



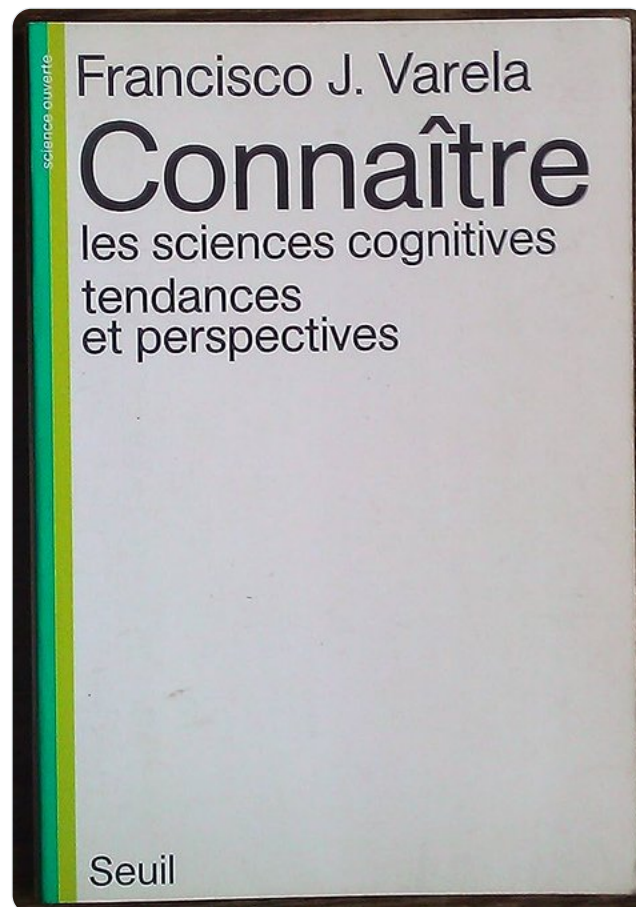
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Feb 22, 2024 · 8 tweets · ki_cog/status/1760497682190111097

[Varela's Enaction today: a Techno-epistemological blindspot?]

There is not one but *two books* which are the symbolic origins of Varela's public exposure of Enaction: one is the very quoted collective "The Embodied Mind" (Varela, Thompson & Rosch, TEM),
1/

<https://twitter.com/evantthompson/status/1670059966571634688>





but the other seems now completely overlooked, while published at the same time and very complementary to the first: published in french under the initial title "Connaître - Les Sciences Cognitives, tendances et perspectives", then renamed "Invitation aux Sciences Cognitives". 2/

In his introduction, Varela speaks clearly about the Sciences AND Technologies of Cognition ("STC"), then provides an overview of the epistemological terrain, including the cybernetic historical origin of STC, 3/

the orthodox and dominant "cognitivism", the "neo-connexionism" as intermediary, and finally the originality of "enaction". This organization, historical AND theoretical (which is epistemology), is crucial to master the understanding of enaction. 4/

Today, while enaction has become enactivism, it is strategically fragmented into "xE cognition", which for me are necessarily included in the term "enaction", and its technological dimension often seems implicit (agency, sensori -motor in action),

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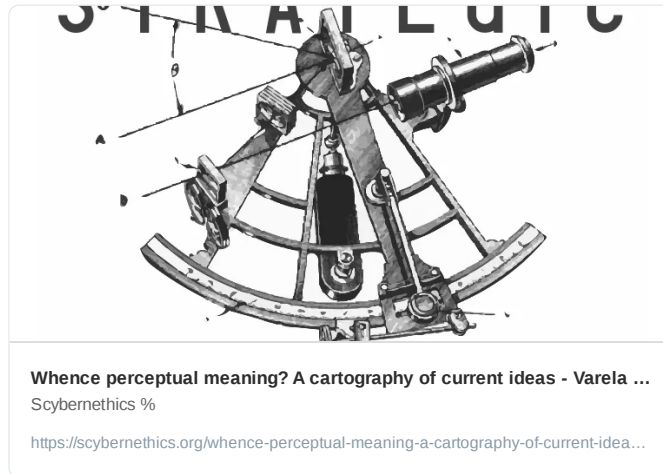
It seems important to me to (re)read this opus in the age of the conservative neo-connectionist disruption of genIA/LLMs ("conservative" in a cognitivist sense).

6/7

This is why I have put its equivalent in English online, and I warmly invite you to (re)read it:

In fact, I plan to eventually create a private & asynchronous book club to share our perspectives on this important, and neglected, work by Varela.

7/7



@threadreaderapp unroll

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