



Ecology of the Brain

The phenomenology and biology of the embodied mind
By Thomas Fuchs

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Present day neuroscience places the brain at the center of study. But what if researchers viewed the brain not as the foundation of life, rather as a mediating organ?

Ecology of the Brain addresses this very question. It considers the human body as a collective, a living being which uses the brain to mediate interactions. Those interactions may be both within the human body and between the human body and its environment.

Within this framework, the mind is seen not as a product of the brain but as an activity of the living being; an activity which integrates the brain within the everyday functions of the human body. Going further, Fuchs reformulates the traditional mind-brain problem, presenting it as a dual aspect of the living being: the lived body and the subjective body - the living body and the objective body. The processes of living and experiencing life, Fuchs argues, are in fact inextricably linked; it is not the brain, but the human being who feels, thinks and acts.

For students and academics, *Ecology of the Brain* will be of interest to those studying or researching theory of mind, social and cultural interaction, psychiatry, and psychotherapy.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Thomas Fuchs, MD, PhD, is Karl Jaspers Professor of Philosophy and Psychiatry at Heidelberg University, Germany. His main areas of expertise include phenomenological philosophy and psychopathology as well as embodied and enactive cognitive science, with a particular emphasis on non-representational, interactive concepts of social cognition. He was Coordinator and Principal Investigator of several large national and international grants, among them the European Research Training Network Towards an Embodied Science of Intersubjectivity (TESIS, 2011-2016). He has authored over 300 journal articles, book chapters and several books. He is also co-editor of Psychopathology and editorial board member of 4 scientific journals.

Contents

Preface	v
Acknowledgements	ix
Introduction	xxiii

Part 1: Criticism of neurobiological reductionism

1	Cosmos in the head?	3
1.1	The idealistic legacy of brain research	5
1.2	First criticism: embodied perception	8
1.3	Second criticism: The objectivity of the phenomenal world	19
1.4	Third criticism: the reality of colours	23
1.5	Summary	26
2	The brain as the subject's heir?	29
2.1	First critique: the irreducibility of subjectivity	32
2.2	Second criticism: category mistakes	43
2.4	Summary: the primacy of the lifeworld	61

Part 2: Body, person, and the brain

3	Foundations: subjectivity and life	69
3.1	Embodied subjectivity	69
3.2	Ecological and enactive biology	83
3.3	The circular and integral causality of living beings	94
4	The brain as organ of the living being	107
4.1	The brain in the context of the organism	109
4.2	The unity of brain, organism and environment	126
5	The brain as organ of the person	173
5.1	Primary intersubjectivity	176
5.2	Neurobiological foundations	182
5.3	Secondary intersubjectivity	192
5.4	Summary: brain and culture	205

6	The concept of dual aspectivity	209
6.1	Mental, physical and life attributes	209
6.2	Differentiation from identity theories	216
6.3	Emergence	219
6.4	Consequences for psychophysical relations	232
6.5	Summary	247
7	Implications for psychiatry and psychological medicine	251
7.1	Neurobiological reductionism in psychiatry	251
7.2	Mental disorders as circular processes	255
7.3	Circular causality in pathogenesis	262
7.4	Circular processes in therapy	268
7.5	Summary: the role of subjectivity	275
8	Conclusion	279
8.1	Brain and person	279
8.2	The scope of neurobiological research	283
8.3	Naturalistic versus personalistic concept of the human being	285
	References	293
	Register	325

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