

## Personal Identity

Answering the question: Who am I?

## Overview

- **Three Theories of Identity**
  - **Sameness of Substance** (*Locke's Critique*)
    - Somatic (The Body)
    - Immaterial (The Soul)
  - **Memory Criterion** (*Locke, Version 1.0*)
    - Psychological Criterion
  - **Extended Consciousness** (*Locke, Version 2.0*)

## Overview

### Psychological Criterion

VS

### Extended Consciousness

## Overview

Psychological Criterion

**Passive**

VS

**Active**

Extended Consciousness

## Importance of Identity

- **Same Substance** (Organization of Matter)
- **Same "Man"** (Animal, Life)
- **Same Person** (Thinking, Intelligent Being)

## Importance of Personal Identity

### Identification of a Person

Responsibility

Self-Interested Concern

### Sameness of Substance

Object at  $t_1$  is the same as Object at  $t_2$

**IF**

Both objects have the same substance

### Sameness of Substance

Somatic

The same physical matter makes  
the same person

**Example:** The human body or brain

### Sameness of Substance

Somatic

*Ship of Theseus*



### Sameness of Substance

Immaterial

The continuation of some  
immaterial thing makes the same  
person

**Example:** The soul

### Sameness of Substance

Immaterial



Socrates

### Notes

1) Summarize the lecture to this point

## Notes

2) Turn to the person next to you and read/explain your summary

## Locke's Position

"Self is that conscious thinking thing . . . Which is sensible or conscious of pleasure and pain, capable of happiness or misery, and so is concerned for itself, **as far as that consciousness extends.**"

pp 73

## Locke's Position

" . . . If it be possible for the same man to have distinct incommunicable consciousness at different times, it is past doubt the same man would at different times make different persons."

pp 74 - 75

## Memory Criterion

*Consciousness = Memory*

### Direct Memory Connections

If a person at  $t_2$  has a memory of existing at  $t_1$ , then the person at  $t_2$  is the same person as at  $t_1$ .

## Memory Criterion

*Consciousness = Memory*

### The Old Soldier Problem



## Psychological Criterion

**Direct memory connections are not all that matter**

Overlapping bands of

- memories,
- beliefs,
- values,
- desires,
- and intentions

## Psychological Criterion

### Psychological Continuity

If a person at  $t_3$  has *enough* overlapping psychological connections with a person existing at  $t_2$ , and the person at  $t_2$  has *enough* overlapping psychological connections with a person at  $t_1$ , then the persons at  $t_3$  and  $t_1$  are the same person,

## Psychological Criterion

### The Old Soldier Problem



## Reidentification

*The Body . . .*

*The Soul . . .*

*Memory . . .*

*Psychological Connections . . .*

All look for something that exists independently of any action of the individual.

And how to identify it

## Characterization

### Active Creation of Identity

Explanations of behavior that You and Others give to make that behavior intelligible

## Extended Consciousness

“. . . Every one finds that, whilst comprehended under consciousness, the little finger is as much a part of himself as what is most so. Upon separation of this little finger, should this consciousness go along with the little finger, and leave the rest of the body, it is evident the little finger would be the person, the same person . . .”

*Locke, pp 73*

## Extended Consciousness

Personal Identity is that which an individual **appropriates** as her own by extending her consciousness

Body, Memories, Characteristics, Relationships

Extended Consciousness  
**Social Restraints**  
These appropriations must be  
***intelligible*** to others

Extended Consciousness  
**Devoted Sister**  
Self-Conception  
**vs**  
Actions

The Importance of Personal Identity  
**Psychological Criterion**  
Person at  $t_1$  did  $x$   
Person at  $t_2$  is Person at  $t_1$   
Therefore, Person at  $t_2$  did  $x$

The Importance of Personal Identity  
**Extended Consciousness**  
Person at  $t_2$  appropriates action at  $t_1$   
Others accept appropriation of action at  $t_1$   
Therefore, Person at  $t_2$  did action at  $t_1$