beliefs and practices that support group coordination and cultural transmission, while leaving k high for domains requiring individual error correction.

The paper does not claim optimality; it proposes that selection can favor such selective allocation when the fitness benefits of social cohesion outweigh the costs of reduced accuracy in specific domains.

Central hypothesis (labeled for clarity):

H1: Natural selection favored the evolution of conscious suppression because the fitness benefits of group coordination and cultural transmission, enabled by identity-fusion and deepened basins, outweighed the costs of occasional error persistence.

4. Empirical Grounding

Overimitation (Lyons et al., 2007; see also Nielsen & Tomaselli, 2010):

Children copy causally irrelevant actions, even when a more efficient alternative is demonstrated. The interpretation that children *know* the action is unnecessary is contested; they may not represent it as causally irrelevant. A safer reading: children *behave as if* the action is necessary or relevant, showing a domain-specific reduction in corrective permeability for social learning. This supports the model of adaptive suppression in cultural transmission.

Costly signaling and commitment (Sosis, 2003):

Costly rituals signal group commitment and are hard to fake. They deliberately suppress individual correction (e.g., ignoring pain) to deepen basin depth for group loyalty. This directly maps onto $\Delta k(d)$ for domain of group identity.

Social identity theory (Tajfel & Turner, 1979):

Minimal group experiments show arbitrary group assignments produce in-group bias and resistance to counterevidence about out-groups. This demonstrates context-bound $\Delta k(d)$ without any rational basis, consistent with adaptive suppression for group cohesion.

Neuroimaging (Westen et al., 2006 – preliminary; note methodological limitations: small N, interpretation of ACC suppression contested):

Partisans evaluating threatening information about their own candidate show reduced activity in error-monitoring regions (ACC). This is a candidate neural correlate of domain-specific k reduction, but the findings require replication and should be treated as suggestive, not conclusive.

Cross-cultural evidence (Gelfand et al., 2011):

Tight cultures have stronger norms and lower tolerance for deviance. This is not a direct measure of k but is consistent with domain-specific suppression. Individuals in tight cultures may still update beliefs within permissible domains; the mapping to k is partial.

Each evidence stream supports the existence of domain-specific, context-bound suppression, but none alone validates the full model. The cumulative case is indicative, not confirmatory.

5. Adaptive vs. Pathological Suppression: A Scalar Framework

The table below presents a binary simplification of an underlying continuum. The two poles are endpoints; most real cases fall between them.

Feature	Adaptive suppression (endpoint)	Pathological suppression (endpoint)
Domain	Context-bound (e.g., group loyalty, ritual)	Pervasive across domains
Reversibility	Reversible when context changes (operationalized: the individual can exit without catastrophic loss within a culturally normal timeframe; e.g., leaving a religion)	Irreversible without intervention (e.g., addiction requires treatment)
Fitness effect	Increases inclusive fitness (group cooperation, survival)	Decreases health, relationships, or function
Identity fusion	Flexible, allows multiple identities	Rigid, single identity dominates
Social reinforcement	Supports group cohesion and trust	Isolates or harms group (e.g., cults)
Example	Trusting a teammate despite a mistake	Continuing addiction despite harm

Scalar index: A continuous measure of net $\Delta\kappa(d)$ relative to a fitness gradient is theoretically desirable but not yet operationalized. The table is a starting point for empirical calibration.

6. Diagnostic Criteria for Adaptive Suppression (Provisional)

A conscious commitment is **adaptively suppressive** if it meets three or more of the following (empirical validation pending).

These criteria are hypotheses, not validated instruments.

1. **Domain-limited:** Reduced κ applies only to specific beliefs or practices directly relevant to group coordination or identity.
2. **Context-sensitive:** Suppression diminishes when the context changes (e.g., outside the group setting). *Operationalization:* Measured change in belief updating under different social conditions.
3. **Reversible exit:** The individual can exit the commitment without catastrophic loss of functioning. *Operationalization:* Exit is observed and not associated with severe psychopathology.
4. **Fitness benefit:** The commitment measurably increases cooperation, trust, or long-term survival (e.g., group longevity, reproductive success). *Operationalization:* Group-level measures of cohesion and individual fitness correlates.
5. **Conscious valorization:** The individual explicitly values the commitment as part of self-identity. (Note: this criterion does **not** require the individual to articulate the *adaptive* reason; it only requires that the commitment is consciously endorsed.)

