



Social Reality

John Searle inquires into familiar social institutions and asks, for example, what is the structure that accounts for a social reality such as money? He argues that collective intentionality confers powers on bits of metal and pieces of paper that cannot be explained by their physical properties. Searle opposes the popular contemporary view that all facts are social constructions, dependent on the society in which they occur. For Searle there are brute physical and biological facts, and social facts are constructed from these—in particular from the antecedent biological fact that humans have brains. Culture, for Searle, has no mysterious independent existence; it is merely a complex feature of our biology.

John Searle

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Auditorium, Beckman Institute
405 North Mathews Avenue, Urbana
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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