



The 3 Sides of Personal Identity

By: Shivy Mannengi

The 3 Sides

PERSONAL IDENTITY EXISTS

Science

- ◇ Body Theory

John Locke

- ◇ Memory Theory

DOES IT MATTER?

- ◇ Has this debate over the years really done us any good?

PERSONAL IDENTITY DOESN'T EXIST

Science

- ◇ Body Theory is False

John Locke

- ◇ Memory Theory is False

David Hume

- ◇ Hume's Bundle Theory



Definition of Personal Identity



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Personal Identity is the concept you develop yourself that evolves around the course of your life. This can include aspects that we have no control over, such as where you grew up or the color of your skin.



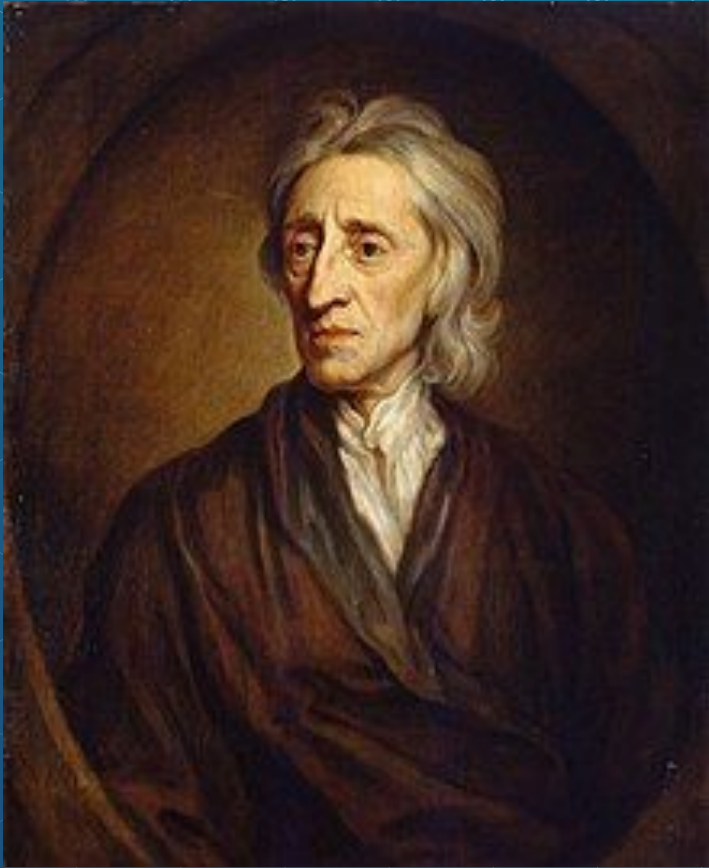
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Personal Identity Exists



Science Aspect

- ◇ Body Theory
 - ◆ Personal Identity persists over time and is true because you remain in the same body from birth to death.
- ◇ Most default position people have on Personal Identity



JOHN LOCKE

was an English philosopher and political theorist. He was very influential in creating the Memory Theory and many ideas in philosophy.



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Personal Identity Doesn't Exist



John Locke

- ◇ Memory Theory
 - ◆ Personal Identity persists over time and is true because you retain memories of yourself at different points, and each of those memories is connected to one before it.
- ◇ Well-known theory

Science Aspect

◇ Body Theory

- ◆ Problem with this theory is that our body is constantly changing
 - ◆ Blood cells
 - ◆ Skin
 - ◆ Skeleton
- ◆ Even in a non-physical way
 - ◆ Personality
 - ◆ Self-Awareness



John Locke

◇ Memory Theory

- ◆ Problem with this theory is that no one remembers being born,
 - ◆ Problems when you are young and old
- ◆ False memories
 - ◆ What if we remember the memories inaccurately? How will this influence us?



DAVID HUME

was a Scottish philosopher, historian, economist, and essayist. He is well known for his bundle-theory.

A decorative background featuring a repeating pattern of hexagons. Some hexagons are solid blue, while others are white with blue outlines. The pattern is more dense on the right side of the slide.

David Hume's Bundle Theory

- ◇ Bundle Theory
 - ◆ Bundle theory is in which an object consists of a collection of properties
 - ◆ Analogy with box



“

The “self” is just shorthand for all the junk in the box. And the fact that there is no box points out that there’s some underlying thing that holds it all together.

David Hume's Bundle Theory(con.)

- ◇ Bundle Theory
 - ◆ Items go away, some show up
- ◇ “We’re all just ever-changing bundles of impressions that our minds are fooled into thinking as a constant, because they’re packaged in these fleshy receptacles that basically look the same from one day to the next.”



Questions this theory brings up

- ◇ What does it mean for my understanding of myself, and for the people I love, if there is no single, constant me?
- ◇ How can you hold someone accountable for their actions, if they're not the same person now that they were before?
- ◇ How can you be responsible for something that you did, if you're always changing?



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IS THIS DISCUSSION
WORTH IT?

Does any of this matter?

- ◇ My opinion
 - ◆ As long as we live our life and survive
 - ◆ Do most of the people in the world even care?
 - ◆ Discussion over the years
 - ◆ Important

THANKS!

ANY QUESTIONS?

