

***Neuroexistentialism:
Meaning, Morals, and Purpose in the Age of Neuroscience***

Edited by Gregg D. Caruso & Owen Flanagan

Neuroexistentialism: Third-Wave Existentialism

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Morality, Love, and Emotion

- (1) Patricia Churchland
- (2) Walter Sinnott-Armstrong
- (3) Maureen Sie
- (4) Edmund Rolls
- (5) Jesse Prinz

Autonomy, Consciousness, and the Self

- (6) Michael Gazzaniga
- (7) Walter Glannon
- (8) Antonio Damasio
- (9) Shaun Gallagher, Ben Morgan, Naomi Rokoitnitz
- (10) Peter U. Tse

Free Will, Moral Responsibility, and Meaning in Life

- (11) Daniel C. Dennett
- (12) Derk Pereboom & Gregg D. Caruso
- (13) Thomas Nagel
- (14) Eddy Nahmias
- (15) Neil Levy
- (16) Farah Focquaert, Andrea L. Glenn, Adrian Raine

Neuroscience and the Law

- (17) Valerie Hardcastle
- (18) Amanda Pustilnik
- (19) Stephen J. Morse

Purpose and the Laws of Nature

- (20) Sean Carroll

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Neuroexistentialism: Meaning, Morals, and Purpose in the Age of Neuroscience will be a collection of new and original essays by some of the leading philosophers and neuroscientists in the field. It will focus on reconciling meaning, morals, and purpose (or the challenge of doing so) with a naturalistic worldview consistent with Darwinian evolution and recent developments in the behavior, cognitive, and neurosciences.

Existentialisms arise when some foundation of meaning, morals, and purpose is under assault. In the past, first-wave existentialism concerned the increasingly apparent inability of religion, and religious tradition, to provide such a foundation, as typified in the writings of Kierkegaard, Dostoevsky, and Nietzsche. Second-wave existentialism, personified philosophically by Sartre, Camus and de Beauvoir, developed in response to the inability of the polity to serve as such a foundation. There is a third-wave existentialism, a new existentialism, developing in response to advances in the neurosciences that threaten the last vestiges of an immaterial soul or self. With the increasing explanatory and therapeutic power of neuroscience, the mind no longer stands apart from the world to serve as a foundation of meaning. This produces foundational anxiety. This is where neuroexistentialism comes in.

This collection will explore how existential meaning is possible in the naturalistic world described by neuroscience.