

Fallowfield,
Manor Close,
Manor Road,
Penn,
Buckinghamshire,
England.

6th April, 1982.

Professor Mario Bunge,
Foundations and Philosophy of Science Unit,
McGill University,
3479 Peel Street,
Montreal PQ,
Canada H3A 1W7.

Dear Mario,

Thank you very much for your letter of 19th February 1982. I am still of the opinion that you have not thought seriously about the elaborate arguments for my conjectures concerning World 3. It seems to me that evolutionary developments have produced novel entities (in this we agree) and some of them (here we disagree) I should classify under the headings of World 2 and World 3. The novelty of these entities consists in their non-existence prior to certain evolutionary processes. But the main reason for classifying them separately is that they have apparently acquired a certain kind and degree of autonomy relative to the physical world. I say "apparently" because I may, of course, be mistaken about the "reality" of this autonomy. Thus you may say that there are underlying physical determinants behind the apparent autonomy. I doubt that either side in this controversy can bring to bear the kind of evidence ^{that is} used in support of or against scientific theories. For this reason I resort to arguments in support of our metaphysical conjectures about questions of existence. In so doing neither Eccles nor I in any way "...render neuroscience and physiological psychology powerless." On the contrary, Eccles is getting constantly exciting new results.

However, all this is in so far unimportant as you just ignore the closely reasoned arguments in two of my books.

You complain that I do the same with your books. No: I have read them, and they fall under the arguments of Objective Knowledge and The Self and Its Brain. I think you are wrong, but I do not wish to say so in public.

Kind regards and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Karl Popper

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