

Knowledge and Reality  
**Personal Identity**

**Primary Readings**

- (!)Williams, B., ‘**The self and the future**’, *Philosophical Review* 79 (1970), pp. 161-180. (Reprinted in Perry, and in Martin and Barresi).
- (!) Parfit, D., *Reasons and Persons*, OUP, (1984), **ch. 12** (Reprinted as ‘**Why our Identity is not what matters**’, in Martin and Barresi).
- (!) Olson, E., ‘**An argument from Animalism**’, in Martin and Barresi (eds.), *or* Olson, E., *The Human Animal*, OUP (1997), (particularly ch. 1 and 3).
- Snowdon, P., ‘**Persons, Animals, and ourselves**’, in Gill, C., *The Person and the Human Mind*, OUP (1990).
- Lewis, D., ‘**Survival and Identity**’, in Rorty, A. (ed.), *The Identities of Persons*, University of California Press (1976), pp. 17-40. (Reprinted in his *Philosophical Papers*, vol. 1, and in Martin and Barresi).
- Sider, T., *Four Dimensionalism*, OUP (2001), pp. 188-208.
- Perry, J., ‘**The importance of being identical**’, in Rorty, A. (ed.), *The Identities of Persons*, University of California Press (1976).

**Useful Collections**

- Perry, J. (ed.), *Personal Identity*, Berkeley (1975).
- Martin, R. and Barresi, J., *Personal Identity*, Blackwell (2003).

**Background Readings:**

- Olson, E., ‘**Personal Identity**’, The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

**Questions:**

- (1) Could you survive the transplant of your brain into another body? If so, does this entail that you are not a human animal?
- (2) Is the fact that there will be someone identical to you in the future what matters to your survival? Does the persistence of someone identical to you matter at all?
- (3) Were you ever a fetus?
- (4) What role do psychological, physical, and biological factors play in determining personal identity?