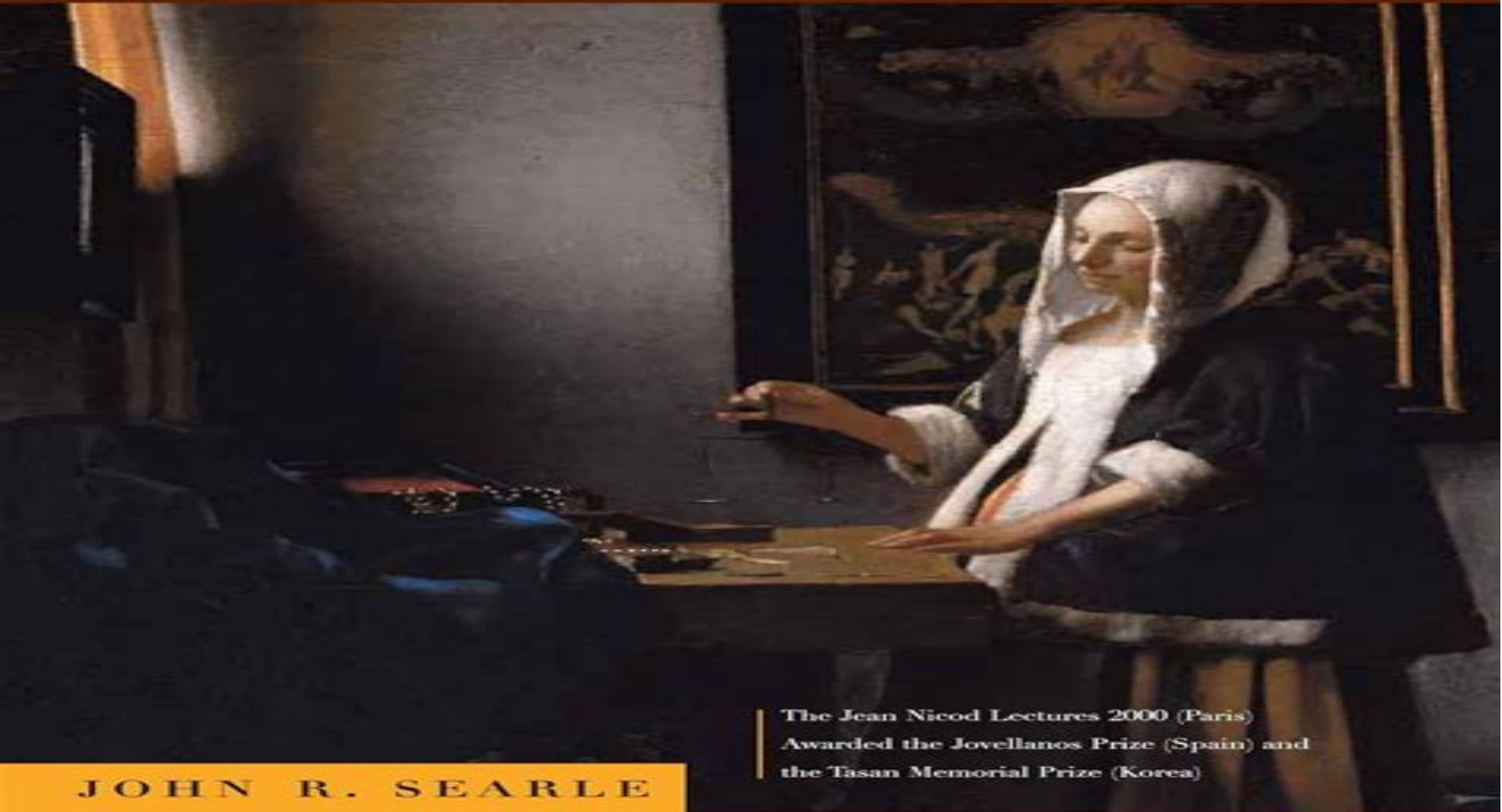


# *Rationality in Action*



JOHN R. SEARLE

The Jean Nicod Lectures 2000 (Paris)  
Awarded the Jovellanos Prize (Spain) and  
the Tasan Memorial Prize (Korea)

