

Platonic Realism

Prabjot, Akayla, Sajida & Amy

What is platonic realism?

- Plato proposed a theory that argues for the notion of a realm that is composed of abstract universals and ideal forms
 - To support this theory, Plato suggested that all humans are born with an innate knowledge of these forms and universals

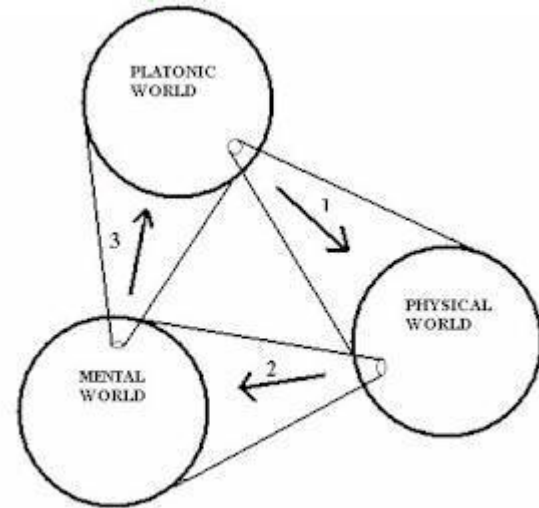


Figure 1. Three Worlds and Three Mysteries

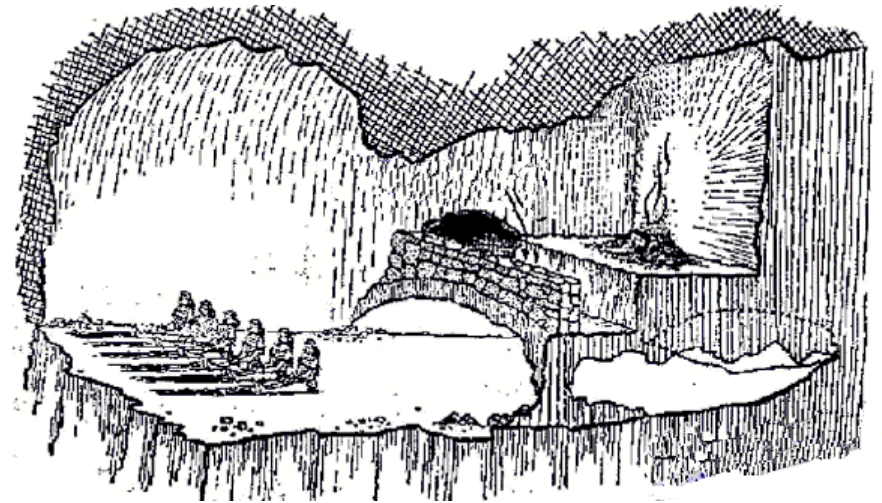
Plato's Theory of Forms

- Plato's theory of forms simply speaks of how the ideal thing gives form to more things.
- Forms are the essences of various objects: they are that without which a thing would not be the kind of thing it is.
 - For example, there are countless tables in the world but the Form of tableness is at the core; it is the essence of all of them.

Plato's Theory of Forms Cont.

- Plato supposed that the object was essentially or "really" the Form and that the phenomena were mere shadows mimicking the Form. He believed that the other versions of the thing were momentary portrayals of the Form under different circumstances.
 - For example, the chairs you're sitting on right now are just a representation of the ideal.

In the Allegory of the Cave, the objects that are seen are not real, but literally mimic the real Forms.



Plato's Allegory of the Cave

- The 'Allegory of the Cave' is a theory by Plato, regarding human perception.
- The allegory raises central debates of metaphysics: how to distinguish between reality and appearance.



Reality and Appearance

Prisoners = ordinary people

Flickering Shadows = world of common-sense perception and belief; which is filled with **ambiguity**

Sun = Real world

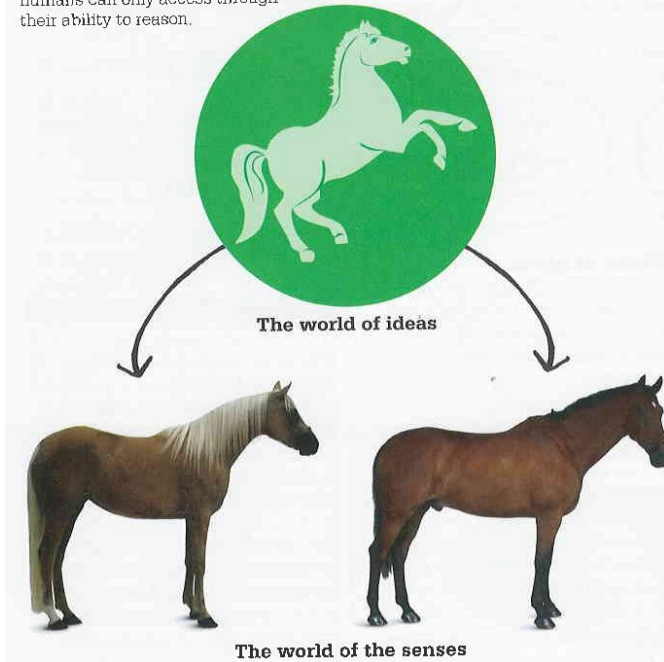
Appearance = transient, imperfect, and unsubstantial

