

some main branches of philosophy

metaphysics: what is there? 对存在的研究

does God exist? are there numbers? can we survive
the destruction of our bodies?

epistemology: what do we know and how do we know it?

how do we know that $1+1=2$? do we have any
knowledge by perception?

ethics: what should we do?

should we always act to bring about the best
consequences?

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Russell, contd.

As soon as we begin to philosophize, on the contrary, we find...that even the most everyday things lead to problems to which only very incomplete answers can be given. Philosophy, though unable to tell us with certainty what is the true answer to the doubts which it raises, is able to suggest many possibilities which enlarge our thoughts and free them from the tyranny of custom. Thus, while diminishing our feeling of certainty as to what things are, it greatly increases our knowledge as to what they may be; it removes the somewhat arrogant dogmatism of those who have never travelled into the region of liberating doubt, and it keeps alive our sense of wonder by showing familiar things in an unfamiliar aspect.

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The aim of philosophy, abstractly formulated, is to understand how things in the broadest possible sense of the term hang together in the broadest possible sense of the term.

Wilfrid Sellars

Bertrand Russell, *The Problems of Philosophy* (1912)

The value of philosophy is, in fact, to be sought largely in its very uncertainty. The man who has no tincture of philosophy goes through life imprisoned in the prejudices derived from common sense, from the habitual beliefs of his age or his nation, and from convictions which have grown up in his mind without the co-operation or consent of his deliberate reason. To such a man the world tends to become definite, finite, obvious; common objects rouse no questions, and unfamiliar possibilities are contemptuously rejected.

philosophy of mind

philosophy of mind: what is it to have a mental life, and how do our mental lives relate to the (rest of) world?

as we'll see, philosophy of mind overlaps
metaphysics and epistemology

1: minds and computers

2: from dualism to functionalism

3: minds and brains

4: perception

5: consciousness and the mind-body problem

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2: from dualism to functionalism



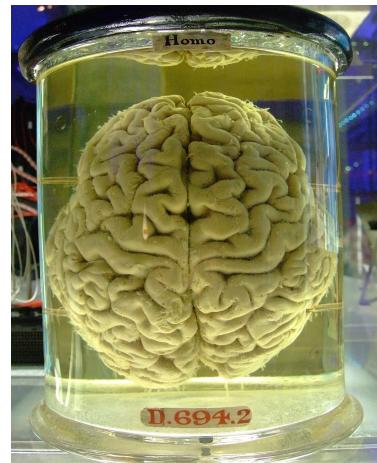
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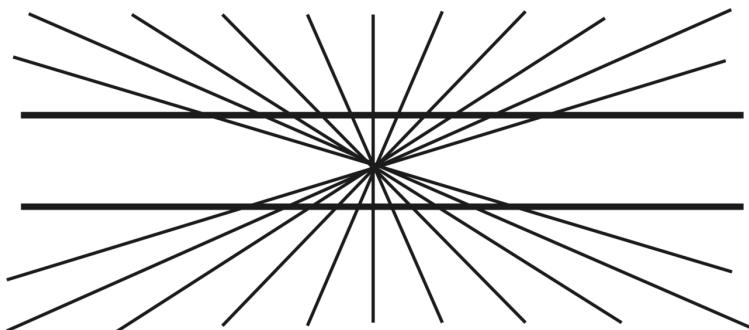
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3: minds and brains



4: perception



My perception is not of the world, but of my brain's model of the world

Frith, *Making Up The Mind*

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5: consciousness and the mind-body problem

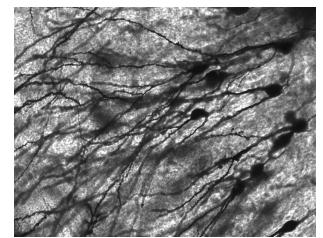
Without consciousness the mind-body problem would be much less interesting. With consciousness it seems hopeless.

Nagel, 'What Is It Like to Be a Bat?'



Why is it that when our cognitive systems engage in visual and auditory information-processing, we have visual or auditory experience: the quality of deep blue, the sensation of middle C?...It is widely agreed that experience arises from a physical basis, but we have no good explanation of why and how it so arises. Why should physical processing give rise to a rich inner life at all? It seems objectively unreasonable that it should, and yet it does.

Chalmers, 'Facing up to the problem of consciousness'



A: seeing deep blue

B: blah-blah neurons firing

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zombies



Dave



Zombie-Dave

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