

Philosophy of Mind

Scholarly ideas

Plutarch used the Ship of Theseus to illustrate the problem of identity. **Descartes** later developed this.

Thomas Hobbes argued using materialism that the mind was part of the material body.

Richard Dawkins supported the idea that there is no separate mind or soul.

Plato argued using dualist ideas that the mind and body are entirely separate entities.

Renee Descartes used rationalist thought to argue that there must be a separate mind or soul. Gilbert Ryle objected and said there was no 'ghost in the machine'.

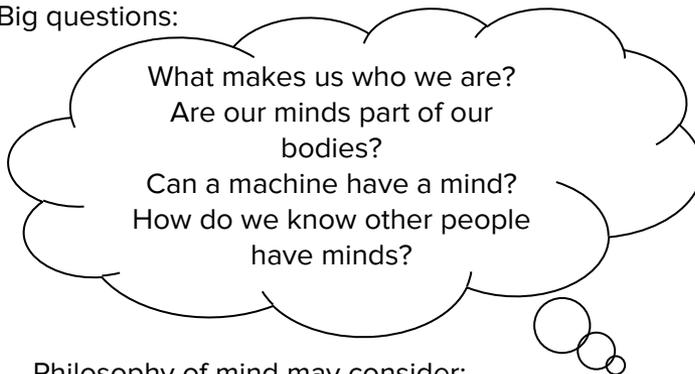
Gottfried Leibniz suggested that there may be a universal logical language, scientists think if machines can learn this, they could think like humans.

Alan Turing devised his 'Turing Test' to identify whether a machine had artificial intelligence.

J.S Mill used an analogical argument to suggest that we can know that other people have minds.

Ludwig Wittgenstein suggesting that it is wrong to suggest there are other minds based on a single instance.

Big questions:



Philosophy of mind may consider:

- Identity - Ship of Theseus, Plutarch, Descartes
- Materialism - Hobbes, Dawkins
- Dualism - Socrates, Plato, Descartes
- Artificial Intelligence - Leibniz, Turing
- Other minds - J.S Mill, Gilbert Ryle

Thomas Hobbes

"A thinking thing is something corporeal. This is because it seems that the subjects...are comprehensible only if they are conceived as corporeal or material."

Renee Descartes

"Cogito Ergo Sum - I think therefore, I am."

Plato

"The philosopher more than other men frees the soul from association with the body as much as possible"

Key quotes

Julian Offray de la Mettrie
"Man is a Machine."

Gottfried Leibniz

"This language will be the greatest instrument of reason."

Key terms:

Analogy = a comparison between two objects, highlighting the ways they are similar.

Dualism = the idea that the mind and the body are separate entities.

Characteristica universalis = Leibniz's idea of a universal language of logic.

Empiricism = the idea that we can only know things through experience.

Materialism = the idea that the mind is part of the material of the body.

Mind-body problem = arguments about the nature and relationship of the mind and the body.

Rationalism = the idea that we can only know things through logic.

Solipsism = the idea that nothing exists except our own mind.

Turing Test = a test to find whether a machine is intelligent.