

The Supporting Content and the Role of the Internal Control of the Extended Mind

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Abstract

The thesis of the extended mind has been upheld for a decade and defended seriously. However, within the thesis the role of internal mentality (that controls various tools) standing in the unfolding of the extended mind seems to have been underestimated. The present paper provides a new perspective within the thesis of the extended mind: the extended mind indeed has an inner core that has a distinctive role in the extended mind's course of unfolding, to wit, to maintain a novel sense of content—the *supporting content*—in order to flexibly support agents' performance. Such content is conceived of as ways of organizing activities: when the extended mind unfolds, it continues to hold to an inner core that constantly serves to *organize* internal mental resources (including attention and *internalized tools*) *in support of* the agent's problem-solving performance in the environment and/or cultural settings. The supporting content *qua* content on the systematic connection between an agent's controlling states and her performing activities. The aforementioned distinctive role of maintaining supporting content, this paper argues, manifests that the extended mind has an inner core that is reasonably privileged in comparison to external resources.

Key Words: user, content, extended mind, control, tools