Counter-criteria (pathological):

- Pervasive across domains (low κ for all beliefs).
 - Context-insensitive (applies even when alone and safe).
 - No viable exit without severe harm.
 - Clear fitness cost (measured harm to health, relationships, survival).
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7. The Evolution of Consciousness as a Binding Mechanism

The standard view in evolutionary psychology is that consciousness evolved for flexible reasoning. This paper offers a complementary hypothesis: consciousness also evolved for **binding** – the ability to commit to a belief, value, or group in a way that suppresses short-term correction for long-term coordination.

Binding requires phenomenal experience. A purely intelligent (non-conscious) system can compute that group loyalty is beneficial, but it cannot *feel* loyalty, *experience* identity, or *sacrifice* for the group. Within the CUFT framework, these conscious states are not epiphenomenal; they are the mechanism of basin deepening (increasing B and thus reducing effective k for commitment-relevant domains). This claim is a foundational assumption of the framework (see Paper 1), not argued from first principles here. It distinguishes CUFT from functionalist or behaviorist accounts.

Thus, the evolution of consciousness is not just about solving problems better; it is about sometimes solving problems *worse* for the sake of social solutions. The capacity for self-deception, ideological rigidity, and fantasy attractors is the price of the capacity for culture, morality, and collective action.

8. Implications for Social Policy and Individual Choice

- **Tolerance of adaptive suppression:** Not all low- k beliefs are harmful. Cultural traditions, religious rituals, and group loyalties that do not cause harm and provide

social cohesion should be recognized as adaptive, not irrational.

- **Intervention for pathological suppression:** The same diagnostic tools from Paper 1 and 2 (basin depth, identity fusion, sealing mechanisms) apply. Interventions should reduce basin depth (e.g., exposure to diverse groups) or increase corrective force rather than attacking identity directly.
 - **Self-awareness:** Individuals can learn to distinguish adaptive from pathological suppression by asking: does this commitment serve my long-term flourishing and that of others? The framework provides a metacognitive tool.
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9. Open Questions

- **How does adaptive suppression scale to institutions?** Are nations, corporations, or religions fantasy attractors or adaptive structures? The criteria apply at multiple levels; empirical work needed.
- **Can adaptive suppression become maladaptive over time?** Yes – a practice that was once adaptive (e.g., a food taboo) may become harmful when environment changes. The framework allows for transition.
- **What neural circuits implement the trade-off?** Likely interactions between vmPFC (identity) and ACC (error monitoring). Open for empirical testing.
- **Are there species with conscious suppression but no culture?** Possibly, but human-level cultural complexity requires the trade-off model.
- **How to operationalize B and ΔK in field studies?** Development of a Clinician Basin Depth Scale (CBDS, see Paper 2) and adaptation for social groups is a research priority.

10. Conclusion

Consciousness evolved not only to correct errors but sometimes to ignore them. The capacity for conscious commitment – identity-binding, phenomenal investment in a belief or group – enables adaptive suppression of correction. This trade-off explains why humans can be both brilliantly intelligent and stubbornly irrational. The same type of mechanism that produces fantasy attractors and clinical disorders also produces loyalty, sacrifice, and culture.

The paradox is that the same type of process can be either bug or feature, depending on context and domain. The dance of evolution is not about maximizing intelligence; it is about balancing correction and commitment.

Suggested citation: Galida, R. S. (2026). The Paradox of Conscious Commitment: How Suppression of Intelligence Enables Culture and Identity. *Fantasy Attractor*.

