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Hermeneutics and the Socially Extended Mind

Most accounts of collective intentionality and agency start with an individualistic assumption and then ask how it’s possible to form group intentions, etc. A hermeneutic view found in Dilthey, and drawing from Hegel, suggests that we are already embedded in social structures that reflect our collective intentions and interests. People act and think and experience within contexts and systems that are defined by normative structures (customs, rules), practices and institutions. These reflect certain styles of life and forms of social interaction. In my talk I’ll update these ideas in the contemporary context of interaction theory and notions of cognitive institutions.