# Contents

1 Introduction ................................................. 1  
1.1 Motivations and Aim ....................................... 4  
1.2 The Road Taken ............................................. 6  
1.3 Body, Embodiment and Embodied Cognition:  
Common Misunderstandings ................................... 8  
1.4 Book Roadmap ............................................... 13  
References ....................................................... 15  

2 Body and Mind—A Historical Perspective ......................... 21  
2.1 The Roots of Dualism—From Plato to Descartes ............... 22  
2.2 Darwins Work and Its Legacy ................................ 23  
2.3 Behaviorism .................................................. 30  
2.4 Beyond the Bounds of Behaviorism  
2.4.1 The Field of Ethology and the Work of von Uexküll .... 33  
2.4.2 From the Gestalt School to Gibson  
and Merleau–Ponty ............................................. 38  
2.4.3 The Genetic Epistemology of Piaget ..................... 43  
2.4.4 The Cultural and Historical Approach of Vygotsky ...... 48  
2.4.5 Dewey and Bartlett ....................................... 54  
2.4.6 Mead’s Theory of the Socially Interactive Mind ......... 56  
2.5 The Fall of Behaviorism and the Rise of a Science of Mind ... 62  
2.6 Computationalism: The Disembodied Paradigm ................ 66  
2.7 Criticisms of Computationalism and the Inception  
of Connectionism ............................................... 69  
2.8 In Summary ................................................... 73  
References ....................................................... 74  

3 Embodied Cognitive Science .................................. 81  
3.1 Putting Brain, Body and World Together Again ............... 82  
3.2 The Nature of Embodied Cognition  
3.2.1 Six Views of Embodied Cognition ...................... 89
3.2.2 Four Complementary Aspects of Embodied Cognition .......... 96
3.2.3 Some Additional Notions of Embodiment .................... 97
3.3 Body in Motion .................................................... 104
3.4 Toward the Social Dimension of Embodiment .................. 108
References ............................................................... 109

4 Embodiment and Social Interaction ................................. 115
4.1 Embodied Social Psychology ....................................... 116
  4.1.1 Four General Social Embodiment Effects .................... 116
  4.1.2 Social Embodiment Effects in Attitudes, Social Perception and Emotions ........................................... 119
4.2 Phenomenological Experience and Neurological Underpinnings of Embodiment ............................................... 124
  4.2.1 Embodied Simulations ........................................... 126
  4.2.2 Mirror Neurons and the Action-Perception Linkage ........ 131
4.3 Embodied Linguistics ................................................ 135
  4.3.1 Language as Grounded in Embodiment ....................... 136
  4.3.2 Gesture in Language ............................................. 140
4.4 Four Fundamental Functions of the Body in Social Interactions ................................................................. 148
  4.4.1 The Body as a Social Resonance Mechanism ................ 149
  4.4.2 The Body as Means and End in Social Interaction .......... 150
  4.4.3 Embodied Actions as a Helping Hand in Shaping and Sharing Thoughts .................................................... 151
  4.4.4 The Body as a Representational Device ..................... 152
4.5 In Summary .......................................................... 153
References ............................................................... 153

5 The Nature of Social Interaction and Cognition .................... 161
5.1 Characterizing and Studying Social Interaction and Cognition .. 162
  5.1.1 Social Interaction in Social Insects .......................... 163
  5.1.2 Social Interaction Beyond Social Insects .................... 165
5.2 Various Levels and Kinds of Human Social Interaction .......... 168
  5.2.1 The Primary Level ................................................. 170
  5.2.2 The Secondary Level .............................................. 170
  5.2.3 The Tertiary Level ................................................ 172
5.3 Different Metaphors of Social Interaction ........................ 175
  5.3.1 The Information Transmission Metaphor (ITM) ............. 175
  5.3.2 The Dance Metaphor (DM) ....................................... 177
5.4 Revisited: Characterizing and Studying Social Interaction and Cognition ......................................................... 182
  5.4.1 Meaning as Emergent Products of Social Interactions and Corporeal Representations .................................. 182
  5.4.2 The Theoretical Framework of Distributed Cognition ...... 187