

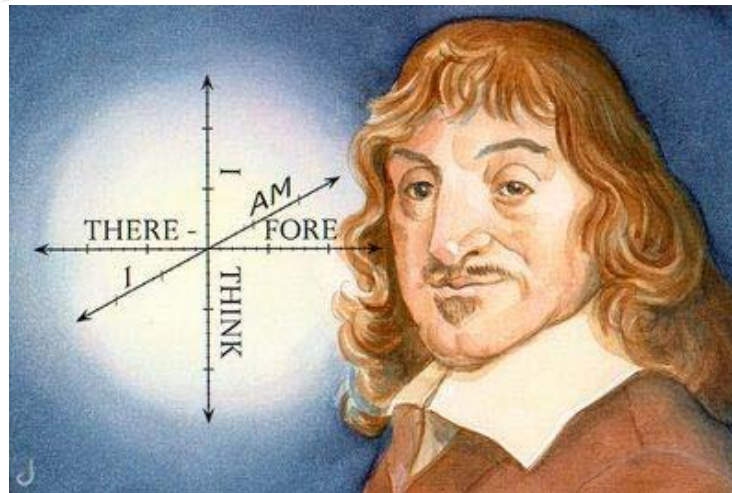
# The Self

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# Descartes

## Meditations II

- Cogito Argument
  - Whenever I am thinking, I must exist
  - Cannot be doubted
- Example of the Wax
  - Judgment of the wax proves his existence



# Descartes on the Self

## Meditations III

-The self...

-doubts

-understands

-affirms

-wills

-refuses

-imagines

-senses (among other things)

-All of the above are modes of thinking

-He clearly and distinctly perceives this fact



# Response to Descartes

- In breaking everything down to build it back up, he is bias
- Cogito is truly all he can believe in based on his claims
- For our topic however, this is enough (:



# : Locke

-Empiricist, but not like Hume.



# Location of the Self

- Locke places the self neither in the body nor the soul (as Berkeley does)
- If our selves rested in our bodies, animals would have a "self" just as we have a self



- Locke posits that one person may hold two souls, while two people may hold the same soul

# The Self rests in Consciousness.



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# The Role of Memory

- According to Locke, memory holds our recollection of past impressions together
- Thus, we derive our "selves" from our distinct memories



# Objections?

- Truly empirical?

Do we want our concept of ourselves to be based on our memories? Is that letting the past define us?

# Hume

- Two aspects of Hume:
  - a. Skeptical
  - b. Naturalist



# Hume on Self

- We have no impression --> No idea of the self --> No reason to believe in the existence of the self
- We cannot believe in the idea of the self because everything about us changes constantly over time



# Tadpole vs. Frog

Tadpole



Frog



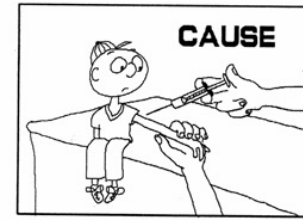
What would Hume say?

# Perception

- There are nothing else but just perceptions
- "When I enter most intimately into what I call myself, I always stumble on some particular perception or other, of heat or cold, light or shade, love or hatred, pain or pleasure. I never can catch myself at any time without a perception and never can observe anything but the perception" (Hume 349a-b)



# The Bundle Theory

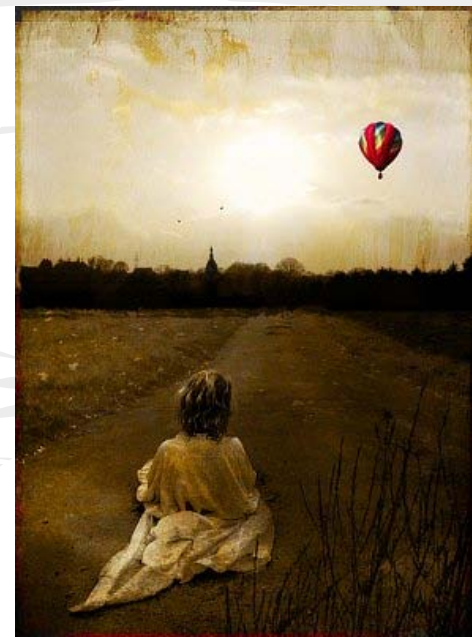


- The no-self theory
- Hume argues that we never see a self but we do have experiences
- So, whatever we call ourselves must be related to our series of experiences
- Our experiences are joined by a variety of psychological connections among our ideas
- These psychological connections do not connect our ideas, they merely conjoin our experiences over time
- Self = Loose bundle of experiences --> Continuity of experiences --> continuity in life (examples)

# Memories

Locke's essential characteristics of the self

- Demonstrates the conjunctions of experiences over time
- We remember our experiences through accessing our memories
- But, the common notion of self outruns our memories
- There are experiences which I call mine that I do not remember (example of experiencing something when we clearly weren't there)
- Memory helps us aggregate or systematize our perceptions and thus creating self



# The self as diversity

- Hume claims that the self is the best example of diversity
  - We are a collection of various distinct independent experiences
  - "Every distinct perception which enters into the composition of the mind is a distinct existence and is different and distinguishable and separable from every other perception, either contemporary or successive" (AW 529b)

