CSMN 4010

Philosophy of Psychology: the Computational Theory of Mind and Intentionality in theories of early vision, language processing and animal navigation

Literature:

Main text: *Contemporary Philosophy of Mind*, Georges Rey (Blackwell 1997); henceforth referred to as ‘CPM’. Note: we can get used copies via Amazon for around 80-120 NOK.

Other texts, the relevant parts of which are available online:

- “Review of Skinner’s Verbal Behavior,” Noam Chomsky
- *Language and Mind*, Noam Chomsky, UC Berkeley UP (1968?)
- *The Language of Thought*, Jerry Fodor, Crowell (1975)
- *Brainstorms*, D.C. Dennett, MIT (1978)
- *Epistemology of Language*, ed. by Alex Barber, Oxford UP (2003), (“BARBER”)

Schedule:

29 Aug: (1) Explanatory vs. traditional metaphysical/“analytic”/ordinary talk concerns; reading: ‘CPM’: introduction, (2) Eliminativism (especially behaviorism); ‘CPM’: chps 3-4; Dennett, “Law of Effect” paper.


12 Sept: Traditional Mentalisms and introduction to Turing Machines and functionalism; Reading: ‘CPM’: ch 6.

19 Sept: Varieties of Functionalism and their limitations (the qualia problem, to be set aside), ‘CPM’: chs 6-7

26 Sept: the Computational/Representational Theory of Thought (CRTT); Computation: ‘CPM’: ch 8

3 Oct: CRTT: Representation: ‘CPM’: ch 9
    w/replies to Objections (e.g., Dennett, Searle's “Chinese Room”): ‘CPM’: ch 10

10 Oct: Burge on perception and intentionality

17 Oct: Chomsky’s surprising (2000) denial of the need of intentionality in his theory
    Rey (2003a): "Chomsky, Intentionality and a CRTT,"
24 Oct: Chomsky’s repl to Rey, and Rey’s reply to Chomsky:
Chomsky, N. (2003), "Reply to Rey," in CRITICS, pp274-87
Rey, G. (2003b), "Representational Content and a Chomskyan Linguistics," in BARBER, pp140-86

31 Oct: Inexistence of Standard Linguistic Entities
Jackendoff, R.

7 Nov: John Collins’ defense of Chomsky
Chomsky, N. (1959), Review of Skinner's Verbal Behavior, last section

14 Nov: conference w/Collins and Peryploptchik