



the actor's brain

EXPLORING THE
COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE
OF FREE WILL

Sean A. Spence

The Actor's Brain: Exploring the Cognitive Neuroscience of Free Will, Sean Spence, Oxford University Press, 2009, 0198526660, 9780198526667, 434 pages. Is free will just an illusion? What is it within the brain that allows us to pursue our own actions and objectives? What is it about this organ that permits the emergence of seemingly purposeful behaviour, giving us the impression that we are 'free'? This book takes a journey through the anatomy and physiology, the structures and processes, of the human brain to demonstrate what is known about the control of voluntary behaviour, when it is 'normal' and when it breaks down. It starts by taking the reader from the basic 'hard' anatomy supporting simple hand and finger movement, through to the 'higher' structures of the human brain supporting the timing and selection of voluntary acts, and on towards a consideration of the complex distributed systems supporting voluntary behaviour (volition). Conditions elaborated upon along the way include the curious case of Dr Strangelove and his anarchic, wayward limb, the belief in alien control experienced by sufferers of schizophrenia, the seemingly inexplicable paralysis encountered in hysterical conversion patients, and the biological processes that enable us to lie to each other and engage in violence. The book concludes by examining some of the many varied attempts that human actors have made to expand such a volitional space, to enhance their own self-control and creativity. Written in an engaging and accessible style, but with its roots in hard science, the book will make fascinating reading for psychiatrists, neuroscientists, and philosophers, and anyone who has ever wondered whether we are really free..

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Neuroscience from neural networks to artificial intelligence : proceedings of a U.S.-Mexico seminar held in the city of Xalapa in the state of Veracruz on December 9-11, 1991, Pablo Rudomin, 1993, Computers, 579 pages. The Central Nervous System can be considered as an aggregate of neurons specialized in both the transmission and transformation of information. Information here has been used

The Organisation of Mind , Tim Shallice, Rick Cooper, Mar 17, 2011, Medical, 593 pages. To understand the mind, we need to draw equally on the fields of cognitive science and neuroscience. But these two fields have very separate intellectual roots, and very

Self Change Social Psychological and Clinical Perspectives, Yechiel Klar, Jeffrey D. Fisher, Jack M. Chinsky, Arie Nadler, Jul 31, 2012, , 295 pages. Self Change: Social Psychological and Clinical Perspectives examines cognitive and motivational factors affecting the intention to seek change, processes involved in the

Biology of reinforcement facets of brain stimulation reward, Aryeh Routtenberg, 1980, Medical, 174 pages. .

The Volitional Brain Towards a Neuroscience of Free Will, Benjamin Libet, Anthony Freeman, Keith Sutherland, Jun 8, 2000, Medical, 298 pages. It is widely accepted in science that the universe is a closed deterministic system in which everything can, ultimately, be explained by purely physical causation. And yet we

Neuroscience Imaging Research Trends , Bernhard Schaller, 2008, Medical, 187 pages. This book focuses on advances in imaging and mapping strategies to study the brain's structure, function and the relationship between both, from the whole brain to the

Finding Consciousness in the Brain A Neurocognitive Approach, Peter G. Grossenbacher, Jan 1, 2001, Psychology, 326 pages. How does the brain go about the business of being conscious? Though we cannot yet provide a complete answer, this book explains what is now known about the neural basis of

Foundations in Evolutionary Cognitive Neuroscience , Steven M. Platek, Todd K. Shackelford, Feb 26, 2009, Medical, 224 pages. An essential primer presenting major topics of study undertaken by evolutionary cognitive neuroscientists..

Fundamentals of Human Neuropsychology , Bryan Kolb, Ian Q. Whishaw, Jul 1, 2009, Psychology, 818 pages. Written by respected academics in neuropsychology, this sixth edition guides students on a comprehensive journey of discovery through the realm of contemporary human

Psychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience A Primer, Charles Zorumski, Eugene Rubin, Jun 16, 2011, Medical, 300 pages. Psychiatric disorders are brain disorders, reflecting dysfunction within and across neural networks. Advances in functional neuroimaging and cellular neuroscience offer hope of

Brainstorming Views and Interviews on the Mind, Shaun Gallagher, Nov 1, 2008, , 276 pages. An introduction to the consciousness drawing on dialogues between philosopher Shaun Gallagher and a number of neuroscientists, including Michael Gazzaniga, Marc Jeannerod and

Human prefrontal cortex and the dynamic binding of relations , James Andrew Waltz, 1999, , 418 pages. .

Mental Mechanisms Philosophical Perspectives on Cognitive Neuroscience, William Bechtel, 2008, Medical, 308 pages. A variety of scientific disciplines have set as their task explaining mental activities, recognizing that in some way these activities depend upon our brain. But, until

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