# Rationality In Action

**Stephen D. Parsons**



## **Rationality In Action:**

**Rationality in Action** John R. Searle, 2003-01-24 The study of rationality and practical reason or rationality in action has been central to Western intellectual culture. In this invigorating book John Searle lays out six claims of what he calls the Classical Model of rationality and shows why they are false. He then presents an alternative theory of the role of rationality in thought and action. A central point of Searle's theory is that only irrational actions are directly caused by beliefs and desires, for example the actions of a person in the grip of an obsession or addiction. In most cases of rational action there is a gap between the motivating desire and the actual decision making. The traditional name for this gap is freedom of the will. According to Searle, all rational activity presupposes free will. For rationality is possible only where one has a choice among various rational as well as irrational options. Unlike many philosophical tracts *Rationality in Action* invites the reader to apply the author's ideas to everyday life. Searle shows, for example, that contrary to the traditional philosophical view, weakness of will is very common. He also points out the absurdity of the claim that rational decision making always starts from a consistent set of desires. Rational decision making, he argues, is often about choosing between conflicting reasons for action. In fact, humans are distinguished by their ability to be rationally motivated by desire-independent reasons for action. Extending his theory of rationality to the self, Searle shows how rational deliberation presupposes an irreducible notion of the self. He also reveals the idea of free will to be essentially a thesis of how the brain works. *Rationality in Action* Paul K.

Moser, 1990-10-26 An anthology of previously published pieces that have proven long-term importance to theoretical work in rational action. *Rational Action* Ross Harrison, 1979 This volume is concerned with the concepts of rationality, belief, and desire in the explanation and evaluation of human action. *Brute Rationality* Joshua Gert, 2004-08-19 This book presents an account of normative practical reasons and the way in which they contribute to the rationality of action. Rather than simply counting in favour of actions, normative reasons play two logically distinct roles: requiring action and justifying action. The distinction between these two roles explains why some reasons do not seem relevant to the rational status of an action unless the agent cares about them, while other reasons retain all their force regardless of the agent's attitude. It also explains why the class of rationally permissible action is wide enough to contain not only all morally required action but also much selfish and immoral action. The book will appeal to a range of readers interested in practical reason in particular and moral theory more generally.

**Knowledge and Rational Action** Roman Heil, 2025-07-23 This book motivates and systematically develops the view that knowledge should be at the centre of our theory of practical rationality. Only act on what you know: the book offers the first comprehensive defence of this slogan in the form of a knowledge-based decision theory. The proposed view is shown to be the most straightforward explanation of emerging bodies of evidence for a link between knowledge and rational action. The book provides novel solutions to well-known challenges that invoke high-stakes scenarios, seemingly rational actions based on reasonable but false beliefs, and decision making under risk and uncertainty. The emerging view

