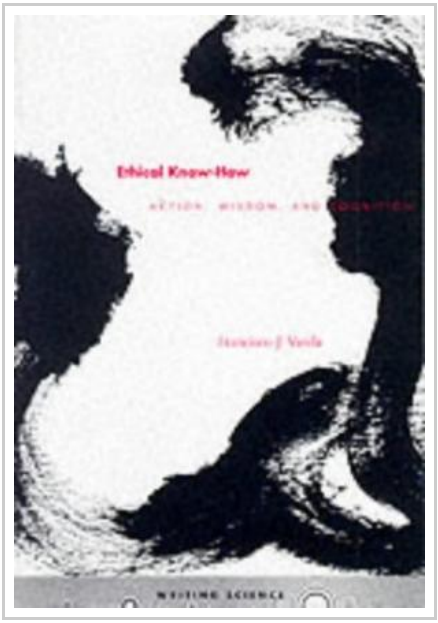

Ethical Know-how: Action, Wisdom and Cognition

By Francisco J. Varela

Stanford University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Ethical Know-how: Action, Wisdom and Cognition, Francisco J. Varela, How can science be brought to connect with experience? This book addresses two of the most challenging problems facing contemporary neurobiology and cognitive science: first, understanding how we unconsciously execute habitual actions as a result of neurological and cognitive processes that are not formal actions of conscious judgment but part of a habitual nexus of systematic self-organization; second, creating an ethics adequate to our present awareness that there is no such thing as a transcendental self, a stable subject, or a soul. In earlier modes of cognitive science, cognition was conceptualized according to a model of representation and abstract reasoning. In the realm of ethics, this corresponded to the philosophical tenet that to do what is ethical is to do what corresponds to an abstract set of rules. By contrast to this computationalism, the author places central emphasis on what he terms "enaction" - cognition as the ability to negotiate embodied, everyday living in a world that is inseparable from our sensory-motor capacities. Apart from his researches in cognitive science, the bodies of thought that enable Varela to make this link are...

Reviews

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