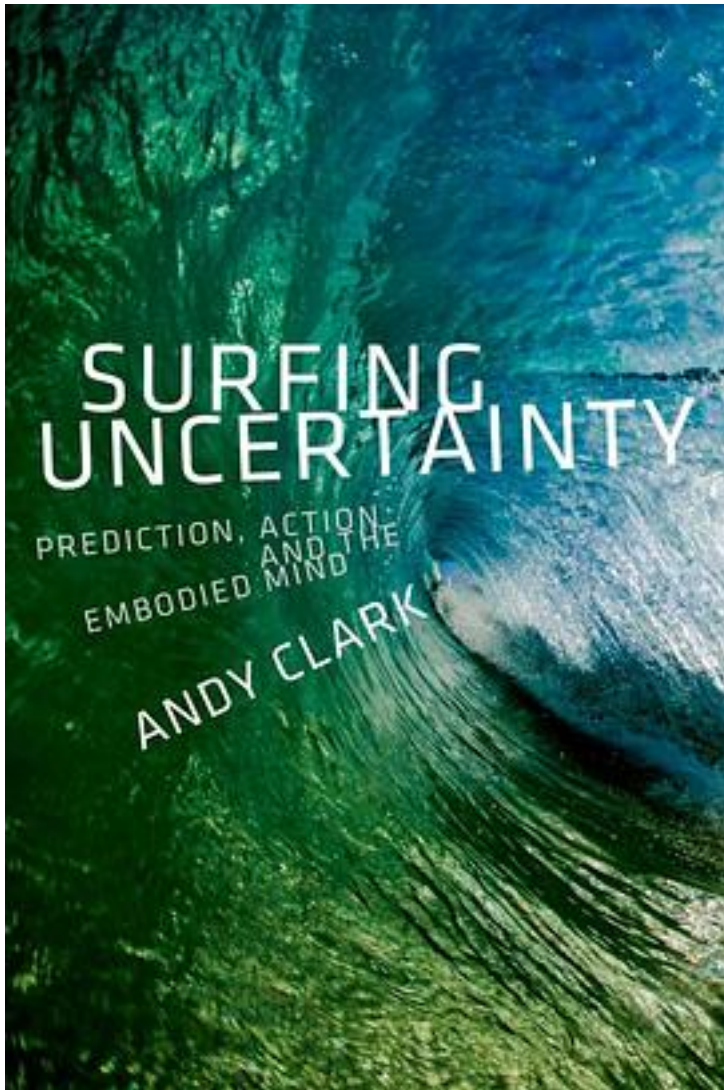


Surfing Uncertainty



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出版者:OUP USA

出版时间:2016-1-7

装帧:Hardcover

isbn:9780190217013

In this ground-breaking work, philosopher and cognitive scientist Andy Clark turns a common view of the human mind upside down. In stark opposition to familiar models of human cognition, *Surfing Uncertainty* explores exciting new theories in neuroscience, psychology, and artificial intelligence that reveal minds like ours to be prediction machines—devices that have evolved to anticipate the incoming streams of sensory stimulation before they arrive. This keeps minds like ours a few steps ahead of the game, poised to respond rapidly and apparently effortlessly to threats and opportunities as (and sometimes even before) they arise.

Creatures thus equipped are more than simple response machines. They are knowing agents deep in the business of understanding their worlds. Such agents cope with changing and uncertain worlds by combining sensory evidence with informed prediction. Remarkably, the learning that makes neural prediction possible can itself be accomplished by the ceaseless effort to make better and better predictions. A single fundamental trick (the trick of trying to predict your own sensory inputs) thus enables learning, empowers moment-by-moment perception, and installs a rich understanding of the surrounding world.

Action itself now appears in a new and revealing light. For action is not so much a 'response to an input' as a neat and efficient way of selecting the next 'input'. As mobile embodied agents we are forever intervening, actively bringing about the very streams of sensory information that our brains are simultaneously trying to predict. This binds perception and action in a delicate dance, a virtuous circle in which neural circuits animate, and are animated by, the movements of our own bodies. Some of our actions, in turn, structure the physical, social, and technological worlds around us. This moves the goalposts by altering the very things we need to engage and predict.

Surfing Uncertainty brings work on the predictive brain into full and satisfying contact with work on the embodied and culturally situated mind. What emerges is a bold new vision of what brains do that places circular causal flows and the active structuring of the environment, center-stage. In place of cognitive couch potatoes idly awaiting the next sensory inputs, Clark's journey reveals us as proactive predictavores, skilfully surfing the waves of sensory stimulation.

作者介绍:

Andy Clark is Professor of Logic and Metaphysics in the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, at Edinburgh University in Scotland. He is the author of *Being There: Putting Brain, Body And World Together Again* (1997), *Mindware* (OUP, 2nd Edition 2014), *Natural-Born Cyborgs: Minds, Technologies and the Future of Human Intelligence* (OUP, 2003), and *Supersizing the Mind: Embodiment, Action, and Cognitive Extension* (OUP, 2008). His interests include artificial intelligence, embodied cognition, robotics, and the predictive mind.

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标签

认知科学哲学

Philosophy

哲学-A_Clark

人工智能

Psychologia

Philosophia

Gradschool

评论

算是久负盛名吧，于是在读书小组的压力下看了这货的一系列著作。感觉太糟糕了。最讨厌做科哲但是对相关的研究没有基本尊重，靠着挑自己喜欢的研究瞎编乱造一个理论的学人。

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书评

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