

2.1. Humans

'All persons exist to society by some shining trait of beauty or utility which they have.'

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Synopsis: *Humans are Being – but different to animals because they need to augment their information processing (1); It is states that turn humans into individuals (2); Humans use reason in their information processing (3); Humans, and animals, differ from each other; the case of other Beings (4–5).*

1.

Humans are Beings, they can and will process information.

Although they are animals too, they are examined separately from animals because of their need to continuously process new information, to augment their information processing,¹³¹ which distinguishes their kind.

2.

States turn humans into individuals, and make possible the augmentation of information processing by them.

3.

Humans use Reason in their information processing in the same way as animals (this not a distinguishing characteristic); however, no two humans reason in the same way,¹³² because humans differ from each other.

131 See Chap. 5.1.

132 See Chap. 4.1, par 7.

4. Humans differ from each other

Humans can and will process information. While this is common to all humans because they are Beings, the former ('can') is an ability, the ability to process information,¹³³ and therefore there are variances from human to human (as is the case for animals).

Differences in the ability to process information may be due to internal or external factors, including the character, health or physical characteristics of the individual (internal) and the circumstances surrounding that individual, such as the state in which an individual is living (external).

Although individualisation through states means that all humans are born equal,¹³⁴ it is in relation to their state that this is true and not in relation to each other. In other words, humans are different from each other, and this is reflected in their individualisation, once this is made possible through the state. No human is equal to another, even within the same state, in terms of any specific type of processing.

Of course, here this refers to actual ability, rather than any ability imagined by the individuals themselves.¹³⁵

5.

If humans are different to each other and the same applies to animals when they are of the same kind, is this the case for non-biological Beings? Organisations are identical to each other in the way they are materialised and process information (as prescribed by regulation), regardless of their purpose.

Artificial Beings (particularly computer programs), on the other hand, are not necessarily identical to each other, even if of the same kind. As with humans and other animals, differences come about in their ability to process information. Although given to them by the humans who have created them, their abilities may differ widely, from the processing of a given dataset for a specific purpose to open-ended generative artificial intelligence systems.

133 See Chap. 5, par. 8.

134 See also Chap. 22, par. 7.

135 See Chap. 25.