

Prof. Dr. Yasuo Deguchi

Program-Specific Professor

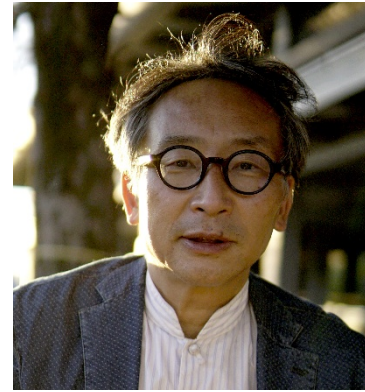
Kyoto University

Institute for the Future of Human Society

Inamori Center, 46 Yoshidashimoadachicho, Sakyo Ward,

Kyoto

606-8501, JAPAN



WE-turn of Vision

Abstract

This presentation seeks to reconsider what vision is from the perspective that understands cognition in general as the self-monitoring of somatic action. Cognitive agents, including humans, often perform somatic actions toward specific objects with some purpose within an external environment, much like a cheetah sprinting across the savanna in pursuit of a gazelle. To execute such somatic actions appropriately, it is necessary to monitor in real-time one's own body, the object, the environment, as well as the ever-changing relationships between them. Let us call cognition as monitoring for the smooth execution of such somatic action "cognition for action." On the other hand, a specialized and derivative form of this "cognition for action" is "action for cognition"—a somatic action performed to perceive a specific object under a certain environment, such as cutting-edge life imaging using an optical microscope. In this "action for cognition," information regarding the environment and the body is regarded as a distracting factor that introduces bias into information about the object; nevertheless, both types of cognition are the same in that they—whether liked or not—take the entire system consisting of the environment, body, object, and the relationships between them as the object of cognition. In addition to this holistic view of cognition, this presentation, based on the philosophical position of the "WE-turn" proposed by the speaker, regards the subject of the somatic action of cognition as the entire system of environment, body, and object called "WE." Based on this, this paper argues that general cognition, including vision, is nothing other than reflexive self-monitoring by "WE" as the subject of somatic action toward that "WE" itself.

CV

Research Interests

- Analytic Asian Philosophy
- Philosophy of Science (esp. Statistics, Simulation)
- Metaphysics & Logic (Dialetheism, Paraconsistency)
- Japanese Philosophy (Kyoto School, Dōgen, Nishida Kitarō)
- Applied Philosophy & Ethics (Dual-Use, AI Ethics, Well-being)

Academic Appointments

- Program-Specific Professor, Kyoto University Institute for the Future of Human Society, April 2026 – Present
- Dean, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University, April 2024 – March 2026

- Professor, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University, April 2015 – March 2026
 - Vice President, Institute for the Future of Human Society, Kyoto University, April 2022 – March 2025
 - Trustee's Special Advisor (Strategic Planning) & Vice Provost, Kyoto University, Nov 2017 – March 2024
 - Associate Professor, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University, April 2002 – March 2015
 - Lecturer, Nagoya Institute of Technology, Faculty of Engineering, Oct 1998 – March 2002
-

Other Professional Leadership

Co-Chairperson, Kyoto Institute of Philosophy (General Incorporated Association), July 2023 – Present