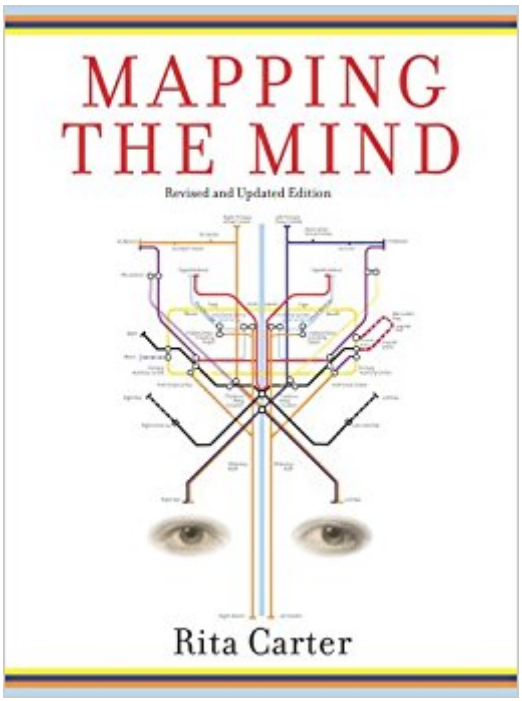
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Mapping The Mind



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Synopsis

Today a brain scan reveals our thoughts and moods as clearly as an X-ray reveals our bones. We can actually observe a personÃ¢â ¬â„¢s brain registering a joke or experiencing a painful memory. In Mapping the Mind, award-winning journalist Rita Carter draws on the latest imaging technology and science to chart how human behavior and personality reflect the biological mechanisms behind thought and emotion. This acclaimed book, a complete visual guide to the coconut-sized, wrinkled gray mass we carry around inside our heads, has now been completely revised and updated throughout. Among many other topics, Carter explores obsessions and addictions, the differences between menÃ¢â ¬â„¢s and womenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s brains, and memory.• Comprehensively updated for this edition with the latest research, case studies, and contributions from distinguished scientists• Addresses recent controversies over behavior prediction and prevention• Includes new information on mirror neurons, unconscious cognition, and abnormalities in attention spans

Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: University of California Press; Rev Upd edition (August 18, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520266285

ISBN-13: 978-0520266285

Product Dimensions: 7.8 x 0.7 x 10.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 81 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #85,086 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 inÃ Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Anthropology > Physical #87 inÃ Â Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Medicine > Basic Sciences > Neuroscience #422 inÃ Â Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Anthropology

Customer Reviews

Twice awarded the Medical JournalistsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ Association prize, Rita Carter is a science and medical writer based in the United Kingdom. She is the author of Exploring Consciousness (UC Press) and Multiplicity: The New Science of Personality, Identity, and the Self, among other books.

I had recently read "The Developing Mind" by Dan Siegel (an excellent but slow reading book

because it is crammed with interesting data). I decided I wanted a book where I could visualize what goes on in what parts of the brain. This book is it: Great pictures and comprehensive easy-to-read summaries of the functions of all parts of the brain.

