

What is joint action?

Most scientists cite a definition from TICS.
This is less helpful than it looks....

"As a working definition, ---"

The philosophers either don't define joint action at all, or if they do they appeal to shared intention.

Quote Gilbert, Tomasello

But this approach has several drawbacks.

1. Disagreement about what shared intention is
2. Unclear that all joint actions do actually involve shared intention

Observation: both approaches to characterising

joint action rest on the assumption

that j.a. ~~is~~ needs defining.

~~This assumption is built~~

Perhaps it is a mistake, a prejudice, to think that there is a question about understanding joint action as opposed to understanding action generally

Ludwig: action has two or more agents---

I will examine this later. But for now I want to emphasize only that this conception of joint action avoids the Assumption — it doesn't assume that there is something special to say about what j.a. is rather than what action is.

The ~~current~~ assumption is built in even to the way that ppl ask the question --- Gilbert --

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the idea I want to explore

So my working hypothesis is that there has been a mistake.

The mistake was to assume that we could understand what ~~an~~ action was without thereby already understanding what joint action is.

Two thoughts in favour of this idea

- everyday thought

- plural quantification

Of course these thoughts are not decisive.

To support the idea we need to demonstrate that there is an adequate notion of joint action.

But what are the constraints on an adequate notion of joint action?

If we know what action is and we know what cats are, we already know what feline action is.

If we know what action is and we can count, we already know what joint action is.

A goal-directed joint action is an event grounded by two or more agents' actions where these actions have a collective goal.