Reality = permanent, unchanging, and perfect

Plato's Ideal World

- Humans' concepts of things came from an ideal thing that exists independently of us
 - unchangeable, not visible/located and always existed
 - does not exist in time & space due to the reason that it could change and then it would not be perfect
 - cannot be seen or set in time & space, still exists as a thing
⇒ e.g: an idea (eidos - Greek word)
- Human senses cannot recognize this place directly, only seen through reason
 - ideal world is reality and our world is modelled upon it
[e.g: Allegory of the Cave]

According to Plato's theory of Forms, every horse that we encounter in the world around us is a lesser version of an "ideal", or perfect, horse that exists in a world of Forms or Ideas—a realm that humans can only access through their ability to reason.



Plato

- Athenian philosopher, died around the age of 81 (428-7--347-8 B.C.E)
- World's best known and studied philosopher alongside his teacher, Socrates and his student Aristotle
 - Influenced by Heraclitus, Parmenides and Pythagoreans
 - Most famous work was *The Republic*
- Theory of Forms
 - Our senses are imitations of the perfect, unchanging world of Forms
- Platonic Love: love is caused by a crave of the highest form of beauty
 - love allows the highest achievements to be possible

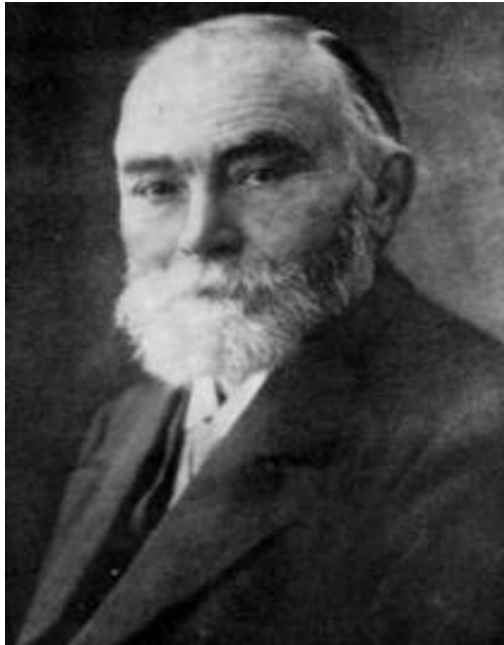


Jerry Fodor

- Jerry Fodor is an American philosopher and cognitive scientist born in New York City in 1935
- His novel “Propositional Attitudes” discusses his theory of mental states and intentional realism
 - He introduced the idea that mental states are relations between individuals and mental representations
 - For example, when I say "it is cold" it is a matter of my body 'feeling' the cold

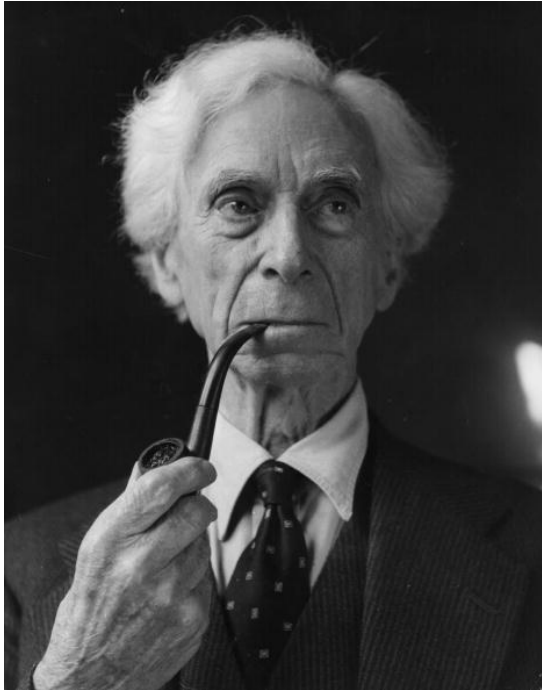


Gottlob Frege



- German mathematician, logician and philosopher.
- father of analytic philosophy, for his writings on the philosophy of language and mathematics.
- Function–argument analysis of the proposition; Distinction between concept and object ; Principle of compositionality; Context principle; Distinction between the sense and reference

Bertrand Russell



- British philosopher, logician, mathematician, historian, social critic and political activist.
- credited with being one of the founders of analytic philosophy
- metaphysics, the logic and the philosophy of mathematics, the philosophy of language, ethics and epistemology