

Third Discussion Class

To Whom Do I Belong?
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Discussion Question

Is neuroscience reductionistic in a manner that is challenging (in a problematic way) to our understanding of who we are?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Uncertain

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Discussion Question

What leads (some) reductionists to seek explanations at the lowest level they can?

3

Discussion Question

Why, on the mechanist's account of explanation, is it possible to go too far down?

4

Discussion Question

How plausible is it to develop analyses at Marr computational and algorithmic levels without knowledge of the implementational level?

- A. Implausible. Without knowing what the components of brains are and how they behave, all one can do is tell stories
- B. Very plausible. There is data that can be collected at each level and used to guide analyses at that level
- C. Without knowing about the neural implementation, one might get lucky and generate the right algorithmic or computational account, but one is more likely to get it wrong

5

Discussion Question

Is a network with hubs connecting communities more localizationist or more holist?

- A. Localizationist. The communities are still very much local systems with their own identity
- B. Holist. The fact that nodes in one community influences those in another undermines the identity of communities
- C. It depends (be prepared to say what it depends on)

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Discussion Question

Reduction (mechanistic or ruthless) appeals to molecules to explain behavior. Could the whole organism behave in ways that aren't accounted for by the whole collection of molecules in the organism's body?

- A. No. That would be utterly mysterious
- B. Yes (be prepared to say how)
