

Patricia Churchland

Quotes

*Brain, Analysis, Thinking, World, Understanding, Levels, Self, Doe, Differences,
Progress, Mind, Knowing, Mean, Sleep, Philosopher, Psychology, May,
Answers, Function, Atheist*

It is surely important that the differences between coma, deep sleep, being under anesthesia, on the one hand, and being alert on the other, all involve changes in the brain.

~Patricia Churchland

Brains are not magical; they are causal machines.

~Patricia Churchland

Humility bids us to take ourselves as we are; we do not have to be cosmically significant to be genuinely significant.

~Patricia Churchland

It seems that the brain has a "small world" architecture - or at least the cortex does. Everything can connect to everything else in a few synaptic steps.

~Patricia Churchland

Theorizing is of course essential to make progress in understanding, but theorizing in the absence of knowing available relevant facts is not very productive.

~Patricia Churchland

It seems probable that humans have been on the planet, with much the same brain, for about 250,000 years.

~Patricia Churchland

If you give up because you announce the phenomenon cannot be explained, you are missing out.

~Patricia Churchland

In all probability, mental states are processes and activities of the brain. Exactly what activities, and exactly at what level of description, remains to be seen.

~Patricia Churchland

Suppression of impulses that would put you in danger is obviously an important neurobiological function.

~Patricia Churchland

I am less attracted to guesses about what cannot be done, than about making progress on a problem.

~Patricia Churchland

When that theory is isolated from known facts, it is likely not to be productive.

~Patricia Churchland

When philosophers try to understand consciousness, much of what they claim is not conceptual analysis at all, though it may be shopped under that description.

~Patricia Churchland

Many philosophers in the second half of the 20th century really seemed to think that they were laying the foundations for science by laying down the conceptual (necessary) truths.

~Patricia Churchland

Even philosophers who did not mind psychology, claimed the brain was irrelevant because it was the hardware, and we only need to know about the software.

~Patricia Churchland

The neuroscience of consciousness is not going to stop in its tracks because some philosophers guesses that project cannot be productive.

~Patricia Churchland

Analyzing a concept can (perhaps) tell you what the concept means (at least means to some philosophers), but it does not tell you anything

about whether the concept is true of anything in the world.

~Patricia Churchland

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