The Conscious Suppression of Correction: Fantasy Attractors in Political Movements [A] (2026)

Robert Galida – June 2026 (Final)

Abstract

Why do intelligent people persist in beliefs that contradict clear evidence? The attractor framework offers a mechanism: **identity-constitutive, phenomenally felt commitment deepens the attractor basin**, making it resistant to corrective perturbations. A political fantasy attractor is a belief system whose adherents *detect* disconfirming evidence (they are familiar with counterarguments and experience them as genuine perturbations) yet the basin depth – maintained by conscious, identity-binding investment – exceeds the corrective force. (Section 7 specifies the three-level detection threshold that distinguishes this mechanism from automatic bias.) Cases where correction fails due to sub-personal, automatic processes are not yet fantasy attractors; the defining feature is the *conscious* suppression of an actively perceived error signal. This paper defines the mechanism, diagnoses three case patterns, offers falsifiable diagnostic criteria, applies the framework symmetrically across the political spectrum, and explicitly acknowledges the current empirical limitations in distinguishing Level 2 from Level 3 in practice.

1. Introduction

Political discourse is filled with people who appear intelligent in other domains yet hold beliefs sharply at odds with available evidence. Standard explanations – ignorance, manipulation, cognitive bias – are incomplete. They do not explain why correction attempts often strengthen belief (the backfire effect) or why highly educated individuals can persist in demonstrably false claims.

The attractor framework provides a different lens.

In *Intelligence Without Consciousness* (Galida, 2026), we argued that phenomenal investment can suppress intelligent navigation: a person committed to a fantasy attractor experiences a basin depth that exceeds corrective perturbations. The person detects the error signal (they are not stupid), but the identity-binding commitment prevents trajectory escape.

This paper applies that mechanism to political movements. A **political fantasy attractor** is a shared belief system whose basin depth, reinforced by conscious (phenomenally felt, identity-constitutive) commitment, resists correction even when faced with clear disconfirming evidence. The paper offers a diagnostic, not a partisan weapon. It applies symmetrically across the spectrum.

2. Defining “Conscious Suppression” and Acknowledging the Detectability Problem

The term “conscious” is used in three overlapping senses:

- **Phenomenally conscious** – there is something it is like to hold the belief. The commitment is felt, not merely automatic.
- **Identity-constitutive** – the belief is held as a marker of selfhood and group membership. To abandon the belief would feel like a loss of self.
- **Experientially non-deliberative** – the suppression is not typically experienced as a deliberate choice (“I will ignore this evidence”). Rather, it is experienced as certainty, conviction, or moral clarity.

The paper adopts **Reading A**: a fantasy attractor requires conscious suppression in the sense above. Cases where

correction fails because the error signal never reaches awareness – e.g., automatic motivated reasoning, selective exposure, unfamiliarity with counterarguments – are **not** yet fantasy attractors. They may be pre-conscious bias. The defining feature is that the person *detects* the perturbation but the basin depth prevents escape.

A crucial honesty note: The distinction between Level 2 (automatic bias, no detection) and Level 3 (detection with suppression) is definitional for the paper's target, but it cannot currently be resolved from behavioral observation alone. Two people may exhibit identical external behaviors – praising gut-trust over experts, deploying sealing mechanisms, ostracizing defectors – while one is at Level 2 and the other at Level 3. The paper's diagnostic criteria therefore identify *candidates* for fantasy attractors, not confirmed cases. This limitation is explicitly acknowledged; it does not invalidate the framework but requires domain-specific methods (e.g., fine-grained interviews, reaction time measures, physiological markers of doubt) to operationalize detection in practice.

3. Empirical Grounding

The paper's claims are empirically testable. Relevant literature includes:

- **Backfire effect:** Nyhan & Reifler (2010) found that corrections sometimes increased misperceptions among ideological groups. However, subsequent research (Wood & Porter, 2019) failed to replicate backfire across a wide range of issues. The effect is contested and may be context-dependent. This paper treats backfire as one possible indicator of deep basin depth, not a universal law.

- **Identity protection:** Kahan's cultural cognition theory (2012) shows that individuals process evidence in ways that protect group commitments. Kahan emphasizes that this mechanism can operate automatically and does not necessarily involve conscious deliberation; he has also shown that higher analytical ability can *increase* motivated reasoning. The present paper's focus on *conscious* suppression is a distinct claim, not a direct extension of Kahan's framework. We use his empirical findings as partial support for the existence of motivated reasoning, not for the specific detection-suppression mechanism.
- **Festinger's cognitive dissonance:** When prophecy fails, believers often intensify commitment (Festinger, Riecken, & Schachter, 1956) – a classic case of apocalyptic attractor dynamics, often accompanied by conscious rationalization and identity reinforcement.

