

Philosophy Now

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How Are the Mind and Brain Related?

'Three-dimensional space' is a mental creation: this is symbolic language useful for communication. The *brain* is similarly a creation of the mind: it is the mind's own symbolic expression of mind's existence. So the brain is an idea of a non-spatial truth in perceptive terms, symbolizing the mind in the physical world: the brain, in 3-D space, manifests the mind to our senses. Thus the brain is the mind viewed in three-dimensional (physical) space. The *mind* is of no physical space.

From the mind arises all creation. Yet the mind operates both within and without this world of appearances where you and I reside and communicate with one another by way of the five senses. But our senses merely *represent* the non-spatial reality that exists in perpetuity. The spatial reality we create by our minds has both beginning and end. The mind enters the world, interacts in it for a while, and then leaves. The brain faithfully symbolizes the activity of the mind, as the body does the person – entering the spatial reality seemingly from nowhere, growing into a flourishing being, and finally turning to dust, perhaps leaving an inanimate trace for a time.

Thus the mind plays a role within three-dimensional space, taking on form and building a life story – the brain that takes up space merely being the mind manifested into physical flesh. But without the mind the brain fails its purpose. And without the brain the mind finds its door into the physical play shut. It may perhaps still be able to *observe* the physical world of space, but it cannot *interact* in it. It has lost its role in the play. It can be nothing more now than the audience. Its means of communication can only be non-spatial. It cannot say "here am I." It is without voice. Yet it exists.

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