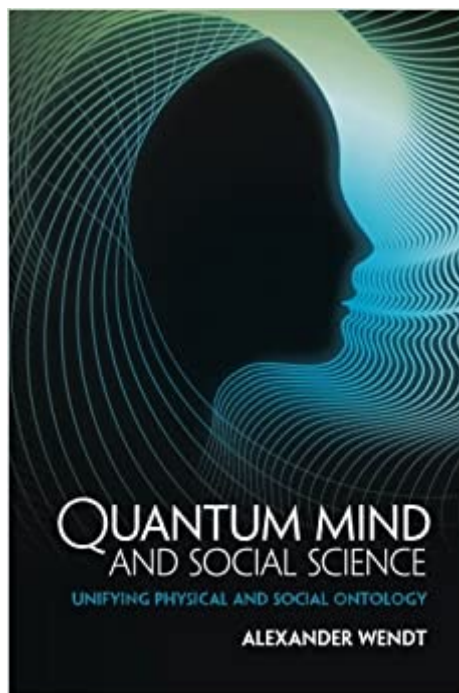




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Quantum Mind And Social Science: Unifying Physical And Social Ontology



Synopsis

There is an underlying assumption in the social sciences that consciousness and social life are ultimately classical physical/material phenomena. In this ground-breaking book, Alexander Wendt challenges this assumption by proposing that consciousness is, in fact, a macroscopic quantum mechanical phenomenon. In the first half of the book, Wendt justifies the insertion of quantum theory into social scientific debates, introduces social scientists to quantum theory and the philosophical controversy about its interpretation, and then defends the quantum consciousness hypothesis against the orthodox, classical approach to the mind-body problem. In the second half, he develops the implications of this metaphysical perspective for the nature of language and the agent-structure problem in social ontology. Wendt's argument is a revolutionary development which raises fundamental questions about the nature of social life and the work of those who study it.

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Customer Reviews

"Wendt's second monograph has been eagerly anticipated. Was it worth the wait? Of course.

Beautifully written and painstakingly argued, *Quantum Mind and Social Science* explores the potential impact that advances in quantum mechanics may have on the social sciences.

Notwithstanding the fact that this is probably one of the best introductions to quantum mechanics I have read, the book also raises a series of pressing questions about how a careful engagement with quantum mechanics might alter how we think about social science and social practice ... This is a book of speculative grand theorising that is sadly lacking in the social sciences today." Colin

Wight, University of Sydney"Alexander Wendt, one of the leading and most original voices in International Relations, has now produced what may be his most daring effort yet. In *Quantum Mind and Social Science* Wendt argues for a new kind of physicalism that encompasses elements of mind all the way down to the quantum processes governing elementary particles. For most social scientists, all that Wendt takes us through will be a revelation. Wendt's discussion of this material is just fabulous, the best lay discussions of the issues I have seen. Whatever one thinks of the final thesis, the journey here is definitely worth the ride." Douglas V. Porpora, Drexel University, Philadelphia"This book is very well written and engaging and introduces some very controversial new ideas. The author takes a courageous stance on a number of deep and difficult issues in philosophy of mind. Some of these ideas may ultimately not be supported, and some others may engage never-ending debates. But if even one of them turns out to be right, then the book will have made a great contribution." Jerome R. Busemeyer, Provost Professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Indiana University, Bloomington

This book proposes a quantum physical basis for consciousness and its place in the natural world, and explores the implications of this perspective for the social sciences. Wendt's argument provides a philosophical basis for human agency through free will, and for a holistic or 'non-local' vision of social life.

Alexander Wendt has written a book that is informative, insightful and expertly researched. While the title references social science, you might well consider this book an overview of the recent research into the quantum basis of consciousness. If you are interested in the implications of the Hammeroff/Penrose Orch-OR theory, this is a great place to start. The author takes care to present various interpretations of consciousness theory (both quantum and classical), and provides excellent historical context for these interpretations. This book will allow you to become more comfortable with the expanded world view that accompanies an understanding of the physical basis for consciousness without imposing unsupported speculation that often tries to drift into this picture. Bottom line, worth every penny of your money and every minute of your time. Thank you, Mr. Wendt for writing this book. It's a gem.

OMG, thank you Wendt for this awesome mind-blowing kickass book! This book hopefully will challenge and change how people think about social science. I am not saying that Quantum theory has to be the only theory that is correct, but let's embrace the possibility that not everything and

every model has to obey the classical laws of physics, and let's not marginalize those social scientists who already have been challenging those laws.

Most of all, this is a serious book written by a serious scholar. The implications of his thesis are profound for any conventional view of the Social Sciences. Perhaps only a thinker of such proven qualification could set forth so bold a vision in such a forceful and credible way. Fortunately, it is also a book clearly written and accessible to a wide variety of readers. Joseph P Garske

This book is a fascinating piece of cross discipline scholarship that enhances the field of social science as a whole. While I bought this book hoping that the lessons would apply to international relations in particular, the book is more about broad means of conceptualizing social science ontologies. Once again, Wendt, who is best known for revolutionizing the world of theoretical international relations as the father of constructivism, turns existing thinking on its head with this riveting work.

Groundbreaking stuff!!

Blazing trails for quantum theory in the social sciences.

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