Since its inception some fifty years ago, cognitive science has undergone a number of sea changes. Perhaps the best known is the development of connectionist models of cognition as alternatives to classical, symbol-based approaches. A more recent – and increasingly influential – trend is that of dynamical-systems-based, ecologically oriented models of the mind. Researchers suggest that a full understanding of the mind will require systematic study of the dynamics of interaction among mind, body, and world. Some argue that this new orientation calls for a revolutionary new metaphysics of mind, according to which mental states and processes, and even persons, literally extend into the environment.

The Cambridge Handbook of Situated Cognition is a state-of-the-art guide to this new movement in cognitive science. Each chapter tackles either a specific area of empirical research or a specific sector of the conceptual foundations underlying this research. The chapter authors are leading figures in the emerging interdisciplinary field of situated cognition, including representatives from philosophy, psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, and anthropology.

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