

Do Non-Linguistic Creatures have a Fodorian (Logic-Like/Language-Like) Language of Thought?



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Friday, April 20, 2018
3:30pm

Integrative Learning Center, S131

Theoretically, those who think there is a joint in nature between the kinds of representations that underlie perception and action, on the one hand, and abstract combinatorial thought, on the other, owe us an analysis of the essential differences between the representations and computations involved in each. Empirically, then, we must develop methods that could yield data that bear on the question of whether non-human animals or human infants have representations/computations on the abstract combinatorial thought side of the putative joint in nature. Professor Carey will illustrate progress on both the theoretical and empirical fronts through two case studies: logical connectives and abstract relations.

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