



Who's in Charge?: Free Will and the Science of the Brain

By Michael S. Gazzaniga

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“Big questions are Gazzaniga’s stock in trade.”

—*New York Times*

“Gazzaniga is one of the most brilliant experimental neuroscientists in the world.”

—Tom Wolfe

“Gazzaniga stands as a giant among neuroscientists, for both the quality of his research and his ability to communicate it to a general public with infectious enthusiasm.”

—Robert Bazell, Chief Science Correspondent, NBC News

The author of *Human*, Michael S. Gazzaniga has been called the “father of cognitive neuroscience.” In his remarkable book, *Who's in Charge?*, he makes a powerful and provocative argument that counters the common wisdom that our lives are wholly determined by physical processes we cannot control. His well-reasoned case against the idea that we live in a “determined” world is fascinating and liberating, solidifying his place among the likes of Oliver Sacks, Antonio Damasio, V.S. Ramachandran, and other bestselling science authors exploring the mysteries of the human brain.

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- Sales Rank: #273995 in Books
- Brand: Ecco Press
- Published on: 2012-09-11
- Released on: 2012-09-11
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .61" w x 5.31" l, .45 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 272 pages



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Editorial Review

Review

“Gazzaniga is a towering figure in contemporary neurobiology. . . . *Who's in Charge?* is a joy to read.” (Wall Street Journal)

“A fascinating, accessible, and often humorous read for anyone with a brain! And a must-read for neuroscientists, psychologists, psychiatrists, and criminal attorneys.” (Library Journal (starred review))

“Fascinating. . . . Gazzaniga uses a lifetime of experience in neuroscientific research to argue that free will is alive and well.” (Salon.com)

“Terrific. . . . [An] engrossing study of the mechanics of thought.” (Publishers Weekly)

“A fascinating affirmation of our essential humanity.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“From one of the world’s leading thinkers comes a thought-provoking book on how we think and how we act. . . . An exciting, stimulating, and at times even funny read that helps us further understand ourselves, our actions, and our world.” (CNBC.com, Best Books for the Holidays)

“An utterly captivating and fascinating read that addresses issues of consciousness and free will and, in the end, offers suggestions as to how these ideas may or may not inform legal matters.” (Daily Texan)

“[The] scope of Michael S. Gazzaniga’s *Who's in Charge?* is huge—it tackles the age-old debate of free will [and] offers a lot to consider about what Gazzaniga deems the ‘scientific problem of the century.’” (Portland Mercury)

“Fascinating. . . . [An] intriguing and persuasive treatment of the moral implications of modern neuroscience.” (Reason.com)

“This exciting, stimulating, and sometimes even funny book challenges us to think in new ways about that most mysterious part of us—the part that makes us think we’re us.” (Alan Alda, actor and host of *Scientific American Frontiers*)

From the Back Cover

There is no "you" consciously making decisions. So how do we make decisions? How can we have free will if we don't pull the levers on our own behavior? What moral and legal implications follow if we don't have free will? *Who's in Charge?* is a primer for a new era in the understanding of human behavior that ranges across neuroscience, psychology, ethics, and the law with a light touch but profound implications.

About the Author

Michael S. Gazzaniga is internationally recognized in the field of neuroscience and a pioneer in cognitive research. He is the director of the SAGE Center for the Study of the Mind at the University of California,

Santa Barbara. He is the author of many popular science books, including *Who's in Charge?* (Ecco, 2011). He has six children and lives in California with his wife.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Emmanuel Young:

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always aim to and must have the free time or they will get great deal of stress from both way of life and work. So, whenever we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer will unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative throughout spending your spare time, often the book you have read is *Who's in Charge?: Free Will and the Science of the Brain*.

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Rhonda Yowell:

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