

FOREWORD: NATURALIZING THE MIND?

The present issue of INDECS is inspired by the work of Slovenian philosopher Andrej Ule. He is best known by his work on epistemology, philosophy of science and – above all – his in-depth analysis of Ludwig Wittgenstein. Andrej’s recent endeavours are focused on rethinking the concepts of mind and spirit. Despite the fact that discussions along these lines are as old as western philosophy, new insights about cognition triggered by the onset of cognitive science, have put these topics back to the centre of philosopher’s attention.

The attempt to scientifically study the mind provokes the plethora of questions about the possibility and soundness of its naturalization. The concept itself is an umbrella term, used for different levels of examination, stretching from questions about relationship between natural and supernatural to attempts of studying the mind inside the framework of natural sciences. The aim of this issue was to enable the space for all different aspects of the naturalization including sceptic voices.

The line-up of articles, presented in the issue, starts with two of Andrej’s investigations. *Consciousness, mind, and spirit* attempts at elucidation of three core concepts referring to cognitive phenomena: consciousness, mind, and spirit. Andrej tries to demarcate them by presenting them as three levels of human cognition: individual-experiential, individual-mental, and trans-individual-mental.

The second article, *Some reflections on the possibility of naturalizing the mind*, examines the possibility of providing a coherent naturalist account of the emergence of the mind, seen as a collection of mental abilities that are present in living beings. Andrej adopts a hypothesis based on the possibility of acquiring a more or less distinctive experiential perspective in the form of like-to-be-X for all sufficiently developed natural entities. Taking on an experiential perspective also entails a greater sensitivity to not only actual, but also potential events.

A reply to Andrej’s position is provided by Sebastjan Vörös. In *Mind in Nature, Nature in Mind*, he argues that “experiential perspectivity” as construed by Andrej is feasible, but only if it is complemented by an equally important shift in our conception of nature.

In *A better Metaphor for Understanding Consciousness?* Urban Kordeš builds on Andrej’s overview of attempts of connecting quantum mechanics and consciousness. The similarity between the (Copenhagen interpretation of the) quantum world and phenomenological reality that the article points out is their bracketing of the ontological interpretations.

In the article *Naturalism and the Experiential Perspective* Olga Markič discusses the varieties of naturalism. She suggests a widely used analysis that naturalism can be separated into two components: the ontological and the methodological and comments on Andrej's idea of the experiential perspective according to this analytical framework.

The article by László Ropolyi *Representations and Inhomogeneous Beings* brings a new twist on the way we think about consciousness. The author suggests so called anti-Parmenidian ontology in which all entities are regarded as entities only in a certain context. By introducing three kinds of “representation strategies” (bound, free and mixed) author defines advancement of freedom as a drive of the emergence and functioning of mind and cognition.

Matjaž Potrč tackles the problem of naturalization in the article *Dispositional Beliefs* where he suggests an account of belief-formation and of belief entertaining in view of possible action.

We conclude with a very interesting addition: a conversation between two Wittgenstein scholars, colleagues and friends – Matthias Varga v. Kibéd and Andrej. The dialogue vividly shows the aliveness and curiosity of both thinkers, wrapping up the issue with new questions and ideas, many of them unusual, unconventional and even controversial.

Cordially,

Ljubljana, 29th October 2015

Urban Kordeš

Olga Markič