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Phil Mind

Questions for February 15

These questions cover three different sources (you're only responsible for one – see below). One is an interview with Patricia Churchland, the second is an article by Peter Unger and is called “I Do Not Exist,” and the third is an interview with Keith Frankish. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read/listen more than once to get the answers.

Background:

For today we'll start by discussing three different types of eliminativism, which is (roughly) the view that a certain kind of thing or property doesn't exist (eliminativists vary with regards to what they deny the existence of). Next, we'll reflect on which of the views we've discussed so far in class you think is most plausible.

Questions:

1. (*) I've split you into three groups. Each group is responsible for one of the readings/interviews. Here are the groups:

Group 1: Andrew, Audrey, Brian – Churchland Interview

Group 2: Derek, Jack, Jesse – Unger Article

Group 3: Julia, Kaya, Ke, Nate – Frankish Interview

Each group should answer the question: What sort of thing (or things) does your person want to eliminate? What are their reasons for eliminating it? Are they good reasons? Why?

2. We've now discussion a number of views about what sorts of things minds are. Which of the views we've discussed so far this semester (dualism, idealism, neutral monism, behaviorism, identity theory, functionalism, eliminativism) do you lean towards? Why?