

What If Anything Has Changed About Human Nature In the Last 2000 Years?

Post by “Godfrey” of January 6, 2024 at 1:05 AM

Quote

That is, do you think "the mind" exists, in part, outside of the skull?

[BrainToBeing](#) to be honest, I'm just beginning to look into the idea of the "extended mind" and am curious as to your thoughts on the matter. I certainly don't put any stock in a mist floating outside of the body, or of a supernatural spirit.

I just listened to the Annie Murphy Paul interview that [Don](#) linked to. She seems to be defining the idea using interoception, in-person social networks, and a variety of tools, both analog (notebooks, calendars) and digital. From what I gather, she's not working with rigorous science but is more interested in practices people can do to increase their personal efficacy. (Correct me if I'm wrong; I was interrupted a few times while listening.)

To answer your question, I think that the mind, being physical, exists in the body. And I'd say that the mind probably exists *in the body* outside of the skull, for example in the nervous system. I'm not prepared at this point to say that the mind extends outside of the body: that seems to me to be more metaphorical. If communication, processing and storage systems are all considered to be "mind", that completely redefines what it means to be a human animal and seems like a major overreach.