brings together traditional and formal approaches to epistemology and the study of practical rationality The resulting knowledge based decision theory is embedded in a rich normative landscape encompassing innovative accounts of excuses rational acceptance and the simplification of reasoning Knowledge and Rational Action will be of great interest to researchers and graduate students interested in epistemology practical rationality and decision theory *Money, Time, and Rationality in Max Weber* Stephen D. Parsons,2003 Parsons argues that Weber s analysis is highly influenced by the Austrian School of Economics and the relationship between his critique of centrally planned economies and that of Mises This book is a valuable contribution to Weberian literature Rationality Standards of Social Life Zbigniew Drozdowicz,2013 The standards of rationality are treated in this book as certain regulators of social life They are compared to the rudders of the great vessels constituted by social communities The diversity exhibited by those standards do not only result from the differences of time and space of their implementation but also from the differences in the sets of ideas put forward by the leading social thinkers accompanied by the different characteristics of their designated audiences Series Development in Humanities Vol 7 Marx, Durkheim, Weber Ken Morrison,2006-08-11 This Second Edition is a thoroughly revised expanded version of the bestselling student text in classical social theory Author Kenneth Morrison provides an authoritative accessible undergraduate guide to the three pivotal figures in the classical tradition Readable and stimulating the Second Edition of Marx Durkheim Weber Formations of Modern Social Thought explains the key ideas of these thinkers and situates them in their historical and philosophical contexts Action, Intention, and Reason Robert Audi,2019-01-24 For the first time Robert Audi presents in Action Intention and Reason a full version of his theory of the nature explanation freedom and rationality of human action Ove the years Audi has set out in journal articles different aspects of a unified theory of action This volume offers the unity of a single seamless book with thirteen self contained chapters two of them previously unpublished and a new overview of action theory and the book s contribution to it The book is divided into four parts each addressing a major problem area The chapters in Part One describe the motivational grounds of action explicate desire belief intention and volition and give a distinctive account of their interconnections In the second part Audi sets out a theory of the explanation of action and argues that actions can be both law governed and performed for reasons The third part provides an account of free action and its relation to causation and responsibility Chapters in the fourth and final part construct an account of rational action and its connections with practical reasoning self deception and weakness of will Risk, Uncertainty and Rational Action Carlo C. Jaeger,Thomas Webler,Eugene A. Rosa,Ortwin Renn,2013-11-05 Risk as we now know it is a wholly new phenomenon the by product of our ever more complex and powerful technologies In business policy making and in everyday life it demands a new way of looking at technological and environmental uncertainty In this definitive volume four of the world s leading risk researchers present a fundamental critique of the prevailing approaches to understanding and managing risk the rational actor paradigm They show how risk studies must incorporate the competing

interests values and rationalities of those involved and find a balance of trust and acceptable risk Their work points to a comprehensive and significant new theory of risk and uncertainty and of the decision making process they require The implications for social political and environmental theory and practice are enormous Winner of the 2000 2002 Outstanding Publication Award of the Section on Environment and Technology of the American Sociological Association *Rationality, Humility, and Spirituality in Christian Life* Dennis Hiebert,2020-02-27 As Euro American culture turns resolutely away from religiosity toward spirituality and becomes increasingly post Christian the ordinary everyday practice of Christian life is ever more questioned and in need of scrutiny In this interdisciplinary analysis Christians are first called to comprehend the excessive rationality that modernity has built into both the cognitive and organizational structure of contemporary Christian life They are then summoned to personify an authentic attitude of humility and in particular the virtue of intellectual humility that is most challenged and tested by religious convictions Going forward Christians are subsequently invited to live their faith more as an internally differentiated and open spirituality rather than an externally determined and regulated religiosity When we exhaust our rationality and are confronted with its limitations we are humbled by our finitude and animated by our spirituality **Purposive Interaction in Multi-Actor Decision Making** Jos Timmermans,2004 Rational Action Ross Harrison,2010-06-24 This volume is concerned with the concepts of rationality belief and desire in the explanation and evaluation of human action Introduction to Sociological Theory Michele Dillon,2009-09-22 Combining carefully chosen primary quotes with extensive discussion and everyday illustrative examples this book provides an in depth introduction to classical and contemporary theory Uses a wide range of newspaper examples to illustrate the relevance to sociological theory Contains excerpts from theorists primary texts Includes chapter specific glossaries of all theoretical concepts discussed in the book Short biographies and historical timelines of significant events provide context to various theorists ideas Incorporates a range of pedagogical features Supporting website includes multiple choice and essay questions PowerPoint slides a quotation bank and other background materials Visit [www.wiley.com/go/dillon](http://www.wiley.com/go/dillon) for additional student and instructor resources **Teachers' Minds And Actions** Gunnar Handal,Sveinung Vaage,2005-07-19 Based on the 10th International Study Association on Teacher Thinking and Practice Conference in Gothenburg this collection of research conducted by scholars from Europe North America Israel and Hong Kong provides an overview of the current *Rational Powers in Action* Sergio Tenenbaum,2020 *Rational Powers in Action* presents a conception of instrumental rationality as governing actions that are extended in time with indeterminate ends Tenenbaum argues that previous philosophical theories in this area in focusing on momentary snapshots of the mind of idealized agents miss central aspects of human rationality **Max Weber & Democratic Politics** Peter Breiner,1996 Breiner demonstrates the tension between the subjective and objective dimensions of Weber s logic of rationality and describes how Weber exploits this tension in judging the feasibility of social and political forms such as socialism radical democracy capitalism and the nation Practical Reasoning and Ethical

