

Assignment #9: The Wacky theories (Many Worlds, Many Minds, the 'Bare' theory)

Due: April 20.

Read chapter 6 of Albert, with these questions in mind. Pick **one** of them, and answer it carefully, in two pages.

1. In chapter 6 ("The Dynamics by Itself"), Albert gives two reasons for thinking that the canonical interpretation of Everett's paper cannot be right. First explain what that canonical interpretation is, then explain Albert's two reasons (in your own words!). Then, focusing on the *second* of Albert's two reasons, answer the following question: What response, if any, is available to this problem that Albert raises? In answering this question, *also* pay attention to what Maudlin has to say about this issue.
2. Albert says that the many-minds interpretation he discusses in the later part of chapter 6 is "an explicitly dualist view". What does he mean by this? What problems does the dualist character of this view allow him to solve? (Hint: compare the problems that he thinks beset the many-worlds interpretation.)
3. Carefully read the second paragraph on page 130 (the paragraph that begins, "But the dualism of this sort of a picture is nonetheless pretty bad."). This paragraph presents an alleged problem that besets the original many-minds interpretation—a problem that Albert thinks he can at least "partly fix up" by introducing a variation on the many-minds interpretation. In fact, the discussion of this paragraph is **thoroughly confused**. Explain why.
4. How, according to Albert, is the basis of "eigenstates of mentality" determined? Do you think his answer to this question succeeds?
5. Do we know that the various Many-Minds interpretations of quantum mechanics are false? If so, how? If not, then what exactly *do* we know about the world around us?
6. What *exactly* is wrong with the 'bare' theory?