

Defending Extended Cognition

Chemero, Tony and Silberstein, Michael (2007) Defending Extended Cognition.

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Abstract

In this talk, we defend extended cognition against several criticisms. We argue that extended cognition does not derive from armchair theorizing and that it neither ignores the results of the neural sciences, nor minimizes the importance of the brain in the production of intelligent behavior. We also argue that explanatory success in the cognitive sciences does not depend on localist or reductionist methodologies; part of our argument for this is a defense of what might be called 'holistic science'.

Keywords: Extended cognition, smallism, localism, reductionism, holism, neuroscience

Subjects: [Specific Sciences: Cognitive Science](#)

ID Code: 3204

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Deposited On: 03 March 2007