The paper does not claim that conscious suppression is the *only* mechanism. It claims that conscious, identity-constitutive commitment is a *sufficient* condition for basin deepening in many political contexts.

4. Three Case Patterns (Illustrative, Not Exhaustive)

4.1 Conspiracy Theory Attractor

Mechanism: A central narrative of hidden malevolent agency. Evidence against the conspiracy is reframed as evidence of its cunning.

Examples: QAnon (right); Soviet-era “doctors’ plot” conspiracy (left-authoritarian).

Suppression signature: Adherents can articulate counterarguments but dismiss them as part of the conspiracy. The basin is sealed by narrative closure.

4.2 Populist Strongman Attractor

Mechanism: Loyalty to a leader perceived as sole authentic representative of the people. Disconfirming evidence about the leader is reframed as elite persecution.

Examples: Certain Trump-loyalist circles (right); left-nationalist leader cults (e.g., Chavismo under Hugo Chávez).

Suppression signature: Adherents exhibit high corrective permeability in other domains but near-zero for leader-related evidence.

4.3 Apocalyptic Meta-Attractor

Mechanism: A belief that a definitive, world-transforming event is imminent. Repeated prediction failures are explained away as delays, tests, or misinterpretations.

Examples: Millenarian movements (Millerites, Jehovah's Witnesses); some revolutionary eschatologies (Stalinist "world revolution imminent" framing into the 1930s).

Suppression signature: The basin is maintained by social solidarity and identity fusion.

The examples are illustrative, not exhaustive. The diagnostic is intended to be politically symmetric, but the paper does not claim equal prevalence across sides.

5. Symmetry Demonstration

To avoid the appearance of partisan selection, we provide

contemporary and historical cross-ideological examples.

Contemporary – MMR-autism persistence in progressive communities. Despite the complete retraction of Wakefield's 1998 study (and subsequent findings of fraud), some otherwise science-oriented progressives continue to express concern about vaccine safety – often citing “corporate pharmaceutical influence” as a sealing mechanism. This meets the paper's criteria: clear scientific consensus, ability to articulate counterarguments, identity-constitutive suspicion of establishment science.

Another contemporary – Facilitated communication persistence. Facilitated communication (FC) for non-speaking autistics has been repeatedly discredited in controlled studies; many professional organizations have issued statements against its use. Yet FC continues to be promoted in certain progressive / disability-rights circles, often with sealing mechanisms (“critics don't understand non-speaking minds”). This is a clean case of a fantasy attractor operating on the left.

Historical – Stalinist apologism in Western intellectual circles (1930s–1950s). Highly educated individuals (Sartre, Hellman, many fellow travelers) persisted in believing that Stalin's USSR was progressive despite evidence of the Great Purge, show trials, and Gulag system. Identity commitment to socialism and anti-fascism suppressed correction.

These examples show the framework applies regardless of ideological valence. The paper does not claim equal prevalence; it claims symmetric applicability.

6. Falsifiable Diagnostic Criteria

A movement is a **candidate** political fantasy attractor if it

meets **three or more** of the following **and** does **not** meet the counter-criterion. (The word “candidate” flags the detectability problem acknowledged in §2: behavioral criteria alone cannot definitively distinguish Level 2 from Level 3.)

1. **Low corrective permeability ($\kappa \rightarrow 0$)** for core beliefs despite repeated, clear disconfirming evidence. “Clear” means *scientific consensus* on empirical claims (e.g., National Academies, WHO, IPCC) or, for historical cases, documented factual findings accepted by non-partisan experts. Consensus determination is a social process, but the criterion is falsifiable when consensus exists.
2. **Backfire effect** – correction attempts measurably increase belief strength and group cohesion (requires empirical measurement).
3. **Identity fusion** – observable proxies: social ostracism of defectors, language of betrayal, insistence that abandoning the belief would make one a “different person.”
4. **Conscious valorization of resistance to evidence** – adherents explicitly praise *ignoring disconfirming evidence* as a virtue (e.g., “I trust my gut over the experts,” “Facts are propaganda”). This criterion distinguishes *resistance to evidence* from *resistance to social pressure to conform* – a scientist who resists social pressure to abandon a well-evidenced theory is valorizing fidelity to evidence, not resistance to evidence.
5. **Sealing mechanisms** – internal rhetorical strategies that explain away all counterevidence (conspiracy, enemy deception, tests of faith). These are observable in discourse.

