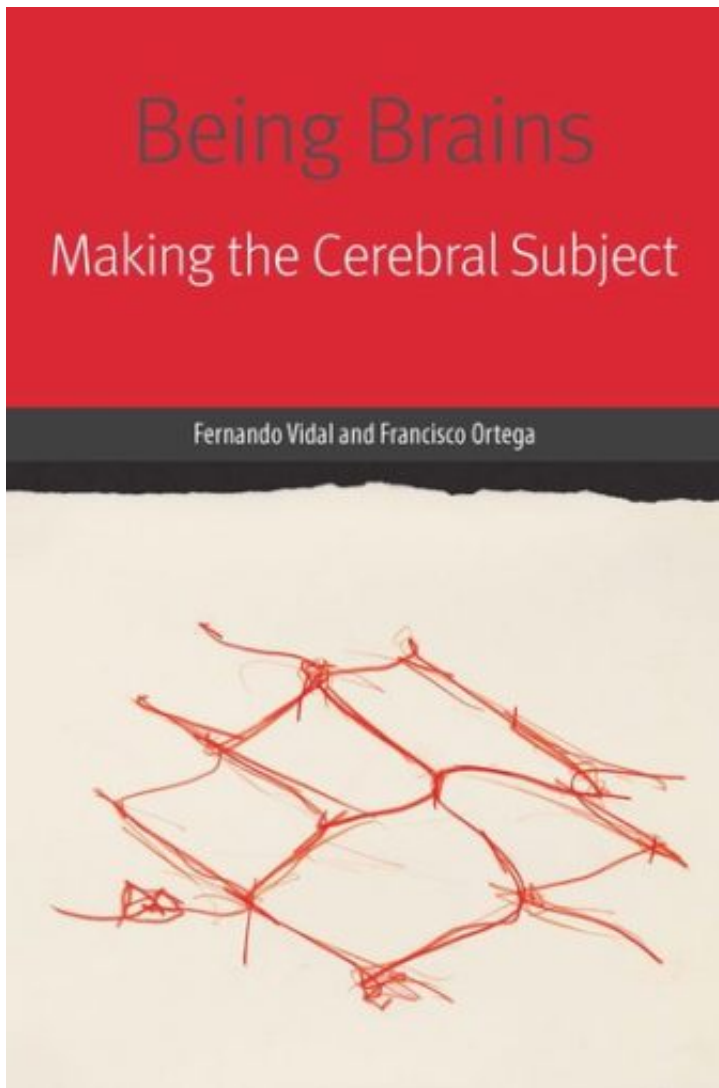


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Book Forum—Fernando Vidal and Francisco Ortega's *Being Brains: Making the Cerebral Subject*

2018-02-21 11:10:58

By Todd Meyers



Fernando Vidal and Francisco Ortega's [*Being Brains: Making the Cerebral Subject*](#) is a fine-grained account of the “neuro-” in a range of disciplines, and, importantly—crucially—, takes stock of the history and scope of this prefix. But more than this the book is an exploration, a critical engagement with the surge of brain-centered approaches to behavior, to

physiology, to mind, to subjectivity, to art and creative enterprises and products—*Being Brains* is an invaluable appraisal of where those waves (many waves, different waves) crash and what they at times wash away.

Vidal and Ortega ask (simply, provocatively), “How did the idea that humans are essentially their brains become thinkable?” (1)

The commentaries that follow offer broad and diverse readings of the book. We hope you enjoy.

[Genealogy of the Cerebral Subject](#)

[Elizabeth Lunbeck](#)

Harvard University

[All of the Other Brains](#)

[Chloe Silverman](#)

Drexel University

[Historicizing the Brain](#)

[Martyn Pickersgill](#)

University of Edinburgh

[Knowledge about the Brain and Societal Interests](#)

[Frank W. Stahnisch](#)

University of Calgary

A Reply:

[The Neuro: Modernity, Community, and Critique](#)

[Fernando Vidal](#) and [Francisco Ortega](#)

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AMA citation

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Harvard citation

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