

Preface

This volume has a history of its origins worth telling briefly. About five years ago a number of colleagues from various departments at Aarhus University set up a Mind-Brain Circle, which used to meet regularly to discuss what the mind and the brain were, and how the two were interrelated. Though for a number of reasons these meetings had to come to an end, their one major consequence was the idea of this volume, an idea that continued to grow in spite of the fact that some of us moved away from Aarhus. As a realization of that idea, this book, much like most other ideas, has evolved over the years to its present state in a way that has not been as steady and methodical as one would have liked it to be. However, a point was reached when we came to believe that if this book had to be published, it had to be sooner rather than later, since the collective intellectual momentum that led up to it was becoming rather hard to sustain across huge spans of time and space. We are glad to be able to eventually witness the final outcome of that prolonged endeavour see the light of day. In the course of these years, a lot of people have continued to provide inspiration and encouragement, so the debts owed by now are too numerous to be described exhaustively. As a result, we shall have to be very brief in acknowledging them.

As the previous general editor of the series in which this volume appears, Dominic Rainsford steered the project through much of its early years until Tabish Khair came along to relieve Dominic of one of his many responsibilities, and to add yet another one to his own. Many colleagues and students in various parts of the world have assisted one or more of us in the process of composing a number of chapters, revising and commenting on some manuscripts, or proof-reading. These include Nadeem Siddique and Ajmal Khan in Pakistan; and Loren Billings, Jason Harding, Katherine Hsiao, Nelly Lin, Adam Peng, Daisy Pong, Deborah Teoh and Jose Wang in Taiwan.

Finally, an immense sense of gratitude for Martin Atkinson, Ayesha Aziz, Loren Billings, Peter Cole, Vivian Cook, Martin

Drozda, Glenda Gibbs, Ted Gibson, Jason Harding, Gabriella Hermon, Yumei Hsu, Edith Kaan, Samuel J. Keyser, JoJo and Joe McKinney, Prem Kumar Poddar, Iggy Roca, Margaret Ross, Dora Salaquardova, Annie Saleemi, Teresa Satterfield, Jennifer Show, Maggie Sheng, Rajendra Singh, Karen Willcox, and Ken Wexler for always being somewhere out there so that one could fall back on their (in many cases virtual) support whenever the going got too tough, and to Noam Chomsky, Steven Pinker, and John Searle for reasons too significant to bear anything like a customary recital of them.

The Editors