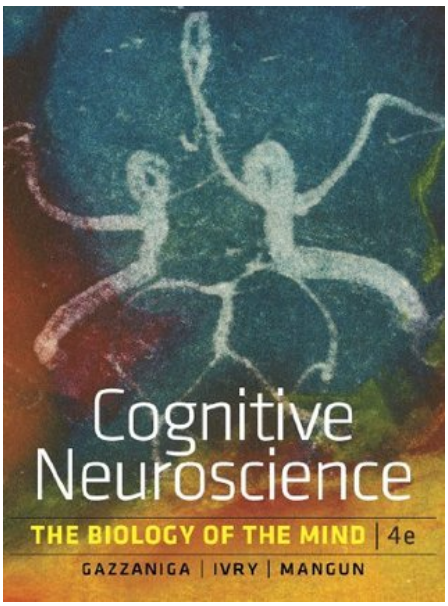

Cognitive Neuroscience: The Biology of the Mind

Michael S. Gazzaniga

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Cognitive Neuroscience: The Biology of the Mind Michael S. Gazzaniga
Modeled on the classic Neuroscience Study Program volumes which helped define an evolving field, The Cognitive Neurosciences is a major new reference that documents and defines the emerging field of cognitive neuroscience. The ninety-two original contributions provide comprehensive coverage - from the molecular level right up to human conscious experience - of one of the most interesting areas of modern science, namely the relationship between the structural and physiological mechanisms of the brain/nervous system and the psychological reality of mind. "Sections and section editors": Molecular and Cellular Plasticity, Ira Black. Neural and Psychological Development, Pasko Rakic. Sensory Systems, Colin Blakemore and J. Anthony Movshon. Strategies and Planning: Motor Systems, Emilio Bizzi. Attention, Michael Posner. Memory, Endel Tulving. Language, Steven Pinker. Thought and Imagery, Stephen M. Kosslyn. Emotion, Joseph E. LeDoux. Evolutionary Perspectives, Leda Cosmides and John Tooby. Consciousness, Daniel L. Schacter.

"An extremely valuable handbook. Not only is its scope adequate to the challenge of this rapidly growing young discipline, but the focus is clear: intelligible, up-to-date theories of mental processes are grounded in the latest findings of the brain sciences. The integration provided in this handbook lays a foundation for the next generation of cognitive neuroscientists."
-- George A. Miller, James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor of Psychology Emeritus, Princeton University.

"The Cognitive Neurosciences" is a wonderfully comprehensive and up-to-date collection of authoritative articles. Istrongly recommend it to anyone who hopes to keep abreast with this fast-moving area of scientific enquiry--relating the brain and mind."
-- Sir Roger Penrose, FRS, Rouse Ball, Professor of Mathematics, University of Oxford.

"At last--a source book in Cognitive Neuroscience for our students! And for ourselves! This much needed book contains a thoughtful selection of reviews from all areas relevant to current research. [...] Michael Gazzaniga and his colleagues should be congratulated for an outstanding job."
-- Eric R. Kandel, M.D. University Professor, Center for Neurobiology, Columbia University

A Bradford Book

Cognitive Neuroscience: The Biology of the Mind Details

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From Reader Review Cognitive Neuroscience: The Biology of the Mind for online ebook

Dorothée says

Great as just a book to read, but I really disliked it as a textbook as it doesn't have a clear structure or aesthetic features that facilitate studying it. Also, it could have explored the theory behind many of the experiments and case studies presented instead of using them as a starting point for guiding the book.

Felicia says

It was an awesome read! Got me a 99% on the psych GRE for cognitive neuroscience portion.

Harjot says

excellant

Jordan says

This rating is for the third edition.

The third addition is absolutely amazing. I am an autodidact and was able to comprehend most the material on my own. It is very accessible, yet still packed with knowledge. Out of the 600+ pages, not one page was a filler. Great book

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Mel says

Comprehensive, sometimes a little too much. Great chapter summaries and take home messages that succinctly cover what the chapters had done in a sometimes convoluted way. I suppose though that this is beneficial to different types of learning.

