

# Hume's "The Self"

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# Overview

- We have no idea of the self, therefore, the self doesn't exist
- If we are constantly changing, then there is no point in time at which we can say that this is our “self”
- Something must be determining our self
- If we never see our “self,” how can it exist?

# The Bundle Theory (cont.)

- There is no time at which we can see ourselves without a perception
  - (happy, sad, love, pain, hatred, etc.)
  - Besides deep sleep, or death
- And there is no time at which everything related to us is constant

# Hume's Bundle Theory

- No sense impressions last forever
- All impressions and emotions that would define our self are variable over time
  - (pain, pleasure, grief, joy, etc.)
- All impressions succeed each other, and never coexist

# The Bundle Theory (cont.)

- So there is no time at which we can say we are ourselves
- Our self, must then be determined by a bundle of our perceptions

# The Bundle Theory (cont.)

- If we cannot see our self, then there must be something determining each person's self
- The only thing different about everyone is there experiences
- Therefore, the self must be related to our experiences

# The Bundle Theory (cont.)

- Ship of Theseus:
  - No single thing determines the identity
  - Its experiences determine its identity

# The Bundle Theory (cont.)

- Experiences are stored in the mind as memories
- Experiences are relative to the perceiver
- Because we never actually perceive ourselves, we will never sense what our identity truly is
- Therefore, how can we say our self exists?