

Embodied and Situated Cognition: from Phenomenology to Neuroscience and Artificial Intelligence

TOUCH AND SITUATEDNESS

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This paper explores some varieties of tactile experience. First of all, I argue that touching does not involve two distinct feelings, a feeling of the body and a feeling of something external to the body. Rather, these are two inextricable aspects of the same experience, with one or the other occupying the experiential foreground. I then suggest that tactile experience does not always respect a clear boundary between body and world. In touch, bodily and worldly aspects are experienced in a number of different ways and, in many instances, there is no clear experiential differentiation between the two. Finally, I draw these two points together in order to consider the contribution made by touch to our sense of ‘being part of the world’.