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Introduction to Philosophy

Philosophy of Mind 1

Introducing Philosophy of Mind

- At least human beings (and probably animals as well) have **minds** and **inner states**: they have beliefs, desires, hopes, fears, pains, pleasures, perceptions, intentions to act, beliefs about themselves, desires about themselves – and they have consciousness as well, and a certain way of experiencing things.
- These minds are connected to their **bodies**: it is through the body (including the brain!) that human beings perceive, feel pains and pleasures; and their beliefs and desires etc. have consequences in the world through the body
- Minds cannot interact by themselves with the world, it seems.

Introducing Philosophy of Mind II

- Two sets of issues in Philosophy of Mind:
 1. What is the relation between Mind and body?
 - Since we assume that bodies exist unproblematically, this amounts to: in what way does the mind exist? Does it exist independently from the body, or is it just the same as (some part of) the body, or is it in some other way dependent on the body?
 2. Does the mind cause changes in the body and in the world by itself alone, or is it, in doing so, itself caused to do that by the body or the world?
 - If the latter, do human beings **a free will**, or are they completely determined by the world?

Possible Views on the Relation Mind- Body

- Views on the relation between mind and body vary:
 - Do inner states exist at all? No: **logical behaviorism**
 - Do inner states play a role in explanations? No: **methodological behaviorism**
 - Are inner states different from bodily states? No: **identity theory**
 - Are inner states completely different from bodily states? No: **functionalism**
 - Yes: **dualism**
- We will first discuss **dualism**, then **logical behaviorism**, then **methodological behaviorism**, then **identity theory**, and finally **functionalism**.



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