Counter-criterion (falsification condition):

A movement is **not** a fantasy attractor if it demonstrates any of the following:

- Updates core beliefs in response to disconfirming evidence within a timeframe proportional to the clarity, repetition, and expert consensus on that evidence.
- Tolerates internal dissent and allows open criticism of core claims.
- Abandons false claims when decisively refuted (retracts, corrects, or disavows).

The timeframe specification avoids the earlier vagueness by linking the expected update speed to the evidential context. A movement that updates only after decades of accumulating consensus may still be a fantasy attractor; one that updates within a reasonable period given the evidence is not.

7. Intelligent Navigation: A Three-Level Taxonomy

The paper claims that fantasy attractor adherents *detect* error signals but suppress correction. To avoid conflating this with automatic bias, we distinguish three levels:

- **Level 1 – Unfamiliarity:** The person has not encountered counterarguments. No suppression needed.
- **Level 2 – Familiarity without detection:** The person can recite counterarguments but has cognitively neutralized them; they never experience a moment of doubt. This is driven by automatic, sub-personal processes (e.g., selective exposure, motivated reasoning). These are **not** fantasy attractors on the paper's definition.
- **Level 3 – Detection with suppression:** The person experiences the counterargument as a genuine perturbation – a moment of doubt, a recognition of plausibility – but overrides it through conscious, identity-binding commitment. These **are** fantasy

attractors.

Thus, the paper's target is Level 3 cases. For many political movements that *look* like fantasy attractors from the outside, the dominant mechanism may be Level 2. The diagnostic criteria are designed to identify candidates where Level 3 *might* be operating, but definitive classification requires methods beyond behavioral observation (see §2).

8. Why This Matters for Politics and Media

- **Correction backfires when it attacks identity.** Calling a fantasy attractor “stupid” or “evil” deepens the basin. The correct diagnostic question is: *What reinforces the basin depth?*
 - **Decoupling evidence from identity** is the only known exit path. Some movements exit when the social cost of membership exceeds identity benefit – not when they receive a fact sheet.
 - **High-profile debunking** may backfire by signaling threat, triggering defensive solidarity. The framework predicts this effect is real but not universal; context matters.
 - **Interventions** should focus on reducing identity threat, providing safe off-ramps, and decoupling core moral values from factual claims. These are testable hypotheses.
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9. Open Questions

- **Can a movement be partially a fantasy attractor?** Yes – gradient of κ . The diagnosis is not binary.
 - **What interventions increase κ ?** Reducing identity threat, safe off-ramps, and decoupling moral values from factual claims are candidate mechanisms.
 - **How does collective basin depth scale with group size?** Social coupling likely amplifies depth nonlinearly. Untested.
 - **Are all political fantasy attractors harmful?** The paper makes no claim. The mechanism may sometimes provide resilience against genuine disinformation.
 - **How can we empirically detect the Level 2 / Level 3 transition?** This is the open frontier implied by §2. Methods could include subjective doubt scales, reaction time measures, or physiological markers. The paper does not solve this; it identifies the problem.
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10. Conclusion

The conscious suppression of intelligent correction is a real political phenomenon, but it is narrower than often assumed. Political fantasy attractors are not failures of intelligence; they are successes of identity-constitutive commitment that operates *after* the error signal is detected. Cases where correction fails due to automatic bias are not yet fantasy attractors by this definition.

The diagnostic criteria identify candidates, not confirmed cases. Distinguishing Level 2 from Level 3 remains an empirical challenge. This honesty does not weaken the framework; it clarifies what further work is needed.

Fact-checking alone fails against a fantasy attractor. Interventions must address the conscious commitment that creates the basin depth. The dance of politics is not only

about truth. It is about who you are, who you trust, and what you will not abandon. Intelligence navigates; conscious commitment anchors the basin.

Suggested citation: Galida, R. S. (2026). The Conscious Suppression of Correction: Fantasy Attractors in Political Movements. *Fantasy Attractor*.