

Preface

In the third part of this dissertation, I discuss the functioning of a certain kind of device and its significance for the claim that the ability to act is a constitutive condition on the capability for spatial perception: Sensory substitution devices allow blind persons to find their way with the help of sounds or tactual sensations. In the course of working on this thesis, I was lucky to be able to discuss my ideas with many colleagues who helped me not to get lost in the various mazes I had to cope with – similar to the way in which sensory substitution devices help the blind to orient.

In particular, I was fortunate to be part of a Research Training Group, funded by the Werner Reichardt Centre for Integrative Neuroscience (CIN), Tübingen where I collaborated with cognitive neuroscientists Hanspeter Mallot and Wolfgang Röhrich. They helped me to get an understanding of the brain mechanisms underlying spatial representations and the way in which science tackles issues in this area. Joining the Philosophy of Neuroscience Junior Research Group at the CIN offered me the opportunity to discuss my work with Chiara Brozzo, Krisztina Orbán, and Katia Samoilova, who gave me valuable comments on various occasions. Alex Morgan did a lot to help me structure my writing, especially the part on empirical evidence, and he always pushed me to clarify my thoughts and put things more clearly. Gregor Hochstetter not only has been a constant source of inspiration and constructive criticism; I am glad I can say that he has become a friend.

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