

Abstract

Yolton tries to show that Descartes did not hold the sort of representational theory of ideas often attributed to him, that Descartes “mature view” was that motions in the brain do not cause our sensations, but instead, that there are two interactive relations occurring between perceiver and the physical world: a physical causal one and a cognitive or semantic one involving how the mind responds to what is happening in the brain. I am sceptical about the sort of rational reconstruction he attempts. I, argue that Yolton’s interpretation of Descartes does not fit the texts, and suffers from serious problems