



Philosophical Issues in Psychiatry V: The Problems of Multiple Levels, Explanatory Pluralism, Reduction and Emergence

International Conference May 28-30, 2018

Organized by Professor Josef Parnas (University of Copenhagen), Professor Kenneth S. Kendler (Virginia Commonwealth University), Professor Peter Zachar (Auburn University at Montgomery), the Mental Health Centre Glostrup and the Center for Subjectivity Research, University of Copenhagen

Conference Outline:

Session One: Neuroscience, Mechanisms and RDoC

Session Two: Phenomenology, Biological Psychology, and the Mind-Body Problem

Session Three: Taxonomy, Integration and Multiple Levels of Explanation

Session Four: Levels of Explanation and Reductionism in Psychiatry

Proposed Major Conference Themes:

1. The importance of reduction - under what circumstances are lower levels of explanation to be preferred? Is wholesale reduction possible or is it more realistic to pursue "small" or "patchy" reductive approaches?
2. How is it best to conceive of the multiple "levels" at which psychiatric illness can be understood? Is "levels" even a useful term here?
3. What are the advantages and problems of explanatory pluralism versus explanatory monism - when can we truly integrate results across "levels"?
4. Given that levels of explanation in psychiatric cross the mind-body divide - the subjective and objective worlds - how can we best span these widely divergent perspectives on reality?
5. A recent survey has shown that truly cross-level research in psychiatry is rare. Why is this and what scientific, cultural and financial barriers exist to more integrative approaches?
6. Individual researchers and research groups often bring strong commitments to their perspective on psychiatric illness that derive from extra-scientific personal beliefs. Such approaches have often fueled ideological disputes in the field. How can we better understand and reduce such often wasteful debates?



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Monday May 28, 2018

Outline	Speaker	Title	Time
Opening Comments	Josef Parnas & Kenneth S. Kendler		09:00-09:20
Session One: Neuroscience, Mechanisms and RDoC			
Session Chair: Eric Turkheimer			
Core Talk	William Bechtel	Psychiatric Disorders and Neural Mechanisms: What is the connection?	09:20-09:50
Invited Discussion	Kenneth S. Kendler		09:50-10:00
General Discussion			10:00-10:20
Core Talk	Robert Bilder	Wrangling the Matrix: Lessons from the RDoC working memory domain	10:20-10:50
Invited Discussion	Georg Northoff		10:50-11:00
General Discussion			11:00-11:20
BREAK			
Core Talk	Daniel Pine	Tackling (one of the) Hard Problem(s): Neuroscience and novel therapeutics of anxiety	11:35-12:05
Invited Discussion	Kenneth Schaffner		12:05-12:15
General Discussion			12:15-12:35
LUNCH			
Core Talk	Georg Northoff	What provides the glue between different levels of explanation? A spatiotemporal approach - Philosophical reflection and neuroscientific investigation	13:45-14:15
Invited Discussion	James Woodward		14:15-14:25
General Discussion			14:25-14:45
Session Two: Phenomenology, Biological Psychology, and the Mind-Body Problem			
Session Chair: Kathryn Tabb			
Core Talk	Shaun Gallagher	Explaining Body Self-Awareness at Multiple Levels	14:45-15:15
Invited Discussion	Jan-Willem Romeijn		15:15-15:25
General Discussion			15:25-15:45
BREAK			
Core Talk	John Campbell	The Mind-Body Problem in Psychiatry	16:00-16:30
Invited Discussion	Daniel Pine		16:30-16:40
General Discussion			16:40-17:00

8 hours



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Tuesday May 29, 2018

Outline	Speaker	Title	Time
Session Two: Phenomenology, Biological Psychology, and the Mind-Body Problem			
Session Chair: Kathryn Tabb			
Core Talk	Josef Parnas	Is there an Informative Midway between Understanding and Explanation: The role of phenomenology in psychiatry's explanatory efforts	09:00-09:30
Invited Discussion	Shaun Gallagher		09:30-09:40
General Discussion			09:40-10:00
Core Talk	Gregory A. Miller	Challenges in the Relationships between Psychological and Biological Phenomena in Psychopathology	10:00-10:30
Invited Discussion	Peter Zachar		10:30-10:40
General Discussion			10:40-11:00
BREAK			
Session Three: Taxonomy, Integration and Multiple Levels of Explanation			
Session Chair: James Woodward			
Core Talk	Peter Zachar	The Biological Construction of Psychiatric Disorder and the Psychological Construction of the Substrates: A complimentary approach	11:15-11:45
Invited Discussion	Josef Parnas		11:45-11:55
General Discussion			11:55-12:15
LUNCH			
Core Talk	Kathryn Tabb	Can Psychiatry be Precise?	13:25-13:55
Invited Discussion	Robert Bilder		13:55-14:05
General Discussion			14:05-14:25
Core Talk	Jan-Willem Romeijn	Psychiatric Disease Classification: a reference class problem	14:25-14:55
Invited Discussion	Eric Turkheimer		14:55-15:05
General Discussion			15:05-15:25
BREAK			
Core Talk	Kenneth Schaffner	Approaches to Integration: The what, where, why, how and how much?	15:40-16:10
Invited Discussion	William Bechtel		16:10-16:20
General Discussion			16:20-16:40

7 hours 40 minutes



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Wednesday May 30, 2018

Outline	Speaker	Title	Time
Session Four: Levels of Explanation and Reductionism in Psychiatry			
Session Chair: Peter Zachar			
Core Talk	James Woodward	Levels, Conditional Independence and Partial Autonomy	09:00-09:30
Invited Discussion	Stephan Heckers		09:30-09:40
General Discussion			09:40-10:00
Core Talk	Kenneth S. Kendler	Mood-Congruence, Faculty Psychology and the Impact of Understanding on Psychiatric Nosology	10:00-10:30
Invited Discussion	Gregory A. Miller		10:30-10:40
General Discussion			10:40-11:00
BREAK			
Core Talk	Stephan Heckers	Psychiatric Discourse: Scientific reductionism for the autonomous person	11:15-11:45
Invited Discussion	John Campbell		11:45-11:55
General Discussion			11:55-12:15
LUNCH			
Core Talk	Eric Turkheimer	Conceptual Focus: A practical guide to understanding levels of analysis in science	13:25-13:55
Invited Discussion	Kathryn Tabb		13:55-14:05
General Discussion			14:05-14:25
Closing Comments	Josef Parnas & Kenneth S. Kendler		14:25-14:45

5 hours 45 minutes