



Who's in Charge?: Free Will and the Science of the Brain

By Michael S. Gazzaniga

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“Big questions are Gazzaniga’s stock in trade.”

—*New York Times*

“Gazzaniga is one of the most brilliant experimental neuroscientists in the world.”

—Tom Wolfe

“Gazzaniga stands as a giant among neuroscientists, for both the quality of his research and his ability to communicate it to a general public with infectious enthusiasm.”

—Robert Bazell, Chief Science Correspondent, NBC News

The author of *Human*, Michael S. Gazzaniga has been called the “father of cognitive neuroscience.” In his remarkable book, *Who's in Charge?*, he makes a powerful and provocative argument that counters the common wisdom that our lives are wholly determined by physical processes we cannot control. His well-reasoned case against the idea that we live in a “determined” world is fascinating and liberating, solidifying his place among the likes of Oliver Sacks, Antonio Damasio, V.S. Ramachandran, and other bestselling science authors exploring the mysteries of the human brain.

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Editorial Review

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"A fascinating affirmation of our essential humanity." ---Kirkus

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From the Back Cover

The father of cognitive neuroscience and author of *Human* offers a provocative argument against the common belief that our lives are wholly determined by physical processes and we are therefore not responsible for our actions

A powerful orthodoxy in the study of the brain has taken hold in recent years: Since physical laws govern the physical world and our own brains are part of that world, physical laws therefore govern our behavior and even our conscious selves. Free will is meaningless, goes the mantra; we live in a “determined” world.

Not so, argues the renowned neuroscientist Michael S. Gazzaniga in this thoughtful, provocative book based on his Gifford Lectures—one of the foremost lecture series in the world dealing with religion, science, and philosophy. *Who's in Charge?* proposes that the mind, which is somehow generated by the physical processes of the brain, “constrains” the brain just as cars are constrained by the traffic they create. Writing with what Steven Pinker has called “his trademark wit and lack of pretension,” Gazzaniga shows how determinism immeasurably weakens our views of human responsibility; it allows a murderer to argue, in effect, “It wasn’t me who did it—it was my brain.” Gazzaniga convincingly argues that even given the latest insights into the physical mechanisms of the mind, there is an undeniable human reality: *We are responsible agents who should be held accountable for our actions, because responsibility is found in how people interact, not in brains.*

An extraordinary book that ranges across neuroscience, psychology, ethics, and the law with a light touch but profound implications, *Who's in Charge?* is a lasting contribution from one of the leading thinkers of our time.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Larry Parrish:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be revise about what going on or facts even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era which can be always change and progress. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to you is you don't know what kind you should start with. This Who's in Charge?: Free Will and the Science of the Brain is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Samantha Flowers:

The book Who's in Charge?: Free Will and the Science of the Brain will bring you to the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to study, this book very ideal to you. The book Who's in Charge?: Free Will and the Science of the Brain is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

David Earnest:

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Houston Estes:

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