

Monkey See, Monkey Think

Sartre described the mannequin in terms of a temporary, false positive during the brain's interpretation of the Other. Was he describing the actions of mirror neurons?

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mirror_neuron#Discovery

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3510904/#:~:text=Mirror%20neurons%20represent%20a%20distinctive,first%20discovered%20in%20monkey's%20brain.>

<https://philonotes.com/2023/04/jean-paul-sartres-concept-of-the-other#:~:text=According%20to%20Sartre%2C%20the%20Other,kind%20of%20agency%20or%20consciousness.>

" A mirror neuron is a [neuron](#) that [fires](#) both when an organism acts and when the organism observes the same action performed by another.[1][2][3] Thus, the neuron "mirrors" the behavior of the other, as though the observer were itself acting. Mirror neurons are not always physiologically distinct from other types of neurons in the brain; their main differentiating factor is their response patterns.[4] By this definition, such neurons have been directly observed in humans[5] and [primate](#) species,[6] and in birds.[7]"

"Part 3, Chapter 1: The look[[edit](#)]

The mere possible presence of another person causes one to [look at oneself as an object](#) and see one's world as it appears to the other. This is not done from a specific location outside oneself, but is non-positional. This is a recognition of the [subjectivity](#) in others.

This transformation is most clear when one sees a [mannequin](#) that one confuses for a real person for a moment.

- While they believe it is a person, their world is transformed. Objects now partly escape them; they have aspects that belong to the other person, and that are thus unknowable to them. During this time one can no longer have a total subjectivity. The world is now the other person's world, a foreign world that no longer comes from the self, but from the other. The other person is a "threat to the order and arrangement of your whole world...Your world is suddenly haunted by the Other's values, over which you have no control".[9]
- When they realise it is a mannequin, and is not subjective, the world seems to transfer back, and they are again in the center of a universe. This is back to the pre-reflective mode of being, it is "the eye of the camera that is always present but is never seen".[9] The person is occupied and too busy for self-reflection.[10] This process is continual, unavoidable, and ineluctable.[9]"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mirror_neuron

"Not surprisingly, these brain regions include those found in the macaque monkey.

[1] However, [functional magnetic resonance imaging](#) (fMRI) can examine the entire brain at once and suggests that a much wider network of brain areas shows mirror properties in humans than previously thought. These additional areas include the [somatosensory cortex](#) and are thought to make the observer feel what it feels like to move in the observed way.[26][27]"