



Title: Unified Self or Network of Selves?

Bio: Prof. Dr. Dr. Thomas Fuchs, psychiatrist and philosopher, is Karl Jaspers Professor of Philosophy and Psychiatry at Heidelberg University, Germany. His main areas of research include phenomenological philosophy and psychopathology, embodied and enactive cognitive science, and interactive concepts of social cognition. His clinical work focuses on the psychopathology and psychotherapy of affective and schizophrenic disorders.

Fuchs' research on the phenomenology of body, space, temporality, and intersubjectivity in healthy and psychopathological states has particular relevance for the analysis of schizophrenic self-disorders, the experience of body and time in depression, borderline disorder and dementia. His conceptualization of schizophrenia as a "disembodiment" also led to the implementation of body-oriented therapy methods for the treatment of schizophrenia.

Prof. Fuchs has been Coordinator of several national and international research projects, among them the European Marie-Curie Research Training Networks "Disorders and Coherence of the Embodied Self" (2007-2011) and "Towards an Embodied Science of Intersubjectivity" (2011-2016), the National Research Project "Knowledge through interaction. On the development of knowing persons, objects and self" (2012-2015), the Heidelberg Excellence Project "Embodiment as Paradigm for an Evolutionary Cultural Anthropology" (2012-2019), and currently the DFG-funded national research project "Familiarity and Trust".

Professor [Fuchs](#) has authored about 400 journal articles, book chapters and several books. He is editor-in-chief of "Psychopathology" and president of the German Society of Phenomenological Anthropology and Psychopathology (DGAP).

Ecology of the Brain. The Phenomenology and Biology of the Embodied Mind. Oxford University Press, 2018.

In Defense of the Human Being. Foundational Questions of an Embodied Anthropology. Oxford University Press, 2021.

thomas.fuchs@urz.uni-heidelberg.de

www.thomas-fuchs.uni-hd.de (engl.)

Abstract : Contrary to the classical idea of a unified core of the human person, concepts of a multiply composed self or a "network of selves" (Gallagher 2024) have been increasingly proposed in recent times. Such a network manifests itself in different functions and dimensions of self-awareness, including, for example, a bodily (interoceptive and proprioceptive) sense of self, a basic sense of self over time, a sense of agency, sensorimotor or ecological self-awareness, and a narrative or biographical self. However, it remains unclear whether a central integration of these different dimensions of the self is necessary or whether they can also be thought of as a loose association or network. With regard to the rehabilitation of stroke patients and Kurt Goldstein's related concept of the self-actualization of the organism, I will argue that an integration of self-related functions is necessary to explain these adaptive and rebalancing achievements of the organism.