

**Phil 397
The Mind/Body Problem**

Fall 1995
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**Paul Churchland, *Matter and Consciousness*
The Mind-body Problem
Handout [1]**

[Dualism]

1. [A] Substance Dualism:

___ Each mind is a distinct nonphysical thing, independent of any physical body to which it may be temporally 'attached.'

1. [B] Property Dualism:

___ There is only one substance: the brain. But the brain possesses a special set of properties that are nonphysical and not sharable by any other physical object (such as a computer).

[Materialism]

2. Philosophical Behaviorism (1950's-60's)

___ Any sentence about a mental state can be paraphrased, without loss of meaning, into a long and complex sentence about what observable behavior *would* result if the person in question were in this, that, or the other observable circumstance.

___ The mind-body problem is a pseudo problem.

3. The Identity Theory (Reductive Materialism)

___ Terms for folk psychology have "Intertheoretic identities" with terms in neurosciences (even if the present neuroscience has not yet developed to this stage).

___ "Intertheoretic Reduction": a new and very powerful theory turns out to entail a set of propositions and principles that mirror perfectly the propositions of some older theory or conceptual framework. We conclude that the old terms and the new terms refer to the very same thing, or express the very same properties.

(e.g. heat = high average molecular kinetic energy)

3.[A]. Type Identity Theory

___ Each type of mental state or process is one and the very same thing as some type of physical state or process within the brain or central nervous system.

(e.g. having a thought P = being in a brain state B₁)

3.[B]. Token Identity Theory

___ Each token (instance) of mental state is one and the very same thing as some token of physical state within the brain or central nervous system.

(thinking that P at time t_1 = being in a token of brain state at time t_1)

4. Functionalism

___ The essential or defining feature of any type of mental state is the set of causal relations it bears to (1) environmental effects on the body, (2) other types of mental states, and (3) bodily behavior.

___ Different physical systems can have the same functional system ("multiple instantiations")

5. Eliminative Materialism

___ The one-to-one match between concepts of folk psychology (belief, desire, fear, sensation, pain, joy, etc.) and concepts of neuroscience will not be found, because our common-sense psychological framework is a false and misleading conception of the causes of human behavior and the nature of mental activity.

___ Therefore the old framework of folk psychology should be eliminated (rather than reduced), by a matured neuroscience.

Sources: Paul Churchland. *Matter and Consciousness*