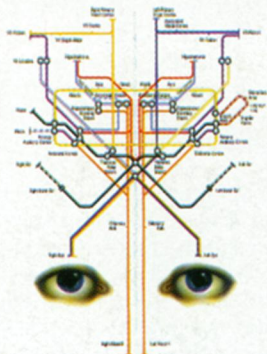


MAPPING THE MIND



RITA CARTER

University of California Press, 1998, 224 pages
8" x 10 1/4", hardcover, \$29.95

Brain scans that reveal our thoughts, moods, and memories as clearly as an X ray reveals our bones are on the horizon, some scientists say. They would like to watch people's brains light up—literally—in one area when they register a joke and glow in another area when they recall an unhappy memory. They expect soon to see fear being generated, measure pleasure or surprise, and watch the language areas sparkle as they grapple with new words.

Mapping the Mind charts how human behavior and culture have been molded by the landscape of the brain. It shows how our personalities reflect the biological mechanisms underlying thought and emotion and how behavioral eccentricities may be

traced to abnormalities in the geography of an individual brain. Obsessions and compulsions, for example, seem to be caused by a stuck neural switch in a brain area that monitors the environment for danger. Addiction, eating disorders, and alcoholism stem from dysfunction in the brain's reward system. Inability to change one's ideas suggests a lack of activity in the frontal lobes, where plans and high-level concepts are constructed. The differences between men's and women's brains and the distinctive characteristics of the brains of people with disorders such as dyslexia, autism, attention deficit, depression, mania, and mood swings are also explored.

In this book—the first visual guide to the brain—Rita Carter draws on the latest imaging techniques to give extraordinary and accessible insights into how the brain works.

—from University of California Press

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A Virtual Guide to the Brain

