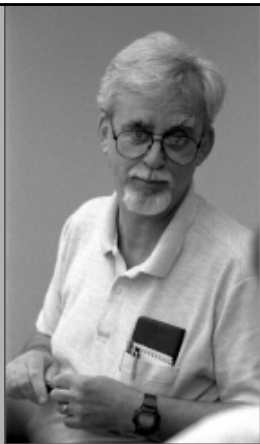


Dialogue on Personal Identity & Immortality



Theories of Personal Identity

- *Same Soul Theory*: A person at one time is the very same person as a person at a later time *if and only if* they have the very same immaterial soul.
- *Same Body Theory*: A person at one time is the very same person as a person at a later time *if and only if* they have the very same living material body.

Same Body Theory

- How do we know if it is the same living material body?
- Spatio-temporal continuity.
- Gradual replacement of molecules over 7 years vs. Sudden change of all molecules?



Same Body Theory

- Objections?
- I can imagine waking up with a different body.





Same Body Theory

- I can imagine waking up with a different body.
- So it is *false* that:
 - Different body → different person.
- Same body is *not* a necessary condition for personal identity.

Same Body Theory

- What is it about this being in a different body that *makes* it the same person as some earlier person?
- Having memories of that earlier person's experiences?

Theories of Personal Identity

- **Same Soul Theory:** A person at one time is the very same person as a person at a later time *if and only if* they have the very same immaterial soul.
- **Same Body Theory:** A person at one time is the very same person as a person at a later time *if and only if* they have the very same material body.
- **Psychological Continuity Theory.**

Psychological Continuity

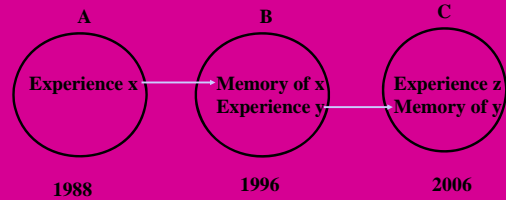
- **Psychological Continuity Theory:** A person at one time is the very same person as a person at a later time *if and only if* the person at the later time remembers experiences of the person at the earlier time?
- **No:** Then I wouldn't be that child who went to kindergarten, or whatever I don't remember.

Psychological Continuity

- **Psychological Continuity Theory:** A person at one time is the very same person as a person at a later time *if and only if* the person at the later time is psychologically continuous with the person at the earlier time.
- **Psychological Continuity:** There is a chain of person-stages connected by episodic memory.

Psychological Continuity

Person-stages:



Psychological Continuity

- **Psychological Continuity:** There is a chain of person-stages connected by episodic memory.
- A, B, and C, are psychologically continuous with each other. So: A, B, and C are all person-stages of the very same person.
- Psychologically continuous → same person.
 - Sufficient condition.
- Not psychologically continuous → different person.
 - Necessary condition.

The case of Clive Wearing



- **Viral Encephalitis in 1985**
- **Significant brain damage to hippocampus.**
- **Episodic memories reach back less than 30 seconds.**

Requirements for Memory

- What is memory?
- I (really) remember X:
- I have an experience as though I remember x.

Memory

- Is it possible to subconsciously remember something without realizing it?
- After about 7 years Clive developed some few episodic memories which he couldn't consciously recall, but could be displayed in what he said or did.

Requirements for Memory

- What is memory?
- I (really) remember X:
- I have an experience as though I remember x.
- X has to have happened ~~to me.~~

Memory

- Account of memory can't presuppose personal identity.
- No false memories: If it didn't happen, you can't remember it.
- E.g., hypnotism, psychotherapy?



Requirements for Memory

- What is memory?
- I (really) remember X:
- I have an experience as though I remember x.
- X has to have happened.
- The memory of x has been produced in the right way.

Memory

- No implanted memories: You have to remember it in the right way.
- E.g., No repeated retellings.
- What is "the right way"?
- Experience registers in brain.
- What about Star Trek transporter machine?
- God?
- Experience reliably, not arbitrarily, reproduced.