

# *Living Control Systems III*

## *The Fact of Control*

Reviews from  
back cover



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978-0-9647121-8-8 (paperback)

*By William T. Powers*

“The field of behavioural science, combining psychology, sociology and neuroscience, has diversified over the last century such that there is a desperate need for an integrative theory. William T. Powers, medical physicist and engineer, proposes that ‘control’ is the unifying process. Living Control Systems III is the latest in an influential but contentious series of works in which Powers presents his theory of perceptual control and illustrates its explanatory power ....

The book is organized around an accompanying compact disc containing 13 computer simulations of perceptual control...from the tracking of moving targets and the simulation of balance, to three-dimensional models of arm coordination and the emergence of crowd behaviour. Powers uses a combination of common sense reasoning, philosophical argument and mathematical models to make his case. Throughout, the style is engaging yet authoritative.”

**Warren Mansell, Senior Lecturer**  
School of Psychological Sciences  
University of Manchester, Manchester, UK  
NATURE 113 November 2008

“Living Control Systems III continues Powers’ revolutionary approach to understanding living organisms as purposeful agents whose actions serve to control their environments. A unique feature of the book is the accompanying computer programs where Powers ‘puts his models where his mouth is,’ graphically demonstrating how negative feedback control systems can account for a wide range of goal-oriented behavior.

This book is required reading (and computing) for anyone seeking a deep understanding of the behavior of living organisms.”

- **Gary Cziko, Professor Emeritus,**  
**University of Illinois**  
Author, *Without Miracles, The Things We Do*