

# Morality and the Self

Spring 2012, Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30

## Readings Schedule (subject to revision)

Diachronic Theories of Self	
Jan 31	Memory: Parfit, "Later Selves and Moral Principles"; Korsgaard, "Personal Identity and the Unity of Agency: A Kantian Response to Parfit"
Feb 7	Narrative: MacIntyre, excerpt; Strawson, "Against Narrativity"; Schectman, "Stories, Lives, and Basic Survival"
Synchronic Theories of Self	
Feb 14	Self inside and out: Gallagher, "Philosophical Conceptions of the Self"; Clark, "Soft Selves and Ecological Control"
Feb 28	Identification and self concepts: Frankfurt, "Identification and Externality"; Velleman, "Identification and Identity"
Social Scientific Theories of Self	
Mar 6	Social and cultural psychology: Oyserman, "Self, Self-Concept, and Identity"; Markus & Kitayama, "Culture and the Self"
Mar 13	Sociological selves: Goffman, from <i>Presentation of Self in Everyday Life</i> ; Foucault, "Technologies of the Self"
Against the Self	
Mar 20	No self: Hume excerpt; Maus excerpt; Dennett, "The Origins of Selves"; Gergen, "Social Construction of Self Knowledge"
Mar 27	Character scepticism: Doris, "Persons, Situations, and Virtue Ethics"; Sabini and Silver, "Lack of Character? Situationism Critiqued"
Morality and Identity	
Apr 3	The moral self: Prinz, "The Moral Self"; Velleman, "From Self Psychology to Moral Philosophy"
Apr 17	Moral personalities: Blasi, "Moral Functioning: Moral Understanding and Personality"; Monroe, "Morality and a Sense of Self"
From Moral Self to Moral Group	
Apr 24	Self and other: Skitka et al., "Moral Conviction: Another Contributor to Attitude Strength or Something More?"; Hogg, "Social Identity"
May 1	Cultural identities: Wong, "Pluralism and Moral Identity"; Prinz, TBA
Political Identities	
May 8	Political parties: Haidt, "Liberals and Conservatives Rely on Different Moral Foundations"; Carney et al. "The Secret Lives of Liberals and Conservatives"
May 15	Identity politics: Alcoff, "Who's Afraid of Identity Politics?"; Appiah, "Liberalism, Individuality, Identity"

*Instructor:* Jesse Prinz

*Brief description:* Philosophical work on personal identity often ignores morality, and work on moral psychology often ignores identity. The aim of this seminar is to locate some points of contact between these domains. We will begin with theories of the self, and then move towards the question: how do moral values contribute to identity? Readings are drawn from philosophy, psychology, and sociology.

*Evaluation:* class attendance and participation are expected. A paper is due at the end of the term. These can be research papers or write-ups of original experimental work.