Decision Robert Audi, 2006-03-20 Presenting the most comprehensive and lucid account of the topic currently available Robert Audi's *Practical Reasoning and Ethical Decision* is essential reading for anyone interested in the role of reason in ethics or the nature of human action The first part of the book is a detailed critical overview of the influential theories of practical reasoning found in Aristotle Hume and Kant whilst the second part examines practical reasoning in the light of important topics in moral psychology weakness of will self deception rationalization and others In the third part Audi describes the role of moral principles in practical reasoning and clarifies the way practical reasoning underlies ethical decisions He formulates a comprehensive set of concrete ethical principles explains how they apply to reasoning about what to do and shows how practical reasoning guides moral conduct

The Limits of Rationality Rogers Brubaker, 2013-04-15 In *The Limits of Rationality* Rogers Brubaker explores the intimate and ambiguous interplay between Max Weber's empirical work and his moral vision between his historical and sociological analysis of the specific and peculiar rationalism of modern Western civilization and his deeply ambivalent moral response to that rationalism Weber's ideas about rationality are central to his sociological work and they are central to his moral perspective But these ideas are neither easily accessible nor easily understandable in part because Weber never systematized them in part because his work is usually encountered piecemeal and seldom studied in its entirety Brubaker reconstructs Weber's rich but fragmented discussion of rationalism and rationalization in a systematic fashion thereby illuminating his empirical and moral diagnosis of modernity a diagnosis that remains unsurpassed in pathos and analytical power

*Rational Belief* Robert Audi, 2015-07-01 *Rational Belief* provides conceptions of belief and knowledge offers a theory of how they are grounded and connects them with the will and thereby with action moral responsibility and intellectual virtue A unifying element is a commitment to representing epistemology which is centrally concerned with belief as integrated with a plausible philosophy of mind that does justice both to the nature of belief and to the conditions for its formation and regulation Part One centers on belief and its relation to the will It explores our control of our beliefs and it describes several forms belief may take and shows how beliefs are connected with the world outside the mind Part Two concerns normative aspects of epistemology explores the nature of intellectual virtue and presents a theory of moral perception The book also offers a theory of the grounds of both justification and knowledge and shows how these grounds bear on the self evident Rationality is distinguished from justification each clarified in relation to the other and the epistemological importance of the phenomenal for instance of intuitional experience and other private aspects of mental life is explored The final section addresses social epistemology It offers a theory of testimony as essential in human knowledge and a related account of the rational resolution of disagreements

## **Rationality In Action** Book Review: Unveiling the Power of Words

In some sort of driven by information and connectivity, the power of words has become more evident than ever. They have the capability to inspire, provoke, and ignite change. Such may be the essence of the book **Rationality In Action**, a literary masterpiece that delves deep in to the significance of words and their affect our lives. Published by a renowned author, this captivating work takes readers on a transformative journey, unraveling the secrets and potential behind every word. In this review, we will explore the book is key themes, examine its writing style, and analyze its overall impact on readers.

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