



Embodied Cognition

Lawrence A. Shapiro

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This outstanding introduction sets out the central themes and debates surrounding embodied cognition. Including helpful chapter summaries and annotated further reading at the end of each chapter, *Embodied Cognition* is essential reading for all students of philosophy of mind and psychology, and cognitive science.

Embodied Cognition Details

Date : Published August 1st 2010 by Routledge

ISBN : 9780203850664

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Format : ebook 253 pages

Genre : Philosophy, Psychology, Nonfiction, Science, Biology, Neuroscience

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Matthieu de Wit says

Extremely useful book if you want to become familiar with the field of embodied cognitive science. Particularly Chapter 5 on dynamical systems theory and Chapter 6 on Andy Clark's extended mind hypothesis were very illuminating. I would have given 5 stars if it weren't for a few issues here and there. For example, the statement "Contact without representation is useless." on p. 151 is not substantiated. Given the centrality of the concept of representation in debates between standard and embodied cognitive scientists, seeing such a dogmatic assertion in this otherwise well-balanced book was a little disappointing. Also, the description of James Gibson's ecological approach in Chapter 2 does not really do justice to Gibson. Louise Barrett's book Beyond the Brain does a much better job describing and explaining this framework.

Tom says

this is a really good reading!

Bryan Kibbe says

Simply put, this is an excellent book on the subject of embodied cognition, and I would not hesitate to recommend it to anyone who has an interest in issues of embodied cognition. In fact, I would go so far as to say that if you are someone that is reading people like Thompson, Rowlands, Clark, Wilson, Noe, Varela, Thelen, Lakoff, etc. then this is required reading. Shapiro expertly lays out the varied terrain of embodied cognition accounts and adeptly advances both defenses and criticisms of the various positions while all along framing his analyses within an overarching decision tree. I found his writing to be both incisive and insightful. In a field that is not a stranger to jargon, Shapiro presents an accessible text where he either explains difficult terminology or otherwise simply avoids terminology that would lead to distracting tangents. I am sure that I will continue to return to this text and future writing by Shapiro.

Sylvia says

Embodied cognition is a fascinating topic - brain, body and environment act as a unified entity. No more "brain is a computer". Shapiro presents theory and research in this book.

Carolyn says

Read this book after listening to Ginger Campbell's Brain Science Podcast interview with Lawrence Shapiro on embodied cognition. The podcast was engaging and thought provoking. This book was neither, in my case. Filled with algorithms and calculations and mathy references, I just did not care for it, which was disappointing after the audio interview promoting Shapiro's new title was so excellent.

