



## The Self and its Brain

*Karl Popper, John C. Eccles*

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## **The Self and its Brain** Karl Popper , John C. Eccles

The problem of the relation between our bodies and our minds, and especially of the link between brain structures and processes on the one hand and mental dispositions and events on the other is an exceedingly difficult one. Without pretending to be able to foresee future developments, both authors of this book think it improbable that the problem will ever be solved, in the sense that we shall really understand this relation. We think that no more can be expected than to make a little progress here or there. We have written this book in the hope that we have been able to do so. We are conscious of the fact that what we have done is very conjectural and very modest. We are aware of our fallibility; yet we believe in the intrinsic value of every human effort to deepen our understanding of our selves and of the world we live in. We believe in humanism: in human rationality, in human science, and in other human achievements, however fallible they are. We are unimpressed by the recurrent intellectual fashions that belittle science and the other great human achievements. An additional motive for writing this book is that we both feel that the debunking of man has gone far enough - even too far. It is said that we had to learn from Copernicus and Darwin that man's place in the universe is not so exalted or so exclusive as man once thought. That may well be."

## **The Self and its Brain Details**

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## Frank Arca says

A well articulated dilemma that is presented by two innovative thinkers of the last century.

**Bill says**

Fascinating history of the mind/brain problem, and exposition of a new (for the '70s) theory, by an eminent philosopher Karl Popper and Nobel laureate neuroscientist John Eccles. Each summarizes the relevant history and their arguments supporting the '3 Worlds' hypothesis. The neuroscience is now a bit dated - it would have been intriguing to hear what they thought of two more recent - and perhaps relevant books (V.

Braitenberg's 'Vehicles' and Douglas Hofstadter's 'Godel, Escher, Bach'). Maybe the next generation of scholars will attempt a sequel?

Perfect for keeping my brain warm over the holidays without Wifi in subzero Wisconsin.

**Karl-O says**

John Searle, in his book *Mind: A Brief Introduction*, says the following:

*"...among most of the professionals in the field, substance dualism is not regarded as a serious possibility. A prominent exception is the defense of dualism offered by Karl Popper and J. C. Eccles. They claim that there are two quite distinct worlds, World 1 of physical objects and states and World 2 of states of consciousness. Each is a separate and distinct world that interacts with the other. Actually they go Descartes one better and also postulate World 3, a world of 'culture in all its manifestations.'"*

Well, the least I can say is that I am excited to see how Popper's claim passes his falsifiability test, or would he call me a "Popperazzi" too?

**Sasan says**

It's on hold for now!

????? ???? says

## Steve Allison says

They discuss emergence and a number of issues related to the brain and self. Popper gives some good arguments against several versions of materialism. I wish I'd read this when I was younger.

**Craig Bolton says**

## The Self and Its Brain: An Argument for Interactionism by John C. Eccles (1984)

## Ryan Anthenat says

it was a whooper of a read.

**Mostafa Nour says**

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