

Preface

This book results from discontent: although, in the last two decades, social cognitive affective neuroscience has been recognized as a strong field with potentially huge societal impact, the translation of findings from the laboratory to society remains markedly limited, if not altogether null. To face this scenario, here we aimed to provide a novel reconsideration of the borderlands of neuroscience and the social sciences, offering diverse, multidimensional perspectives about their current and potential interactions.

The volume comprises four sections. In Part I, we bring together neuroscientific perspectives on hot topics within social cognition, such as emotions, morality, and different forms of interpersonal dynamics. The works in Part II examine specific translational outlets of social neuroscience, including clinical settings and mass communication. Societally relevant implications of the field are further expounded in Part III, which focuses on poverty, social equality, and public health. To conclude, Part IV contains provocative reflections on conceptual, methodological, and translational issues which pervade the dialogue between neuroscience and the social sciences.

Such a vast array of topics come from the hand of renowned international experts operating in neuroscience, psychology, psychiatry, neurology, journalism, philosophy, biology, sociology, and therapy, among other fields. Together, their contributions provide a multidisciplinary and multi-domain view of the most recent interactions between social cognitive affective neuroscience and several social sciences. Each part offers a comprehensive vision about both the state-of-the-art and future trends in relevant areas, as well as an intrinsic discussion regarding the intertwine of neuroscience with other social sciences.

We would like to note that this is not a handbook, given that we are not aiming for exhaustiveness; rather, we are targeting selected prototypical interactions of neuroscience and social sciences in terms of complementarity, tensions, and fertile bidirectional critiques, as well as empirical and theoretical reconsiderations. By presenting contributions from diverse scientific and disciplinary domains, this book offers a comprehensive description of the present and future of neuroscience in different fields of society. Thus, we hope this endeavor will come to inform a necessary

milestone for a more organic and active dialogue between multiple disciplines that are typically separated by individual approaches. After a long period of passionate work from the authors and ourselves, we believe that the result not only proves appealing to a wide audience but that it also overcomes classical discussions between neuroscience and varied humanistic fields, presenting the current and future developments which are critical for our society.

This book would not have been possible without the active participation of several actors. The authors have generously provided their outstanding knowledge to discuss the relevance of the interactions between neuroscience and social sciences. Expert reviewers have selflessly contributed with rigorous reviews, ensuring that only submissions of the highest quality made it to print. Our gratitude goes out to all these remarkable scholars who anonymously helped during the revision process. Also, we want to acknowledge the support from our network of institutions, which provided the time and support to develop this project: the Institute of Cognitive and Translational Neuroscience (INCYT); the INECO Foundation; Favaloro University; the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET); the National University of Cuyo (UNCuyo); Universidad Autónoma del Caribe; the Center for Social and Cognitive Neuroscience (CSCN), Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez; and the Centre of Excellence in Cognition and Its Disorders, Australian Research Council (ACR). We would also like to thank the different sources of funding directly or indirectly related to this work, namely, CONICET, CONICYT/FONDECYT (Regular 1170010), FONCyT-PICT (2012-0412 and 2012-1309), the Initiative for the Promotion of Regional Public Goods of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the INECO Foundation. We also extend our gratitude to the editorial board of Springer, especially to Bruno Fiuza: The idea of this book was conceived in a cafe in *Puerto Madero*, Buenos Aires, close to the *Río de la Plata*, one afternoon in which Bruno gently proposed Springer as a platform for our current hopes and concerns regarding the limits and possibilities of neuroscience. Finally, we express our deep and warmest regards to our life companions, Margherita, Pamela, and María, for their patience and understanding during the elaboration of this book. Their support is perhaps the best illustration of how crucial social factors are in the daily workings of neuroscience.

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Neuroscience and Social Science

The Missing Link

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2017, XVIII, 546 p. 38 illus., 25 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-68420-8