



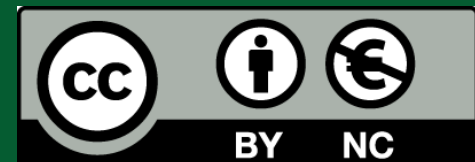
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Legal concepts and cognitive science

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Marek Jakubiec
Jagiellonian University

Introduction

1. Legal concepts and the debate on concepts
2. Concrete and abstract legal concepts
3. Legal concepts as conceptual metaphors

1. Legal concepts and the debate on concepts

- Why legal concepts?
- crucial point of interest in legal theory and legal philosophy
- the adopted approach to legal concepts influences many areas of legal scholarship (especially theories of legal cognition within legal epistemology, as conceptual processing is a basic cognitive process)
- What are legal concepts? To answer this question it is necessary to ask a fundamental question: what is the nature of concepts?

1. Legal concepts and the debate on concepts

- What are the concepts? Different perspectives, but currently concepts are treated as mental representations (Margolis, Laurence)

the view of concepts as mental representations is currently a “default position in cognitive science”

- What is it like to have a representation?

1. Legal concepts and the debate on concepts

- legal concepts as mental representations
- modal vs. amodal representations
- grounding problem // „The challenge of abstract concepts” (Borghini et al. 2017)
- the tension problem

2. Concrete and abstract legal concepts

- Concrete concepts vs. abstract concepts
- Physical objects // abstract objects
- Legal concepts: concrete and abstract

3. Legal concepts as conceptual metaphors

What is conceptual metaphor?

- cognitive tool; mapping
- „bridge” between concrete and abstract concepts

Metaphorical simulation

- mental simulation
- embodied abstract concepts

Summary

Controversies

- the tension problem
- is cognition really embodied?
- what about the abstract concepts which are not metaphorical?