

JOHN LOCKE

- Account of Personal Identity and Self
 - Mind/Body Problem

The Self

Locke's Theory of Self

- ▣ The Self is comprised of 3 separate parts
 - Body (Physical)
 - Soul (Mind)

What Makes Us Different

- Consciousness (Reflection of the two)
 - This Provides us with a true sense of self and makes us unique compared to other creatures



Body

- ▣ The Body, for Locke, is merely a physical machine that provides a transportation device for the other parts of self and sensory experience to provide basic knowledge.
- ▣ All of the stimuli we interact with are received through our physical senses

Soul (Mind)

- ▣ The Soul, for Locke, is our mind, how we understand and receive the data provided for us by our body.
- ▣ It is, in a sense, the mechanism that powers the body; it makes decisions.

Consciousness

- ▣ Consciousness is how we (as specific individuals) reflect on our actions, beliefs, and thoughts.
- ▣ Locke argues that this is the portion of the self that provides us with a true identity.

Do our reflections make us who we are, or are they simply the way we explain/justify our decisions to ourselves?



Mind / Body Distinction

- ▣ Mind starts as a blank sheet - “Tabula Rasa”
- ▣ All Knowledge, according to Locke, comes from our experiences.
- ▣ Physical Experience - Sensibility (Body)
- ▣ Mental Experience – Reflection, memory (Mind)

Physical Experience

Physical Experience comes from our senses

- ▣ Provides us with basic ideas and knowledge
 - ▣ i.e. Colors, hot/cold, sound, etc...

- ▣ These stimuli we receive begin to form the basic furnishing of the empty space that is our mind.

Mental Experience

- ▣ Mental Experience comes from Reflection
 - i.e. contemplation, memory, comparison, composition, etc...
 - Reflection and Mental Experience allow for us further our knowledge of basic ideas provided to us by our sense experiences

Pizza Example

Physical Experience – Taste, Smell, Color, etc...

Mental Experience – Reflection, Contemplation,
Comparison, etc...

Our Basic Knowledge of Pizza is provided by our
physical experiences in the past.

Once we include our mental experience we are
able to have better understanding of the item.

Pizza Place Pizza Vs. NYC Pizza

- ▣ Physical Experience provides us with a sense of the qualities of each individual pizza
 - Pizza Place – Bad
 - NYC Pizza - Good
- ▣ Mental Experience allows for us to have a greater understand of pizza as an idea.
 - By reflecting we are able to better understand the idea of pizza in the sense that we now know that not all pizza is the same quality.

Work Cited

- ▣ Roger Ariew & Eric Watkins, Modern Philosophy, An Anthology of Primary Sources, Second Edition
- ▣ Russel Marcus, History of Modern Western Philosophy, John Locke Notes