

Cartesian Dualism

Substance: a "thing"; a "real being"; something that has properties, but is not a property of anything else; something able to exist (relatively) independently.

D1. x is a pure substance =df. x is a substance, and every part of x is in the same ontological category as x.

D2. x is a mixed substance =df. x is a substance, but x is not a pure substance.

D3. x has property F essentially =df. x has F, and it is impossible for x to exist without having F.

An Interpretation of Descartes' Dualism

A. Each person is a mixed substance composed of two substantial parts -- a mind (mental substance) and a body (physical substance).

B. Each mind is essentially thoughtful and unextended (in space).

C. Each body is essentially extended (in space and time) and thoughtless.

D. Mind and body are able to exist independently -- and generally do so after death.

E. Mind and body enter into two-way causal interaction.

A Revised Ontological Scheme

1. Substances
 - A. Pure
 - i. Physical Objects
 - ii. Minds
 - B. Mixed
2. Properties
 - A. Physical
 - B. Mental
 - C. Other
3. Times
4. Places
5. Events
6. Sets
7. Propositions