

Preface to Second Edition

The aim of this reissue is to make *The Ontogeny of Information* available again, roughly a decade and a half after its first appearance. Changes to the text, while many, were mostly to increase clarity or concision; the arguments have been left intact. Because of the continuing terminological disorder surrounding the notion of interaction, I have used the term “constructivist interactionism” throughout to refer to my own views; other varieties are always in quotation marks. In addition, because “environmentalism” has come to refer almost exclusively to issues of ecological conservation, I have used “environmental determinism” to indicate biological determinism’s opposite pole in the classic duality. It signals an emphasis on environmental influences in development, if not the absolutism implied by “determinism.” Although I did not attempt to update the book, references to more recent work do appear in the Afterword, where I reflect on current thinking about some of the issues treated in the book.

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