

**WBMA4052: Topics in Moral Psychology (2008-2009, period 4)
"Scaffolded Autonomy and the Extended Mind"**

Tuesdays 7-9:45 pm; Location Ruppertgebouw 136
Dr. Joel Anderson; Office: Bestuursgebouw 263; (030) 253-2874.
Joel.Anderson@phil.uu.nl

In the course, we will examine recent debates over the idea that the mind comprises exclusively resources located within the skin and skull of the individual. Critics have argued that the very possibility of numerous forms of cognition presupposes the involvement of the agent's environment, not only in normal cases (using paper and pencil to solve difficult arithmetic problems) but also in cases where phenomena outside the individual's body serve to compensate for an impaired capacity (various memory aids). The further claim that this is not merely a matter of *tools* suggests that there is a fluid boundary to the mind. This radical "hypothesis of the extended mind" has generated a range of critical responses, and we shall also be reading several of them alongside the extended mind theory itself. We will also look at parallel claims made about the will and the self, which have suggested the notion of "scaffolded autonomy" and "distributed willpower." We will also examine the ethical and socio-political implications of these attempts to extend the hypothesis of the extended mind in various ways.

The intended purpose of the course is for the participating student (1) to become familiar with positions taken in the current debates over the "extended mind" and over the specific topic area of the course; (2) to appreciate the arguments for and against the positions, as well as the arguments for and against extending this idea to other domains; and (3) to develop an independent judgment about the most promising approaches in this area.

REQUIRED BOOK FOR THE COURSE (available at Selexyz/Broese, Uithof): Andy Clark, *Supersizing the Mind: Embodiment, Action, and Cognitive Extension* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008).

Required articles (listed in the schema below) will be available as password-protected files on the web page. The password will be given out in class.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COURSE

Midterm written examination (25%). At the start of the fourth meeting (May 19), there will be a written examination, lasting no more than 45 minutes. The exam will be designed to determine the extent to which you have read and understood the texts as well as develop a short argument. Students who keep up with the reading should have no difficulty with this.

Presentation (15%) Students are required to do a 10 minute presentation introducing one of the texts for a particular session. The point of the presentation is to generate discussion (NOT to summarize the text). In preparing the presentation, students must focus on three sorts of questions, and formulate each of their claims in a way that makes clear what position they are taking and why they take that position rather than some other plausible position:

- What are the most important or intriguing ideas contained in the text(s)?
- If we were to accept the central theses and arguments, what philosophical implications would that have?
- What are some pivotal points where the text is unclear, mistaken, poorly argued, etc.?

Final paper (60%). This is due on Tuesday, June 30 at noon and should be 2500-3000 words in length. It will be evaluated on the basis of quality of argument, strength of counterarguments addressed, understanding of the relevant texts, clarity of writing, and independence of thought. Your paper should address as a *research problem* in the area of the course; I will provide suggested topics. It may be in Dutch or English. Late papers will have their grade reduced by one half-point per day of lateness, beginning at noon (thus, 4 pm on Wednesday, July 1 would mean a full point reduction).

Regular, active, and well-prepared participation. I expect you to come to class having read the text carefully and having thought about which issues that it will be important for us to discuss in class. The questions for the presentations will also structure our seminar discussions.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

April 21	Introduction, logistics, and overview. Discussion of Andy Clark and David Chalmers, "The Extended Mind" (appendix to <i>Supersizing the Mind</i>)
April 28	Central Themes of the "Hypothesis of the Extended Mind" David Chalmers, "Forward to Andy Clark, <i>Supersizing the Mind</i> " Andy Clark, <i>Supersizing the Mind</i> , ch. 1-4
May 12	Extended mind: Critique and replies. Frederick R. Adams & Kenneth Aizawa (forthcoming). Defending the Bounds of Cognition. In Richard Menary (ed.), <i>The Extended Mind</i> . Aldershot, Hants: Ashgate. Robert Rupert, "Challenges to the Hypothesis of Extended Cognition," <i>Journal of Philosophy</i> 101 (2004): 389-428. Jerry Fodor, "Where's My Mind," <i>London Review of Books</i> (2009) Andy Clark, <i>Supersizing the Mind</i> , ch. 5-6 Andy Clark, "Reply to Fodor" <i>London Review of Books</i> (2009)
May 19	Embodied, Embedded, Embrained Clark, <i>Supersizing the Mind</i> , ch. 7-10 **** MID-TERM EXAMINATION! 19.00-19.45 ****
May 26	Environmental Supports, Capabilities, and Disability Ingrid Robeyns, "The Capability Approach: A Theoretical survey," <i>Journal of Human Development</i> 6 (2005). Tom Shakespeare and Nicholas Watson, "The Social Model of Disability: An Outdated Ideology?" http://www.brainhe.com/TheSocialModelofDisabilityText.html "U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" <i>Recommended:</i> Tom Shakespeare, "Disability: Suffering, Social Oppression, or Complex Predicament?" in M. Düwell, Chr. Rehmann-Sutter, and D. Mieth (eds.), <i>The Contingent Nature of Life: Bioethics and Limits of Human Existence</i> (Heidelberg: Springer, 2008), 231-41.

June 2	The Ethics of Enhancements Neil Levy, "Rethinking Neuroethics in the Light of the Extended Mind Thesis," <i>American Journal of Bioethics</i> 7 (2007): 3-11. Zoe Drayson and Andy Clark, "Augmentation, agency, and the spreading of the mental state" (draft manuscript) Optional but recommended: Joel Anderson, "Neuro-Prosthetics, the Extended Mind, and Respect for Persons with Disability," in M. Düwell, Chr. Rehmann-Sutter, and D. Mieth (eds.), <i>The Contingent Nature of Life: Bioethics and Limits of Human Existence</i> (Heidelberg: Springer, 2008), 259-74.
June 9	Situationism, Nudges, and Endogenous Preferences Gerd Gigerenzer, "Is the Mind Irrational or Ecologically Rational?" in <i>The Law and Economics of Irrational Behavior</i> , Francesco Parisi and Vernon Smith, eds., Stanford University Press, (2004) (or: Gigerenzer, G. (2006). Heuristics. In G. Gigerenzer & C. Engel (Eds.), <i>Heuristics and the law</i> (pp. 17-44). Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.) John Doris, <i>Lack of Character</i> , ch. 2 (tentative!)
June 16	Extended Will, Procrastination, and the Bounds of Agency Joseph Heath and Joel Anderson, "Procrastination and the Extended Will," in Chrisoula Andreou and Mark White (eds.), <i>The Thief of Time: Philosophical Essays on Procrastination</i> (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010). Carol Rovane, "Alienation and the Alleged Separateness of Persons," <i>The Monist</i> 87 (2004): 554-572.
June 30	Paper due at noon