


PHIL 255
Week 4: Idealism & Panpsychism
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 put away all
 electronics.

Please avoid the last
 2 rows.

Idealism
 Panpsychism


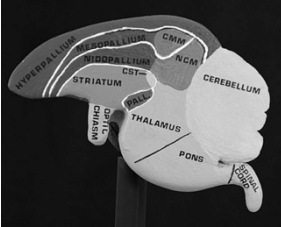


1

Identity Theory

Can a thermostat have
 beliefs? Can a robot?

Restricted mind-brain identity
 theory: All *human* mental
 processes are brain
 process.

Bird brain

2

Alternatives



Solipsism: Only I exist.
 Response: inference to the best
 explanation justifies belief in the
 existence of the external world and
 other people.

Idealism: Everything is mental.

Panpsychism: Everything has
 something mental to it.
 Consciousness belongs to everything.

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Idealism





Subjective idealism (Berkeley): Everything is mind-
 dependent, because I can't think of anything that
 isn't dependent on my mind.


Objective idealism (Hegel): The development of
 reality is the development of mind.

Response: Inference to the best explanation
 supports the existence of a world that minds
 cannot control.

4



Panpsychism



Everything in the world has a mental aspect to it.

Everything has a bit of consciousness.

Tononi, Koch: Consciousness is information integration.

Argument: Consciousness in humans is too different from physical processes to be explained physically.

Response: Consciousness emerges from neural mechanisms.

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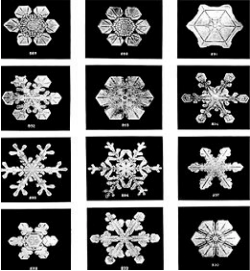
Discussion Question

How plausible are solipsism, idealism, and panpsychism as solutions to the mind-body problem?

6

Emergence

Emergent properties are possessed by the whole, not by the parts, and are not simple aggregates of the properties of the parts because they result from interactions of parts.



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