

The Mind-Body problem has been a perpetual philosophical issue ever since the dawn of science, and the discussion of Descartes's dualism was the paradigmatic showroom of possible solutions for a long time. It wasn't perhaps until the mid-20th century that the debate underwent a considerable conceptual transformation thanks to two influences from science: the boom in brain-scanning experiments and the boom in computing devices and informatics. The former provided philosophers and scientists with abundance of evidence of correlations between brain activity and mental states. The latter showed how higher mental activities, like pattern recognition or playing chess, could be performed by fast computing machines running a relatively simple programme. Besides these two, there is another important source of influence (only as far as the methodology is concerned) behaviourism. Despite its decline in the 1960s marked by renewed interest in the study of mind, theorists were reluctant to rehabilitate the concept of consciousness.