

# Bernardo Kastrup

Bernardo Kastrup is a Dutch philosopher, computer scientist, and author known for his work on consciousness, metaphysics, and the philosophy of mind. He is a leading proponent of metaphysical idealism, the view that reality is fundamentally mental rather than material. Born in the Netherlands, Kastrup pursued an academic and corporate career in computer engineering before shifting his focus to philosophy.

He holds a PhD in Computer Engineering from the Eindhoven University of Technology, where he specialized in artificial intelligence and reconfigurable computing. His technical work included research roles at CERN and Philips Research, where he contributed to AI and large-scale computing systems. Later, he earned a second PhD in Philosophy from Radboud University Nijmegen, deepening his exploration of consciousness and ontology.

Dissatisfied with the materialist worldview dominant in science, Kastrup founded the Essentia Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing idealism as a viable alternative to materialism. Through Essentia, he publishes essays, hosts discussions, and collaborates with scientists and philosophers to explore consciousness as the foundation of reality.

Kastrup is a prolific writer and speaker, engaging in debates, lectures, and media appearances worldwide. He has spoken at Oxford University, The Scientific and Medical Network, and The Weekend University (London), among other venues. His work critically examines artificial intelligence, neuroscience, and the limits of materialism, arguing that subjective experience—not computation—underlies true understanding.

In addition to his academic and philosophical contributions, Kastrup is known for his clear, analytical style, making complex ideas accessible to a broad audience. He continues to write, debate, and advocate for a paradigm shift in how science and philosophy understand reality.

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## Selected Books

- The Idea of the World (2019)
- Science Ideated (2021)
- Why Materialism Is Baloney (2014, widely discussed)

## Key Debates & Discussions

- Alex Rosenberg (on materialism vs. idealism)
- Philip Goff (cosmopsychism vs. idealism)
- Donald Hoffman (conscious realism & perception)