

## Addiction: Cure or Care?

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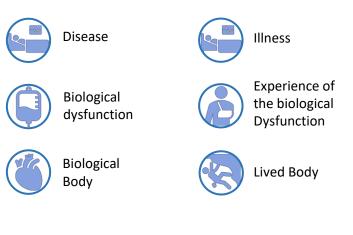
## Addiction as a brain disease

The brain undergoes structural and functional changes:

- Disruption in salience networks / cue sensitivity (OFC, rACC, dACC)
- Disruption in the reward system (VTA, NAcc)
- Executive control network, reduction in the level of dopamine D2 receptor (vIPFC, dIPFC, premotor SMA) → disruption of goal-seeking & disruption of self-control

#### Addiction should be cured through medicines

# *Is a disease reducible to biological facts?*



# Cure & Care

**Cure:** it is directed towards the biological body.

Many times curing the biological body also implies curing the lived body (fever), but that's not always the case (permanent disability or life lasting diseases) **Care:** it is directed towards the lived body. It is fundamental for all those cases in which curing the biological body cannot directly tackle the lived body

# Lived body

- **Body as a subject**: my hand is not next to me in the same way in which my laptop is near to me.
- **Body intentionality**: characteristic of the body of being directed towards possible tasks (grab a cup).
- Acting: «I can» is a more fundamental dimension than «I think».

# Lived space deformation

- Repulsive spaces: spaces that elicit avoidances
- **Low Responsivity:** the capcity to respond adequately to the stimuli and requirments of the environment
- Repetition Compulsion: being trapped in dysfunctional patterns of behaviour which occur again and again even though the subject tries to avoid them

#### Disembodiment

- Body as a subject: the body has a lower degree of subjectivity (it might be felt as not belonging to the subject)
- **Body intentionality:** it is narrowed down, less directedness towards actions and interactions
- Acting: body fails to attune the subject to the environment

### Conclusion

- Addiction cannot be treated as brain-disease only. The lived body role has to be acknowledged
- The lived body fosters a new understanding of addiction that is both for the addicted subject itself and for caregiver. We need an approach to addiction that is not only cure-oriented but also care-oriented
- Importance of bodily relationship with the world, striving for a new healthy relationship with the world that is fulfilling without drugs
- Disease in general cannot be accounted for only in term of physical structures

#### References :

Carel, 2007, *Philosophia*, 35(2), 95–110; De Haan & Fuchs, 2010, *Psychopathology*, 43(5), 327–333; Kemp, (2020), *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*, 19(2), 305–319; Merleau-Ponty, (2012). *Phenomenology of perception*