



Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will

By Nancey Murphy, Warren S. Brown

Download now

Read Online ➔

Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will By Nancey Murphy, Warren S. Brown

If humans are purely physical, and if it is the brain that does the work formerly assigned to the mind or soul, then how can it fail to be the case that all of our thoughts and actions are determined by the laws of neurobiology? If this is the case, then free will, moral responsibility, and, indeed, reason itself would appear to be in jeopardy. Nancey Murphy and Warren S. Brown here defend a non-reductive version of physicalism whereby humans are (sometimes) the authors of their own thoughts and actions.

Did My Neurons Make Me Do It? brings together insights from both philosophy and the cognitive neurosciences to defeat neurobiological reductionism. One resource is a "post-Cartesian" account of mind as essentially embodied and constituted by action-feedback-evaluation-action loops in the environment, and "scaffolded" by cultural resources. Another is a non-mysterious account of downward (mental) causation explained in terms of a complex, higher-order system exercising constraints on lower-level causal processes. These resources are intrinsically related: the embeddedness of brain events in action-feedback loops is the key to their mentality, and those broader systems have causal effects on the brain itself.

With these resources Murphy and Brown take on two problems in philosophy of mind: a response to the charges that physicalists cannot account for the meaningfulness of language nor the causal efficacy of the mental qua mental. Solutions to these problems are a prerequisite to addressing the central problem of the book: how can biological organisms be free and morally responsible? The authors argue that the free-will problem is badly framed if it is put in terms of neurobiological determinism; the real issue is neurobiological reductionism. If it is indeed possible to make sense of the notion of downward causation, then the relevant question is whether humans exert downward causation over some of their own parts and processes. If all organisms do this to some extent, what needs

to be added to this animalian flexibility to constitute free and responsible action? The keys are sophisticated language and hierarchically ordered cognitive processes allowing (mature) humans to evaluate their own actions, motives, goals, and rational and moral principles.

 [Download Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and N...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and ...pdf](#)

Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will

By Nancey Murphy, Warren S. Brown

Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will By Nancey Murphy, Warren S. Brown

If humans are purely physical, and if it is the brain that does the work formerly assigned to the mind or soul, then how can it fail to be the case that all of our thoughts and actions are determined by the laws of neurobiology? If this is the case, then free will, moral responsibility, and, indeed, reason itself would appear to be in jeopardy. Nancey Murphy and Warren S. Brown here defend a non-reductive version of physicalism whereby humans are (sometimes) the authors of their own thoughts and actions.

Did My Neurons Make Me Do It? brings together insights from both philosophy and the cognitive neurosciences to defeat neurobiological reductionism. One resource is a "post-Cartesian" account of mind as essentially embodied and constituted by action-feedback-evaluation-action loops in the environment, and "scaffolded" by cultural resources. Another is a non-mysterious account of downward (mental) causation explained in terms of a complex, higher-order system exercising constraints on lower-level causal processes. These resources are intrinsically related: the embeddedness of brain events in action-feedback loops is the key to their mentality, and those broader systems have causal effects on the brain itself.

With these resources Murphy and Brown take on two problems in philosophy of mind: a response to the charges that physicalists cannot account for the meaningfulness of language nor the causal efficacy of the mental qua mental. Solutions to these problems are a prerequisite to addressing the central problem of the book: how can biological organisms be free and morally responsible? The authors argue that the free-will problem is badly framed if it is put in terms of neurobiological determinism; the real issue is neurobiological reductionism. If it is indeed possible to make sense of the notion of downward causation, then the relevant question is whether humans exert downward causation over some of their own parts and processes. If all organisms do this to some extent, what needs to be added to this animalian flexibility to constitute free and responsible action? The keys are sophisticated language and hierarchically ordered cognitive processes allowing (mature) humans to evaluate their own actions, motives, goals, and rational and moral principles.

Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will By Nancey Murphy, Warren S. Brown Bibliography

- Rank: #779066 in Books
- Published on: 2009-08-17
- Released on: 2009-08-31
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.10" h x .80" w x 9.10" l, 1.15 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 352 pages

 [**Download** Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and N ...pdf](#)

 [**Read Online** Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will By Nancey Murphy, Warren S. Brown

Editorial Review

Review

"The picture of agency presented here is one well worth pursuing.... The general outlines of the view are plausible, and there is a rich research agenda here."--Neil Levy, *Metaphsychology*

"A nicely written, engaging book that makes a genuine contribution to the growing literature on mental causation."--*Science*

"Murphy and Brown's arguments are complex, sophisticated and witty, drawing from theology, moral philosophy, neurobiology, and computational theory."--*Brain*

About the Author

Nancey Murphy is Professor of Christian Philosophy at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California.

Warren S. Brown is Professor of Psychology at Fuller Graduate School of Psychology, Pasadena, California.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Earline Shepler:

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students because they're still students or the idea for all people in the world, exactly what the best subject for that? Merely you can be answered for that problem above. Every person has various personality and hobby per other. Don't to be compelled someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great as well as important the book Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will. All type of book are you able to see on many solutions. You can look for the internet sources or other social media.

Kathleen Knight:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. As we know that book is very important for people. The book Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will has been making you to know

about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The publication Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will is not only giving you much more new information but also to get your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship with all the book Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will. You never feel lose out for everything in case you read some books.

Graham Ayala:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a book your ability to survive improve then having chance to stand than other is high. For you who want to start reading any book, we give you this particular Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will book as beginning and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Tara Winston:

The actual book Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will has a lot info on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was authored by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research previous to write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you can get the point easily after reading this book.

**Download and Read Online Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?:
Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral
Responsibility and Free Will By Nancey Murphy, Warren S. Brown
#XICTZALRK31**

Read Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will By Nancey Murphy, Warren S. Brown for online ebook

Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will By Nancey Murphy, Warren S. Brown Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will By Nancey Murphy, Warren S. Brown books to read online.

Online Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will By Nancey Murphy, Warren S. Brown ebook PDF download

Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will By Nancey Murphy, Warren S. Brown Doc

Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will By Nancey Murphy, Warren S. Brown Mobipocket

Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will By Nancey Murphy, Warren S. Brown EPub

XICTZALRK31: Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will By Nancey Murphy, Warren S. Brown