

Philosophy of Mind Study Guide

The Mind-Body Problem

It's a problem that tries to understand the connection between mind and body and studies how that connection works. Dualists believe that mind and body are separated substances or properties. This is in contrast to Monist who believe that mind and body (brain) are either one unified non-separate system or that there is no mind at all.

In Philosophy of Mind, the following **INVALID** syllogism exist to show us what the problem is exactly.

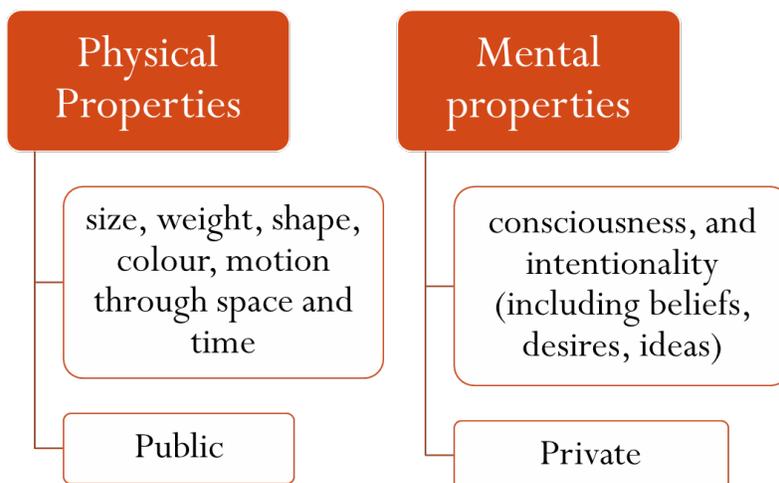
P1: Mind and brain interact together *as if* they are one.

P2: The mind survives bodily death.

C: However, the brain does not survive death.

Problems with this?

- How can these two things working so close and connected suddenly act separate in the event of death?
- How can non-physical things touch or interact with physical things (stuff made of matter)?



Monism (Scientific/Material)	Dualism (Soul or Property)
Type-Physicalism	Substance Dualism
Functionalism	Property Dualism
Eliminative Materialism	Emergent Dualism

Substance Dualism (Descartes' Dualism) - the mind is a special non-physical **substance** that can exist after bodily death. Traditionally related to the concept of the human soul.

- The classic view. Sees the mind as an ENTIRELY DIFFERENT substance (non-physical). Some substance dualist uses the mind as a word for "the soul".

Arguments against it?

- Can be proven wrong by knowing that whatever happens to the brain immediately affects the mind.
- Commits the masked man fallacy.

Property Dualism - the mind is a **special property** that exist **as a part** in brains but can't exist after bodily death (dies when the brain dies). The mind could likely be a property that works with the laws of nature in a way that we have not yet discovered. Mental properties supervene on the physical (they exist as a necessary component in the natural order of things).

- Scientific when compared to Descartes' Substance Dualism.
- Says that "Qualia" is its own separate system supervening the brain—mental properties matter!

Arguments against it?

- Argued against by Occam's Razor and the Law of Conservation.

Emergent Dualism - the mind is a **physical property** that emerges/or is caused by ("comes from" or "extends out of") the brain's physical interactions with the world around it. Like the heat you feel coming off a fire, or a tide existing from how the water molecules act in a kind of weather—in this view the mind could be a property or substance that brains can generate by following the rule that **the whole is greater than the sum of the parts**.

- Says that the mind is emergent—emergent properties are properties that exist situationally by the process where the parts are less than the whole that comes out. Take a cake for example:



image credit to Bryan D.

Under normal conditions, eggs, an oven, flour, sugar, etc. independently don't make a cake. However, if the parts are arranged in a certain way with a certain environment, a cake **EMERGES**.

Arguments against it?

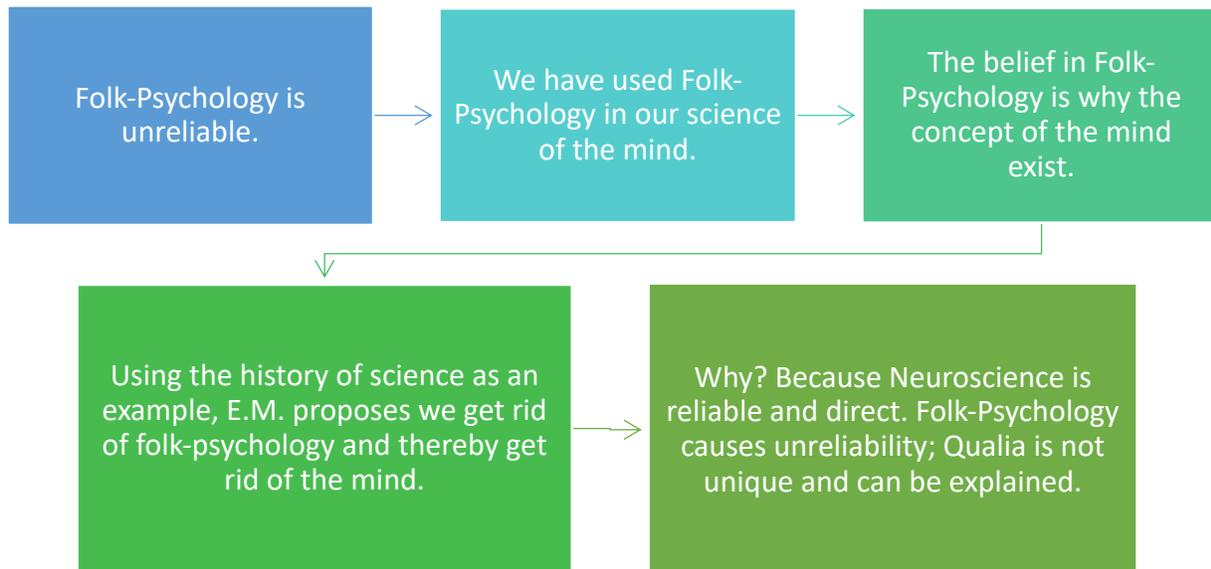
- Same problems as Property Dualism, but the problems are weakened.

Functionalism: Mind is the same as brain, however they are like a machine. **They use inputs, internal states and outputs.** It runs on the idea that if we can build a mind then the mind is confirmed to be a physical thing. AI needs to pass the Turing test to prove it's intelligence.

Arguments against it?

- Weakened by Chinese Room Argument – “Mr. Solis, machines don't know what they are doing!”
 - The reply to the Chinese room? The counterargument is that machine learning and the existence of genetic coding show that machines and humans are similar in the way we learn and how that learning follows a set of instructions.

Eliminative Materialism: The mind isn't real because modern neuroscience proves folk psychology can lack reliability. Their argument rest on the history of science and its method of **eliminating** theories that are no longer necessary. Says that qualia are an illusion or a “trick of the brain”. In sum, E.M. believes that we don't need the concept of the mind to explain human life anymore.



Arguments against it?

- The Unreliability of brain mapping because of neuroplasticity.
- The decision to remove qualia can be disputed as bad science.