

Note to Advanced Seminar participants

In “Formation of the Concept of Mind,” *Objectivity* (1993), Vol. 1, No. 6 (available online: pacific.telebyte.com/~jp5), I argue that you must form the concept of mind by cognitively integrating two or more--that is, your own and other minds. That article draws on the widely accepted principle that abstract ideas “have their foundation in the similitude of things” (Locke *Essay* 3.3.13). It reintegrates related scientific research findings, outlining the developmental progression from early childhood learning about such actions as seeing, thinking, remembering and dreaming to explicit conceptual knowledge of minds.

In the present article for The Objectivist Center’s Sixth Annual Advanced Seminar, I focus on the changes in your awareness that occur when you reach the concept of mind. I do this because thinkers, in efforts to validate or account for the derivation of this concept, have often mistaken their postintegrative awareness for their starting point. I then briefly restate the philosophical argument of “Formation” and finally address three types of objections which are sometimes made.

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May 20, 2004