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Title: Enculturating Cognition: From Simple Minds to Talking Heads and Back

Abstract: How do we get from the simplest kinds of minds to complex minds capable of language and culture? Dennett provides a sweeping account in his recent book, in which he provides a sustained argument for how cultural evolution is key to gradually evolving fully enculturated minds. My own work has been primarily focussed on the mechanisms of enculturation including: Learning driven plasticity, re-use (degeneracy) and cultural canalisation. I'll propose a way of filling in the details of how enculturation works, taking into account a gradualist explanation of the slow transition from simple minds to fully enculturated talking heads. In closing, I'll consider some possible objections.

Bio: Richard Menary is an Australian Research Council Future Fellow at Macquarie University, Sydney. He holds an MSc in Cognitive Science from the University of Birmingham and a PhD in Philosophy from King's College London. He has written and edited books for Palgrave Macmillan and MIT Press and has published many articles on the philosophy of mind and cognitive science with journals such as *Mind and Language*, *Synthese* and *Philosophical Psychology*. He has developed a conceptual framework for understanding cognition called Cognitive Integration. It is a contribution to the embodied, embedded, and extended cognition movement in philosophy and cognitive science and the extended synthesis movement in evolutionary biology—particularly cultural evolution and niche construction. It is a framework for understanding and studying cognition and the mind that draws on several sources: empirical research in embodied cognition, arguments for extended cognition, distributed cognition, niche construction and cultural inheritance, developmental psychology, social learning, and cognitive neuroscience.