Psych Lecture 3 Notes

Humans have 100 billion neurons that are all connected. This leads to a greater investment in the offspring. Humans are probably the only species that are self-aware and can answer abstract questions. Only recently have tools been developed to research and study the brain. We can slice open brains and stain different parts to see how they react and function.

We are all living in a computer simulation and everything is untrue. How do you prove this is not real?

Naïve realism: The belief that we see reality as it really is (objectively an without bias);

Free will: Freedom of humans to make choices that are not determined by prior causes or by divine intervention

Mens Rea + Actus Reus = Accountable and Guilty

(Guilty mind + Guilty action)

Libet’s famous test of free will: A subject is in front of a desk and has to put his hand on the desk. He can choose to raise his hand or leave it on the desk. But is it really free will? What decides if he raises his hand and why he did it? When did he come to the conclusion that he wants to move his wrist. The grand question is: Who is in charge here?

1. What are the implications of this study on free will?
   1. Not accurate enough
   2. Relies on human input
2. What are criticisms that may limit the conclusions?
   1. Sensory scans are not reliable

Another follow up study found that the original intent is found in the prefrontal cortex. This suggests that intent forms even before them making the decision. Scientists could tell with above accuracy the next decision a human would make

The brain constructs the world

Post-hoc rationalization leads to self-deception

1. Baseline sensivity for pain is mid 30s – 40s
2. “Following exercise sensitivity to cold water bath is affected”
3. Exercise
4. Re-test
5. Scores were radically affected by a magnitude of 10

Curse of knowledge = Illusion of expert