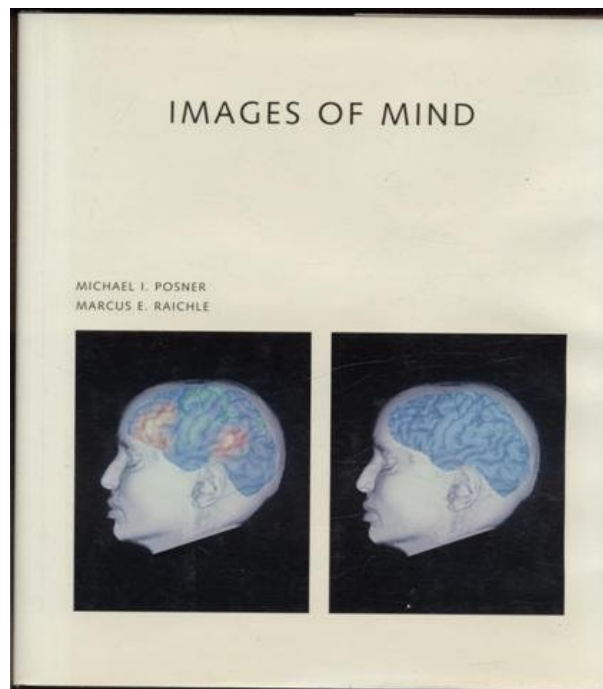


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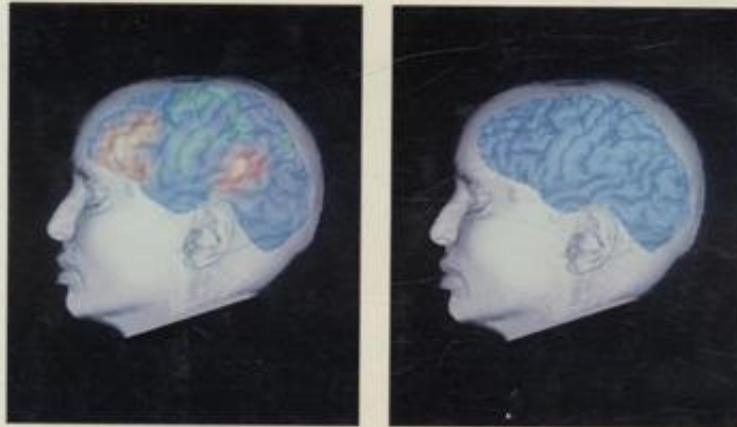


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Covers brain-imaging methods which render certain aspects of thought visible as they occur. This book documents the way cognitive psychology and neuroscience are being combined to investigate questions about what happens to the brain when we read, write, speak and visualize.

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- Binding: Hardcover
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The best book about the hardware of neurotechnology.

By A Customer

Once a month we get a book on somebody else's view of the mind, the brain, or both.

Instead of more theory, Images Of Mind describes the machinery neuroscientists use to take all the pictures that have sparked all the theories about how the brain works. Complete with lush illustrations and lucid descriptions, Images takes the reader on a historical tour of the devices scientists have used to "watch" the mind work. From EEGs to PET scanners, Raichle and Posner describe how neurotechnological devices work and what they measure.

The writing is direct and elegant, meant for the pro and the layperson.

13 of 18 people found the following review helpful.

Upbeat, but oddly organized and a little unclear

By A Customer

This is an enthusiastically written and nicely illustrated book, but the order of presentation is strange, possibly a result of bad editing. You might find it helpful to skip straight to pages 63-66 and study the introductory material that appears, for some reason, a quarter of the way through the text. It explains how the PET scanning technique works. The book nods at other technologies that produce and/or record signals from the brain, including MRI and electroencephalography, but it is basically a book about PET. The acronym stands for Positron Emission Tomography.

PET scanning is a low resolution technique that produces a computed picture of oxygen uptake by tissues in the brain. The experimental idea is to get the brain of a human experimental volunteer to do something - recite the multiplication tables, say - and then try to notice whether and how the given project changes the relative oxygen demand of brain tissue in various regions of the brain.

The hope would be to identify local volumes of brain tissue which are associated with and thus perhaps even perform some basic psychological function. In practice, the brain obligingly lights up here and there -

presumably consuming oxygen in order to energize its thinking.

From the explanations given in the book, it appears that the PET scanned pictures, which are quite beautiful, are thought to reflect heightened metabolic activity in the nerves of the brain, and only in the nerves. The book speaks often about functional brain "modules" and "assemblages of nerves." It is not clear to me, from the text, just how the scanner distinguishes between the nerves and all the other types of tissue in the brain. The glia, for example, outnumber the nerve cells about 9 to 1 in the brain, and these cells breathe oxygen too. In other words it is not clear, from the book, how the scanner somehow selectively singles out nerve cells and snaps their picture.

And maybe it doesn't. I was left wondering what a PET scan of some other complex organ, such as the liver, looks like. The PET technique may just be fine, brilliant in fact, but if it is, then maybe it deserves a clearer explanation that I could find in here.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

If you like learning about the brain, this is a great book.

By loves amazon!

Very interesting and intriguing book to read. Information on what scientists are learning about the brain and shows the outcome on some brain scans. I know it sounds boring to some but i find it fascinating.

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