

BOOK SYMPOSIUM

# Alexander Wendt, *Quantum mind and social science: unifying physical and social ontology*

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## Abstract

Alexander Wendt's *Quantum Mind and Social Science* hypothesizes that all intentional phenomena, including both psychological and social facts, are macroscopic quantum mechanical processes. Whether right or wrong, the suggestion highlights the fact that the social sciences, including IR, have until very recently never systematically discussed the potential relevance to our work of the quantum revolution a century ago. According to Wendt, that has left social scientists today – positivists and interpretivists alike – operating from an implicit and impoverished 19<sup>th</sup> century worldview that cannot accommodate important facts about human subjectivity. This symposium features critiques of Wendt's vision from multiple perspectives and a response, for one of the first airings of the classical-quantum debate in an IR context.

**Keywords:** Concept formation; consciousness; ethics; international theory; metatheory; mind-body problem; potentiality; pragmatism; problem of meaning; quantum theory; social science; theory of truth

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