John R. Searle has made profoundly influential contributions to three areas of philosophy: philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, and philosophy of society. This volume gathers together in accessible form a selection of his essays in these areas. They range widely across social ontology, where Searle presents concise and informative statements of positions developed in more detail elsewhere; Artificial Intelligence and cognitive science, where Searle assesses the current state of the debate and develops his most recent thoughts; and philosophy of language, where Searle connects ideas from various strands of his work in order to develop original answers to fundamental questions. There are also explorations of the limitations of phenomenological inquiry, the mind-body problem, and the nature and future of philosophy. This rich collection from one of America’s leading contemporary philosophers will be valuable for all who are interested in these central philosophical questions.

PHILOSOPHY IN A NEW CENTURY

Selected Essays

JOHN R. SEARLE

University of California, Berkeley
For Dagmar
Contents

Original place of publication of the essays page viii

Introduction 1

1 Philosophy in a new century 4

2 Social ontology: some basic principles (with a new addendum by the author) 26

3 The Turing Test: fifty-five years later 53

4 Twenty-one years in the Chinese Room 67

5 Is the brain a digital computer? 86

6 The phenomenological illusion 107

7 The self as a problem in philosophy and neurobiology 137

8 Why I am not a property dualist 152

9 Fact and value, “is” and “ought,” and reasons for action 161

10 The unity of the proposition 181

Name index 197

Subject index 199
Original place of publication of the essays


10 “The unity of the proposition,” previously unpublished.