Cristina says

Great textbook for undergrad cog neuro.

Jade says

Cognitieve neuroscience is a relatively recently developed academic field that seeks to explain the underlying biological/neural processes of mental processes (or cognition) in humans. In doing so, it overlaps with many different disciplines, most of them originating from psychology and neuroscience. Cognitive Neuroscience: The Biology of the Mind is an academic textbook that attempts to show a complete overview of contemporary findings in its field, and provides its reader with a heavy chunk of information gathered by three well-known cognitive neuroscientists (Gazzaniga, Ivry, and Mangun).

It is as cutting edge as the cover says it is, and often updated and republished in new versions with brand new information added to its large bulks of text. This review is about the current third edition, which includes chapters on the following subjects: (1) A brief history of cognitive neuroscience, (2) Cellular mechanisms and cognition, (3) Neuroanatomy and development, (4) Methods of cognitive neuroscience, (5) Sensation and perception, (6) Object recognition, (7) The control of action, (8) Learning and memory, (9) Emotion, (10) Language, (11) Hemispheric specialization, (12) Attention and Consciousness, (13) Cognitive control, (14) Social cognition, and (15) Evolutionary perspectives.

As one can see, next to very specific and advanced level chapters, this book doesn't skip out on the basics, either. Though I would recommend courses on biological psychology, neuroscience, and/or cognitive psychology, with a bit of determination and devotion, readers new to the material could pick up all the information they need just from this book alone. As far as basics are concerned, it is especially clear on neural structure and cellular mechanisms, and perhaps even explains it better than other books I've read on the subject.

Despite its heavy and advanced level of information, this textbook doesn't really read like one's normal, everyday university textbook. It's more of a narrative, and its texts flow really well. Starting off each chapter with an interesting case example, the authors then dive further and further in the underlying mechanisms that cause the case study's current state, exploring both the cognitive processes and the biology of it step by step. This makes it easy to follow, even for undergraduates, and therefore more comprehensive (and more successful as an academic textbook, too, in my opinion).

To help support its narrative texts, this particular book includes a lot of colourful illustrations of models, diagrams, schemas – and also photos of patients, case studies, and many a picture of an EEG recording or an fMRI scan. This not only aids the reader in absorbing the material and in understanding it better, but it also makes for quite an attractive book to look at.

Complete and dense, Cognitive Neuroscience: The Biology of the Mind definitely does provide its readers with everything they need to know on the subject, including some of the basics and a lot of contemporary research/findings. However, its completeness and density make for some heavy reading, and though I very much enjoyed its narrative style, all of that taken together can hinder a reader when, for example, studying for exams. It's sometimes a little difficult to pick the text apart and find short, easy conclusions to cram away with; even its 'take home messages' at the end of each chapter are a bit longwinded.

Even so, one of the absolute best books I've read in my academic career up until now. Rarely have I seen an academic textbook that felt so complete without getting too dry and boring; this one is almost a page-turner in some ways.

Recommended for anybody interested in the field of cognitive neuroscience, looking for a comprehensive

guide to all aspects of the field – which also includes many extras such as the biological basics, background information on both prominent scientists in the field and their case study examples, and a historic narrative of the field’s development.

Fuzzball Baggins says

A good overview of a bunch of brain related topics - language, vision, hemispheres, how the brain evolved, problem solving, and probably some other ones that I've forgotten :P

Ryan Young says

Perfect for hard-science averse psychology majors. But if you are reasonably intelligent, I would recommend a more nuanced treatment.

Alex says

Hét naslagwerk voor iedereen die zich in de neurowetenschappen wil verdiepen.

Lenka says

Love it, love it, love it!
I haven't read the whole book yet though - it was one of my course books at the uni. Very nicely written, easy to understand, with handy summaries in the end of each chapter, and lots of pictures of course - quite important with those kind of books :P

Tim Petersik says

Wow! Clear and comprehensive. This is the best textbook treatment of the field that I've seen.
