



Automata's Inner Movie: Science and Philosophy of Mind

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The branch of philosophy called “philosophy of mind” has been center stage in the discipline for over a half-century. Involving issues such as consciousness, perception, and intentionality, the sub-discipline has often intersected with the sciences, particularly those of biology and neuroscience. This timely book draws together thinkers trained in the logical and concept-driven methodologies of philosophy with those trained in the empirical sciences. Importantly, it affords the reader a multidisciplinary book that guides them in the general approaches to the problems, theories, and areas that are involved.

It begins with a section devoted to a historical overview of the general problems in the Philosophy of Mind. The next section begins the “transdisciplinary” dovetailing of philosophy with science, with chapters examining predictive processing, semantics, and issues free-will in mental health. Section III continues the philosophical examination of traditional concerns such as self-awareness and identity formation, with the final two sections facing such pressing issues as human versus artificial intelligence, and the ethical issues surrounding big data.

This book brings together researchers from a variety of fields to jointly present and discuss some of the most relevant problems around the conscious mind. This academic plurality perfectly characterizes the complexity with which a current researcher is confronted to discuss and work on this topic.

The volume is organized as follows: Part I introduces the general problems of Philosophy of Mind and some historical perspectives. Part II focuses on understanding the input that the empirical sciences can offer to the theoretical problems. Part III discusses some of the core concepts of the field, namely, perception, memory and experience. Part IV debates human and artificial intelligence and, finally, Part V deliberates about the computation and the ethics of big data and artificial intelligence.

The book contains valuable material for researchers in several fields such as Cognitive Science and Neuroscience, Psychology and Artificial Intelligence, and Philosophy. It can also be used as a guide to some courses at various levels, from BAs to MAs and PhD courses of several fields. It is our belief, as it is claimed in the preface by Georg Northoff, that there is an urgent need for a truly transdisciplinary exchange between philosophy and the sciences in order to stimulate some real progress. We hope that this book will become a sound step for such an interdisciplinary enterprise.

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The volume allows readers to understand the general field of Theoretical Neurophilosophy, which brings together both the fact-based practices in the science with the concept-based tradition in philosophy; a linkage the editors refer to as the “concept–fact linkage.” Science’s dependence on theoretical frameworks mirrors philosophy’s dependence on empirical data; this volume unites the two missions.

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