

PHILOSOPHY

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Kinds of externalism in philosophy of mind

It is considered externalism in contemporary philosophy of mind. It demonstrates shortcomings of internalist paradigm in explaining the contentful and qualitative aspects of conscious experience and concludes that externalist approach is better suited for developing a naturalistic understanding of mental states. Following S. Hurley, the paper identifies two types of externalism: externalism about content and externalism about qualia. In turn, each of these types of externalism can be divided into what-externalism and how-externalism. The usefulness of such classification is appreciated in the paper. At the same time, it is concluded that we must overcome the differences existing between these kinds of externalism by linking the most problematic variants of externalism to those variants concerning which we have the least problems, eventually overcoming differences between contentful and qualitative aspects of conscious experience.

Key words: philosophy of mind, externalism, mental states, content, qualia.

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