

Contents

Preface ix

Introduction 1

- 1 Empathy and Knowledge of Other Minds: A Historical Perspective 5
- 2 Arguing for Empathy Systematically 19
- 3 Brief Excursus: Empathy, Sympathy, and Social Psychology 26

1 Folk Psychology and Rational Agency 33

- 1.1 Eliminativism and the Allure of the Detached Conception of Folk Psychology 34
- 1.2 Humans as Rational Animals: Clearing Up a Confusion in the Rationality Debate 48

2 Charity and Rational Contextualism 65

- 2.1 In Defense of Global Charity 66
- 2.2 Rational Contextualism versus Bounded Rationality 80

3 The Theory of Mind Debate 99

- 3.1 The Theory-Theory Paradigm 105
- 3.2 The Simulation Paradigm 111

4 Basic Empathy and Reenactive Empathy 131

- 4.1 Mindreading, Folk-Psychological Concepts, and Mirror Neurons 132
- 4.2 The Essential Contextuality and Indexicality of Thoughts as Reasons 152

5 Folk Psychology and Normative Epistemology 173

- 5.1 Empathy, Folk-Psychological Predictions, and Explanations 178

6 The Limits of Empathy 195

- 6.1 Objections and Misconceptions in the Philosophy of Social Science 196
- 6.2 Empathy and the Prejudicial Nature of Understanding 204

Concluding Remarks 219

Notes 221

References 251

Index 271