Being Human: the Problem of Agency

Humanity and the very notion of the human subject are under threat from postmodernist thinking which has declared not only the ‘Death of God’ but also the ‘Death of Man’. This book is a revindication of the concept of humanity, rejecting contemporary social theory that seeks to diminish human properties and powers. Archer argues that being human depends on an interaction with the real world in which practice takes primacy over language in the emergence of human self-consciousness, thought, emotionality and personal identity – all of which are prior to, and more basic than, our acquisition of a social identity.

This original and provocative new book from leading social theorist Margaret S. Archer builds on the themes explored in her previous books *Culture and Agency* (1988) and *Realist Social Theory* (1995). It will be required reading for academics and students of social theory, cultural theory, political theory, philosophy and theology.
Being Human: the Problem of Agency
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# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of figures</th>
<th>page viii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part I  The impoverishment of humanity**

1  Resisting the dissolution of humanity        17
2  Modernity's man                                51
3  Society's being: humanity as the gift of society 86

**Part II  The emergence of self-consciousness**

4  The primacy of practice                        121
5  The practical order as pivotal                 154

**Part III  The emergence of personal identity**

6  Humanity and reality: emotions as commentaries on human concerns 193
7  Personal identity: the inner conversation and emotional elaboration 222

**Part IV  The emergence of social identity**

8  Agents: active and passive                       253
9  Actors and commitment                             283
     Conclusion: the re-emergence of humanity        306

**Index**                                          320
Figures

3.1 Harré’s ontologies of science and society  page 89
3.2 The development of Society’s Being  107
3.3 The orthodox Vygotskian square (Harré)  115
3.4 The social realists’ square (Archer)  115
5.1 Three orders of reality and their respective forms of knowledge  162
5.2 Relations between embodied, practical and discursive knowledge  179
6.1 The emergence of (first-order) emotions  199
6.2 Emotional emergence in the natural order  205
6.3 Emotional morphogenesis in the natural order  207
7.1 Elster’s cognitive transmutation of emotion  224
8.1 Realism’s account of the development of the stratified human being  260
8.2 The morphogenesis of corporate agency  268
8.3 Structural and cultural configurations reproducing morphostasis in society and agency  271
8.4 Structural and cultural configurations generating morphogenesis in society and agency  277
8.5 The double morphogenesis of agency  279
9.1 The acquisition of social identity  295
9.2 The emergence of personal and social identity  296
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