

Notes on Thompson April 25 2018

Chapter 11: Temporality and the Living Present (312-359)

1. Intro: concept of neurophenomenology
2. Experience and the Flow of Action (312-317)
 - a. M-P and soccer playing: consciousness is absorbed skillful action; temporal flow but with modifications (heightened intensity / attention in penalty box; a sort of "force field" at line of penalty box, etc)
 - b. Dreyfus ignores pre-reflective self-awareness; for him all self-awareness is reflective self-objectification. Pre-reflective self-awareness is "direct acquaintance with body subjectivity." We can make this explicit, but that shows it is there implicitly.
3. Time Consciousness and Pre-Reflective Self-awareness (317-329)
 - a. Time cness is both cness of objects and of experience; temporal width of present.
 - b. Husserl:
 - i. impression-retention-protention;
 - ii. retention \neq recollection; protention \neq expectation as those are intentional acts, hence re-presentational.
 - iii. Time-constituting "absolute" time-cness (325).
 - c. Zahavi:
 - i. pre-reflective self-awareness is inner time-cness;
 - ii. absolute flow is living present = pre-reflective self-awareness.
4. Neurophenomenology and Time-consciousness (329-338)
 - a. Varela: synchrony patterns of neural activity allow integration corresponding to width of living present (330);
 - b. 3 temporal scales: 1 = integration; 1/10 = elementary acts; 10 = description-narration (331).
 - c. neuronal relaxation time provides width of living present (334).
 - d. Emergence and self-organization dependent on context (this can be extended to political contexts, hence "political affect") (336).
5. Experimental Neurophenomenology (338-349)
 - a. Intro
 - b. Perception and ongoing subjective mental activity
 - c. Waves of consciousness
6. Neurophenomenology and the Neural Correlates of Consciousness (NCC) (349-356)
 - a. NCC from neurophenomenology stance is about structure, not contents (350)
 - b. Unified field model vs building blocks; large scale integration via phase synchrony
7. Neurophenomenology and Naturalism (356-359)
 - a. Nonlinear sciences allow for advances on Husserlian veto of naturalism, as autopoiesis allows advances on Kantian veto of "hylzoism"
 - b. Not just structural isomorphism of neurodynamics and experience, but mutual enlightenment of phenomenology and neuroscience; phenomenology is a "way of seeing the inner life of biological systems," that is, makes sense of relations of life, mind and consciousness (359).

- c. Hence, we transform idea of nature from that of physical reduction base to that of lived body which is essentially mixture of phenomenal and physical or subjective and objective (359).

Chapter 12: Primordial Dynamism: Emotion and Valence (360-381)

1. Protention (360-362)
 - a. Retention and protention linked in self-organizing motivations. Protention is "unfulfilled": its objects are not yet present but are anticipated; emotion.
 - b. Spinoza and Jonas: life's concern to keep going.
2. Enactive emotion (362-366)
 - a. Emotion is "prototype whole-organism event": mobilizes and coordinates nervous system, endocrine system, psychological experience, behavioral response.
 - b. Dynamic systems models of emotion: intentional outreach (WJ Freeman).
 - c. Freeman: self-organizing action-perception cycle response via modulating of ongoing endogenous activity
 - d. LeDoux: heteronomous input-output triggering of circuits
3. A Neurodynamical Model (366-370):
 - a. Freeman's model
 - i. Body:
 1. Motor loop
 2. Proprioceptive loop
 - ii. Brain
 1. "space-time loop"
 2. "control loop"
 3. "reafference loop"
 - b. Freeman and Varela: consciousness as "global dynamic activity pattern that organizes activity in brain. "State variable constrains chaotic activities of parts by quenching local fluctuations."
4. Emotional Self-organization (370-381)
 - a. Nice chart at 372
 - b. Lewis model: 4 stages: trigger, self-amplification, self-stabilization, learning
 - c. Husserl: passivity = being pre-cognitively affected; receptivity = response by noticing what has precognitively affected you.
 - d. Micro-scale of events: Varela and Depraz: "At the Source of Time": switches of attitude in flow are emotionally driven and manifest themselves as "dynamic fluctuations of affect."
 - i. Precipitating event
 - ii. Affective salience: sense of meaning of precipitating event
 - iii. Feeling tone: valence or complex pleasure / displeasure looping
 - iv. Motor embodiment: action tendencies preparing and executing action
 - v. Visceral-interoceptive embodiment: physiological changes and neural feedback of them
 - e. Meso-scale of moods
 - f. Macro-scale of personality-formation

Chapter 13: Empathy and Enculturation (382-411)

1. Intro
2. Intentionality and Open Intersubjectivity (383-386)
3. The Phenomenological Concept of Empathy (386-393)
4. Affective and Sensorimotor Coupling (393-395)
5. Imaginary Transposition (395-397)
6. Mutual Self and Other Understanding (398-401)
7. Moral Perception (401-402)
8. Enculturation (402-411)