

Perceptual Egocentricity

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Abstract

In normal circumstances, we perceive the surrounding objects as standing in spatial relations with respect to ourselves. So objects are perceived as being to my right or left, in front or behind me, above or below, etc. How are we going to understand this egocentric structure of perceptual experience? Is there some distinctive feature of perceptual egocentricity which distinguishes it from other types of spatial representations? In this talk I shall address those issues from a philosophical –and slightly phenomenological– point of view. First, I shall quickly review and discuss some current conceptions of egocentricity in the literature. Second, I shall sketch an alternative proposal about the nature of perceptual egocentricity. And, third, based on this proposal, I shall suggest some important differences between the spatial structure of visual experience and the spatial structure of visual imagination and pictorial representations (in particular, photographs).

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