

An Emergentist Argument Against Contemporary Reductionist Neuropsychology

Mark H. Bickhard

Contemporary neuropsychology is dominated by assumptions that mental phenomena are “nothing but” computations in neural nets (whether classical computations or connectionist). I argue against all three basic assumptions in this position: 1) computationalism, of whatever variety, is not coherent, 2) contrary to reductionist assumptions, emergence is not only a metaphysically viable kind of phenomenon, it is in fact ubiquitous, and 3) the neural-classical synapse myopia of most neuropsychology is empirically false, and when these errors are corrected, a model of emergent mental phenomena arises naturally. I illustrate with the emergence of truth value in basic brain processes.