



Forum for
Bevissthetsforskning
FORUM FOR CONSCIOUSNESS RESEARCH

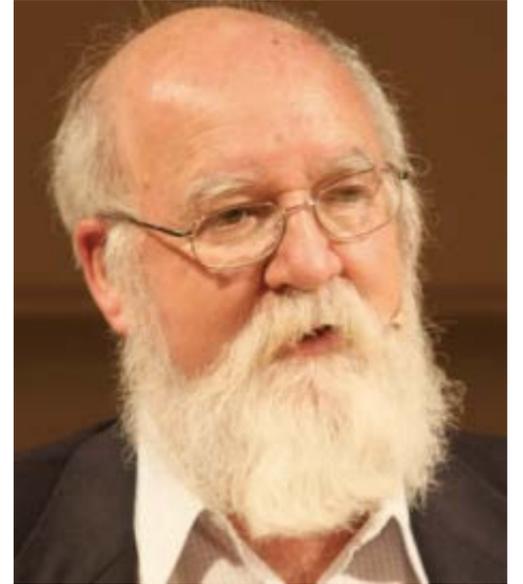


THE NORWEGIAN ACADEMY
OF SCIENCE AND LETTERS
Det Norske Videnskaps-Akademi

PUBLIC LECTURE 28 January, 2019:

Prof. Daniel DENNETT

Co-director of the Center for Cognitive Studies and Professor,
Tufts University, Massachusetts, USA. <http://ase.tufts.edu/cogstud/dennett/>



Autonomy, Consciousness, and Responsibility

Monday, 28 January, 2019, 15.30-17.30

In: **Auditorium 1, G. Sverdrups Hus/ Universitetsbiblioteket, Blindern,**
Moltke Moes vei 39 ved/ Blindernveien, Oslo 0317

Programme:

- 15.30 – 15.35** Opening by **Hans Petter Graver** President of *The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters*
15.35– 15.40 Introduction by **Johan F. Storm**, Neurophysiology, *University of Oslo*
15.40– 16.40 **Lecture by Daniel Dennett: *Autonomy, Consciousness, and Responsibility***
16.40– 17.30 Panel Discussion and questions from the audience

Daniel Dennett is a prominent American philosopher, writer, and cognitive scientist whose research centers on the philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, and philosophy of biology. He was a student of W. V. Quine at Harvard University, and Gilbert Ryle at the University of Oxford, where he received his PhD in philosophy in 1965. He is one of the most famous living philosophers and the author of numerous books. **Philosophy of mind.** Dennett is primarily concerned with providing a philosophy of mind that is grounded in empirical research. In his dissertation, *Content and Consciousness*, he broke up the problem of explaining the mind into the need for a theory of content (later discussed in *The Intentional Stance*) and for a theory of consciousness, outlined in *Consciousness Explained*, where he presented his multiple drafts model of consciousness. He argues that the concept of qualia is confused and cannot be put to any use. His strategy mirrors Ryle's approach of redefining first person phenomena in third person terms.

Free will. Dennett is a compatibilist, arguing that free will and determinism are mutually compatible. In his 1978 book *Brainstorms*, he proposed a two-stage model of decision making in contrast to libertarian views: "The model ... has the following feature: when we are faced with an important decision, a consideration-generator whose output is to some degree undetermined, produces a series of considerations, some of which may of course be immediately rejected as irrelevant by the agent (...). Those considerations that are selected by the agent as having a more than negligible bearing on the decision then figure in a reasoning process, and ..., those considerations ultimately serve as predictors and explicators of the agent's final decision."

Books by Dennett: *Brainstorms: Philosophical Essays on Mind and Psychology* (1981); *Elbow Room: The Varieties of Free Will Worth Wanting* (1984); *The Mind's I* (1985); *Content and Consciousness* (1986); *The Intentional Stance* (1987); *Consciousness Explained* (1992); *Darwin's Dangerous Idea: Evolution and the Meanings of Life* (1996); *Kinds of Minds: Towards an Understanding of Consciousness* (1997); *Brainchildren (Representation and Mind)* (1998); *Freedom Evolves* (2003); *Sweet Dreams: Philosophical Obstacles to a Science of Consciousness* (2005); *Breaking the Spell: Religion as a Natural Phenomenon* (2006); *Neuroscience and Philosophy: Brain, Mind, and Language* (2007); *Science and Religion* (2010); *Intuition Pumps And Other Tools for Thinking* (2013); *Caught in the Pulpit: Leaving Belief Behind* (2013); *From Bacteria to Bach and Back: The Evolution of Minds* (2017)

Dennett on *Evolution of Consciousness* at the World Economic Forum in Davos, 2018; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbOP0IKpsZ0>

All are welcome

Johan F Storm

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<http://bevissthetsforum.no>



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