

Fundamentals of Philosophical Anthropology, Materialism

Ontological Scheme: an exhaustive and exclusive list of natural kinds of things.

A Primitive Ontological Scheme

1. Physical objects
2. Properties
3. Times
4. Places
5. Events
6. Sets
7. Propositions

Some Definitions

D1: x is a *physical object* =df. x is extended in space and time, and x has mass.

D2: x is a *mind* =df. x is a spatially unextended thinking substance.

D3: F is a *physical property* =df. necessarily, if something, x , has F , then x is a physical object.

D4: F is a *mental property* =df. necessarily, if something, x , has F , then x is conscious.

A Typical Form of Materialism

- A. Each person is just a physical object (his/her own body).
- B. There are no minds.
- C. Each person (that is, each human body) has mental as well as physical properties.

Other Forms of Materialism

Eliminative: A + B + each person has physical properties, but nothing has a mental property.

The Identity Theory: A + B + C + every mental property is identical to some physical property.

The Supervenience Theory: A + B + C + every mental property is causally dependent upon some combination of physical properties.