

CHRISTIAN KNY

## In Touch with the World? Nicholas of Cusa's *Idiota de mente* and John McDowell's *Mind and World*\*

### *Abstract*

*At first sight, Nicholas of Cusa's Idiota de mente and John McDowell's Mind and World do not seem to have much in common. Cusanus develops a model of the epistemic condicio humana both from an epistemological and ontological point of view. McDowell focusses on a specific epistemological issue: how sensory experience has to be conceived in order to avoid the fallacies of modern naturalism and coherentism. Upon closer examination, however, it turns out that both authors understand sense perception as a process which includes elements of both receptivity and spontaneity in operation. In my paper, I make use of this common ground to discuss the character of McDowell's 'logical spaces'.*

\* This paper makes some key thoughts of KNY, Christian: *Kreative, asymptotische Assimilation. Menschliche Erkenntnis bei Nicolaus Cusanus* (= BGPhThMA, NF 84). Münster: Aschendorff Verlag 2018, 367–407 available in English. While some passages are translations of the German text, most of this paper is a free and abbreviated adaptation of the book chapter tailored to the requirements of a journal article.