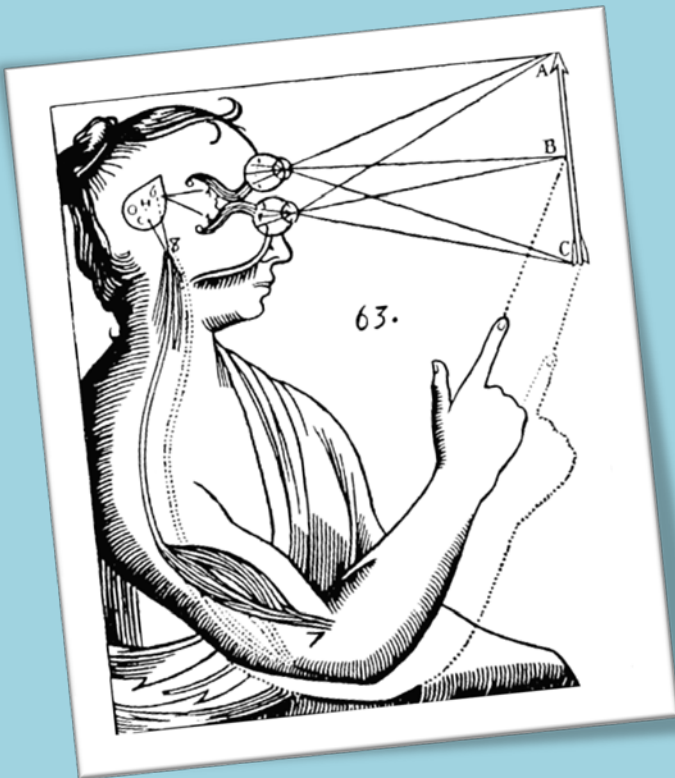


GWU Department of Philosophy presents the 2011 Thacher Lecture

Dr. Shaun Nichols, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Arizona

On the psychological origins of dualism: Dual-process cognition and the explanatory gap



Friday, February 25th

4:00PM

MPA Building Rm 309

805 21st Street, NW

Shaun Nichols is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Arizona. He has published widely at the intersection of philosophy and psychology. He is the author of *Sentimental Rules: On the Natural Foundations of Moral Judgment*, and co-author (with Stephen Stich) of *Mindreading: An Integrated Account of Pretense, Self-awareness and Understanding Other Minds*.

Abstract: Consciousness often presents itself as a problem for materialists because no matter which physical explanation we consider, there seems to remain something about conscious experience that hasn't been fully explained. This gives rise to an apparent explanatory gap. The explanatory gulf between the physical and the conscious is reflected in the broader population, in which dualistic intuitions abound. Drawing on recent empirical evidence, this essay presents a dual-process cognitive model of consciousness attribution. This dual-process model, we suggest, provides an important part of the explanation for why dualism is so attractive and the explanatory gap so vexing.