

Understanding Computational Models of Mind

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The so-called computational theory of mind claims that mental processes are computational processes. After explaining how this claim should be understood, I consider the popular view that it is just a metaphor to speak of the mind as a computer. I argue that this view is mistaken: computationalism, if true, implies that the human mind is a computer in the same sense that iPads and hand calculators are computers. I then consider how computational explanations of cognitive capacities are constrained by our commonsense conception of ourselves, and how computationalism puts pressure on the very idea of mind.