

Tutorial 9 Kandel

What is the human mind?

GFN1000 In Dialogue with Nature

Content

- The Body-Mind Problem
- Reductionism and The Moral Implications
- Subjectivity and Intersubjectivity
- Free Will
- Moral Accountability



The Body-Mind Problem

- How do monism ① and dualism ② understand the relationship between mind and body?
- Explain Freud's theory of the id, ego, and superego, and provide examples to illustrate their relations. ③
- Use examples from zombie movies and time-travel films to illustrate monist or dualist views. ④⑤

Reductionism and The Moral Implications

- Have you been the same person? If yes, what do you think makes you the same person? ②
- How does the exploration of the mind reveal the limits of the reductionist approach? ③④
- Do reductionist explanations help to reduce or exacerbate discrimination against individuals with mental health issues? ⑤①

Subjectivity and Intersubjectivity

- Are there any mind-related activities that cannot be reduced to biochemical processes? ③
- What are the distinctive challenges to the scientific study of the human mind? ④
- Share your experience of being and not being able to empathize with others. ⑤
- Give examples illustrating the role intersubjectivity plays in the development of our self-awareness and identity (e.g., our perception of ourselves influenced by others). ①②

Free Will

- How does Libet interpret his experiment results? Do you agree with him? ④
- Provide examples or evidence to support free will ⑤ and for determinism (i.e., our fate is predetermined) ①.
- Is it possible to verify whether we are, or are not, a brain in a jar? ②③



Moral Accountability

- Do you think that people with mental health issues should be held legally responsible for their crimes? ⑤
- Should preventive actions be taken against individuals genetically predisposed to violent or impulsive behaviors? ①②
- Provide examples of contemporary AI systems making decisions without human intervention. ③ What ethical concerns might arise from such AI autonomy? ④