

Thursday April 22nd, 2pm ET

Presentation in Zoom, accessible via the C-STAR website:

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Ways to think about the brain

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Current neuroscience is largely fueled by an empiricist philosophy that assumes the brain's goal is to perceive, represent the world, and learn the truth. An inevitable consequence of this framework is the assumption of a decision-making homunculus wedged between our perception and actions. In contrast, I advocate that the brain's fundamental function is to induce actions and predict the consequences of those actions to support the survival and prosperity of the brain's host. Only actions can provide a second opinion about the relevance of the sensory inputs and provide meaning for and interpretation of those inputs. In this "inside-out" framework, the brain comes with a preconfigured and self-organized dynamic that constrains how it acts and views the world. In the brain's nonegalitarian organization, preexisting nonsense brain patterns become meaningful through action-based experience. I will show recent experiments that support this framework.

The online lecture can be followed online from your computer, tablet or smartphone, in **Zoom**. The zoom link is accessible via the C-STAR website: <http://cstar.sc.edu/lecture-series/>

For more information, or to be added to the C-STAR mailing list, contact Dirk den Ouden: denouden@sc.edu