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"Planning on a Prior Intention."

Abstract:

In this paper, I explore the role that intention plays in coordination. Intending to act allows one to form further intentions on the premise that one will so act and thus facilitates the coordination of one's future intentions and actions. For some doxastic accounts (Audi, Harman, Velleman), accounting for this role of intention requires accepting the thesis that intending to act entails believing that one will so act. I argue that a different type of flat-out cognitive attitude, the attitude of reliance, can also play the role of cognitively framing one's further planning and thus assist intention in coordination. I also argue that an appeal to reliance affords conativist accounts of intention (Bratman, Mele) with useful resources for explaining the coordinating role of intention in a way that is compatible with their rejection of the thesis that intention involves belief.