

# The Construction of Perceived Object: Studies in the Singular Perception of Physical Objects, Epistemic Attention and Demonstrative Identification

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This work concerns two related problems: (A) the problem of determining the *occurring* perception of a physical object (ch.1, 4, 7) and (B) the problem of the dynamic perception of an object as the *same* individual object (ch.6, 7, 8). These two problems are dealt with in the study of the capacities which enable us to identify and keep track of objects on the basis of the use of egocentric and allocentric spatiotemporal frames of reference. In order to resolve the occurrence problem (A) we introduce a conceptual model called the 'Direct Relational Model' (DRM), which we present as opposed to constructivism. It upholds that the singular perception of an object  $x$  occurs if and only if  $x$  exists and the perceiver is involved in a direct relation, or a relation of acquaintance with  $x$ , so as to contribute to the singular knowledge of  $x$ . The study of this direct relation includes an externalist analysis of the relation of existential dependence of the perceptual content on the object (ch.1, 2), of perceptual-demonstrative mode of presentation (ch.3, 4), and of an argument concluding that (overt and covert) selection by attention is necessary for the situated and cognitive access required by perceptual-demonstrative identification (ch.6). We argue for a procedural theory of attention which maintains that the control exerted by attentional systems on perceptual routines allows the agent to be functionally anchored to the object which could lead to its proto-identification and/or its full-fledged demonstrative identification involving epistemic requests. We analyze hypotheses about the function of perceptual object files (ch.7) and of crossmodal attention (ch.8), which can contribute to solving the problem of the perception of an object as the same object (B) and to clarifying the occurrence problem (A). Finally, we present the hypothesis of the ontological primacy of objects for cognition (ch.9), and apply our analyses to the case study of aesthetic attention (ch.10).

Perception, object, demonstrative identification, attention, routines, procedural, crossmodal attention, aesthetic attention, reference, singular knowledge, indexicality, object file, perceptual tracking, vision.