When I purchased this book, it was based in large part with my fascination on the topic of the human mind and neurology in general. I'd taken a few classes here and there in Anatomy & Physiology during my first few years in college, but by in large I was definitely a novice when I read this book and was not very familiar with the vast field of neuroscience. What I liked the most about Rita Carter's Mapping the Mind is how introduction-friendly ad visually pleasing it is for those that aren't in the field but are fascinated like I am by the human mind. You don't have to be a neurologist to enjoy how Rita Carter lays out the current research (as of 2000) on various workings and issues regarding the human mind.With the above being said, now on to the good stuff! Rita Carter and neuropsychologist Christopher Firth put on an excellent show of presenting just how our personalities are shaped by biology and how different behavioral disorders can be traced back to the individual areas of ones brain. Carter presents many fascinating topics such as obsessions, compulsions, autism , what makes serial killers/convicted felons tick, addictions, dyslexia, ADD, depression, mania, and mood swings. Furthermore, there is even a compelling article on how researchers in a Canadian institution even managed to generate religious feelings/beliefs just by stimulating a region in the brain. As others have mentioned, the most interesting articles in the book come from the numerous experts in the fields of human psychology and neuroscience and add a nice depth to the overall books presented research and information.Mapping The Mind also presents some very interesting questions on the future of human ethics and morality. For example, if some human beings can't help what they do in that they are "hard-wired" for certain types of behavior and actions, then are they truly responsible for their actions? It is a very tough question to answer but one that is intriguing to think about in the event that one day criminals could very well be exonerated by brain scans and different imaging techniques alone. As I mentioned above also, is religion merely a portion of our minds that happens to be just a simulation? If scientists can stimulate an area of a brain causing even atheists to momentarily have religious thoughts, what does that imply about our society and religion?My only qualm (and this irritated the hell out of me for some reason, lol) is that the articles that were from various experts in the field of neurology would be inserted RIGHT in the middle of what you were reading more often than not. I would be reading an interesting section of a chapter and then this article would be plastered right on the next page or even during the sentence of the section I was trying to read. I'd then have to skip over the article

that was in my way and then continue my section on the next page and THEN read the inserted article. It is a minor quip to be certain but I generally like to finish the particular portion I'm reading before going on to the inserted research articles in that particular chapter. So call it 4.5 stars with half a star for poor article placement.Whether you're an expert in this field or a novice and inquiring mind like I was, I recommend you pick up a copy of this book. It's $20 well-spent in my opinion :)-Travis

This book opens up a series of new streams of analysis for me. Over the last 1 month, I have become keenly interested in wanting to know how the human mind works. Rita Mayer's book gives a detailed overview of this landscape. The book has opened up absolutely new territory for me and I have bought 10 other books that take me in the directions of consciousness, language faculty and ethics. This is a lean-forward book. It requires the non-specialised reader's deep attention. But, for a serious book, it is unputdownable! Over the last 1 week, every day after work, I eagerly looked forward to reading it. Highly recommended as a start to the journey of understanding the Mind

This is one of the best book I read on the rapidly evolving field of neuroscience. This book is not about psychology or psychological experiments, but presented facts based on actual investigation of the human brain. For example a large part of the book is based on investigating behavior changes on patients with very specific brain injuries or diseases.

Great review of neurophysiology, of interest also to non-medical people and to everybody interested in how the brain works. The book provides a solid scientific foundations to the function of the mind in normal and diseased states. Scientifically sound, yet well written, accessible and fascinating,

As a graduate student in the architecture program, I needed to find something which had a solid base of information on the brain while also being user friendly to someone who hasn't had a lot of time and history in this area of study. So far as I have been trying to work on projects and architectural theory which address the brain, this book has been invaluable in giving me a foundation to work off of and begin getting more specific on particular subject matter which is relative to my work.

This is a wonderful primer in neuroscience that I use in the courses I teach. Succinct, precise and easily understandable

Mapping the Mind is a comfortable and engaging introduction into what is known so far about how the brain works. You will learn (or review) the different parts of the brain, their place in human evolution, and the role of each in the myriad of activities and abilities we all take for granted. Revealing case studies are cited of how damage to a particular part of the brain may impair the sufferer in a very specific and sometimes bizarre way. Carter poses pointed questions about human free will, and to what extent we really have such. This book is a good launchpad for further reading on the brain, e.g. by Damasio and Ramachandran. The illustrations all have a surrealistic, computer-generated look about them which doesn't entirely appeal to me, but does help unify the overall page design. Most are clear, but for some it may take a while to establish the orientation - L to R, R to L, or looking up from underneath. Actually, I would give this book four and a half stars; there are various glitches of editing, like repeated material in the same chapter, and some very minor typos and formatting quirks. And the prose takes on just a faint shade of purple here and there, in the spirit of Diane Ackerman (_A Natural History of the Senses_), though I realize this was part of Carter's effort at enhanced readability, and mostly it comes off OK. Overall, this book is a good plunge to take if you're interested in yourself and why and how you do what you do - and who isn't?

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