

Humboldt Kolleg

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Global Challenges of the 21st Century

1) *Technological development and human health/ quality of life*

2) *Climate change and environmental sustainability*

3) *Democracy and cohesion in Europe*

Understanding Agency

While much intellectual energy has been expended on trying to understand the nature and workings of the mind, less attention has been paid to issues relating to the minds of *others* – at least in analytic philosophy. While some have struggled to move away from a Cartesian (or purely internalist) conception of mind by acknowledging the role of the body and environment of the subject, few have acknowledged the key role played by others. In this paper I will outline an account of understanding of agency that includes reference to others, and which takes to heart the idea that we know others as *persons*.

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