

Philosophy of Mind

Monism – The view that only one kind of thing exists.

Materialism – Only matter exists. Mind is reducible to the brain

Idealism – Only mind exists. No matter (Berkeley)

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Dualism – The view that there is both physical stuff and non-physical stuff. Spiritual substance and physical substance. (Descartes) (Cartesian Dualism)

Problems with dualism

1. Ockhams Razor
2. Location Problem
3. Interaction Problem (Mind Body Problem)

Alternatives to Dualism

Materialism

Behaviorism

- Soft Behaviorism – methodological. Mind and mental states may exist but don't mention them in science.
- Hard Behaviorism – Mind, mental states do not exist. Mental states are nothing more than behavior

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Criticisms of Behaviorism

1. Super Spartan example
2. Super Pretender example

Identity Theory, folklore) Brain and Mind are identical, like water and H₂O, or Obama and the current president. They are two words that have the same denotation.

- My toothache is the stimulation of xyz fibers in my neurological system.

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Criticisms of Identity Theory

- It does not follow that if two things are always correlated, they are identical.
- Violates the Identity of Indiscernables (Leibniz) My neurons have the property of being tubular, but my toothache does not.

Functionalism – The mind is a computer program. Brain is hardware, mind is software.

- If any causal system or mechanism can convince a competent judge they have the mental state in question (speaking Chinese), then they literally have that mental state (understand Chinese)

- Criticisms of Functionalism – Mind requires semantics. Computers only have syntax, no semantics. They can output the right answers, but not understand them. (John Searle's Chinese Room Analogy)

Pluralism (Logical, semantic behaviorism)

Things exist in many different ways. Not just one or two but many. Example of things that fall into categories that cannot be easily forced into the materialist or idealist or dualist box: Team spirit, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Harvard University. The U.S. Constitution

Category Mistake - Surface Grammar of a word deceives us into thinking the thing the word refers to has a certain nature. "Mind" and "pain" and "thought" are nouns. This deceives us into thinking, they are "things." "Team Spirit" is not a thing separate from the team, and mind is not a thing separate from the body.

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