

**Mind Body and Behavior
Lecture 9**

- I. MIND, BODY, AND BEHAVIOR
- A. Intentional vs. Physical Explanations
- Can intentional and physical explanations of behavior both be correct?
 - Can we say of someone who raises his hand: Why does X raise his hand?
 1. He wants to raise his hand. (IE)
 2. Brain activity caused muscular activity. (PE)
 - Can both explanations be true?
 - This question addresses the relation between mind and body. There are two general categories of relations between mind and body.

- I. MIND, BODY, AND BEHAVIOR
- B. Mind – Body Relations
- **1. Dualism:** The mind and body are distinct and need to be understand differently.
 - **Descartes** divided reality into two kinds of stuff
 - **Matter-stuff:** Ordinary matter which is extended in space (height, length, breadth) and occupies determinate position in space.
 - The body is a complex machine which we understand through the laws of physics, chemistry, biology.
 - **Mind-stuff:** World of thought and ideas. An idea has no material nature -- Where is it, can we see it?
 - Consciousness is an mental activity without physical substance.

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- Descartes' position is Cartesian Dualism.
 - The “real you” is not your body, but the non-spatial thinking substance which is in causal contact with your body.
 - Descartes claimed that **Animal Spirits** connected mind-stuff to matter-stuff.
 - According to Descartes, Mind-stuff (wanting to raise your hand) causes Matter-stuff (brain and muscular activity). IE → PE
 - BUT, if the mind is not part of the physical world, how can it exert a physical force?
 - Animal Spirits don't account for the causal process.

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- **2. Monism:** Reality consists in an unified whole, and thus, the mind and body are the same kind of stuff.
- Monism holds that mind and body are just a different way of talking about the same thing.
 - Different names for things in different languages.
 - English Tie; French Cravat
- In the language of IE you may feel sad and depressed, but in the language of PE you may have a deficit of serotonin in your brain
- **EVERYTHING BIOLOGICAL IS PSYCHOLOGICAL AND VICE VERSA**

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B. Mind – Body Relations

- Generally speaking, modern neuroscientists adopt Monism, with dualism judged to be unscientific.
- Theories adopting mind - body dualism are not scientific because if the mind is assumed to be immaterial, scientists can not objectively measure or independently verify its nature.
- Precisely how the mind and body are related to each other in Monism is still unknown and fairly controversial topic in Philosophy, Biology, Psychology, and Cognitive Science.