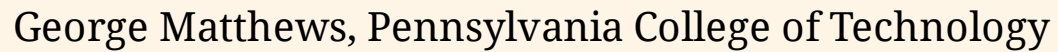


minds in a material world



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The Mind/Body Problem



What is the place of the mind and mental phenomena in the physical universe?

- The mind/body problem is a metaphysical issue since it concerns the basic sorts of things that exist.
- In this slideshow we examine the major ways of addressing this problem that have been arisen since the scientific revolution first challenged the ancient belief in the existence of the soul.
- We'll do this by looking at major theoretical approaches and what might be said both in favor of and against them.

The Mind/Body Problem



What is the place of the mind and mental phenomena in the physical universe?

- **Dualism**: minds and bodies are two entirely separate things, so minds are NOT a part of the physical universe at all.
- **Behaviorism**: minds are nothing but certain patterns of behavior which we refer to as intelligent.
- **Mind/Brain Identity Theory**: minds are collections of states of the physical brain.
- **Functionalism**: minds are the software or sets of functions, carried out by the components of physical brains.

The Case for Dualism

"Minds and bodies are so different that they must be different kinds of things entirely."



Descartes
1596-1650

- Descartes offers what he considers a scientific defense of the traditional conception of the soul as an immaterial entity against the challenges of modern philosophers who claimed that nothing besides matter in motion exists.

Objections to Dualism

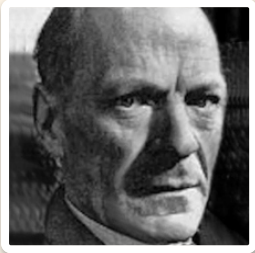
"If minds and bodies are so different how can they interact?"



Elizabeth of
Bohemia
1618-1680

Objections to Dualism

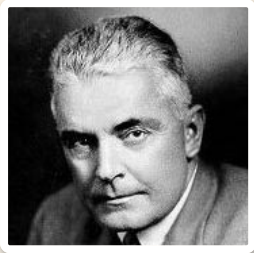
"Talking about minds as separate things gets it all wrong."



Gilbert Ryle
1900-1976

The Case for Behaviorism

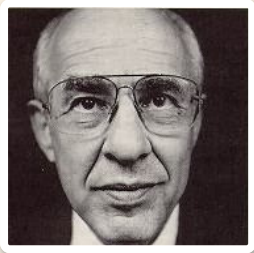
"Psychology is a branch of objective, natural science."



J.B. Watson
1878-1958

Objections to Behaviorism

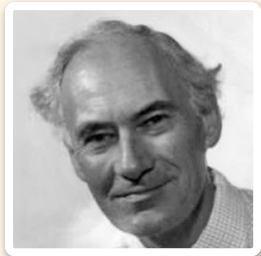
"Behavior and state of mind are not necessarily the same."



Hilary Putnam
1926-2016

The Case for Mind/Brain Identity Theory

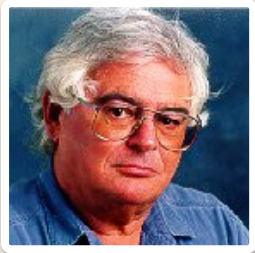
"All reality is physical, so minds must be states of physical brains."



J.J.C. Smart
1920-2012

Objections to Mind/Brain Identity Theory

"Many states of the brain might realize one and the same mental state."



Jerry Fodor
1935-2017

Objections to Mind/Brain Identity Theory

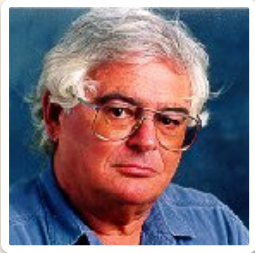
"We cannot know from outside what experience is like from inside."



Frank Jackson
1943-

The Case for Functionalism

"Mind is to software as brain is to hardware."



Jerry Fodor
1935-2017

Objections to Functionalism

"It makes no sense to say minds are functions run by the machinery of the brain."



Ned Block
1943 -

Objections to Functionalism

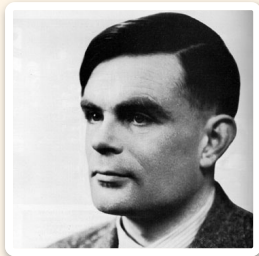
"Conscious experience cannot be explained in objective terms."



David Chalmers
1966 -

The Case for Artificial Intelligence

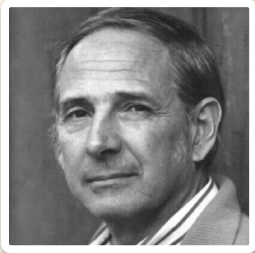
"Thinking is computation, and computers can carry out any computation."



Alan Turing
1912-1954

Against Artificial Intelligence

"Manipulating symbols according to rules is not the same as thinking."



John Searle
1932-

Find out more

