

Bernardo Kastrup

Biography

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.

Major Books

***Science Ideated: The Fall of Matter and the Contours of the Next Mainstream Scientific Worldview* (2021):**

A collection of influential essays arguing that cutting-edge findings in quantum mechanics and neuroscience are increasingly incompatible with materialism, and that analytic idealism is the most empirically coherent framework to replace it.

***The Idea of the World: A Multi-Disciplinary Argument for the Mental Nature of Reality* (2019):**

Drawing on peer-reviewed work in physics, neuroscience, and philosophy, Kastrup builds a comprehensive academic case for idealism, the view that reality is essentially mental, systematically refuting physicalist alternatives and showing how a consciousness-first worldview better reconciles classical and quantum science.

***Why Materialism Is Baloney: How True Skeptics Know There Is No Death and Fathom Answers to Life, the Universe, and Everything* (2014):**

Dismantles the materialist worldview, making the case that consciousness is not produced by the brain but is instead the fundamental fabric of reality, and that matter, far from being primary, exists within mind rather than the other way around.