



Identity theory

- Identity theory is the view that mental states are identical to physical states.
- It is a form of physicalism, the view that everything that exists is ultimately physical.
- Identity theory is often contrasted with dualism, the view that the mind is a non-physical substance.
- Identity theory is also contrasted with functionalism, the view that mental states are defined by their functional roles.
- Identity theory is often associated with the work of philosophers such as David Armstrong, John Searle, and Daniel Dennett.
- Identity theory is a controversial view, and there are many arguments for and against it.
- Some of the arguments for identity theory include the following:

- The argument from neuroscience: As neuroscience advances, we are discovering more and more about the physical basis of mental states. This suggests that mental states are identical to physical states.
- The argument from the unity of science: Science is a unified enterprise, and all scientific discoveries are ultimately physical. This suggests that mental states are identical to physical states.
- The argument from the simplicity of identity: Identity theory is a simple and elegant theory, and it provides a good explanation of the relationship between the mind and the body.

how social structures

impact structures of the self



internal

processes within the self

IDENTITY THEORY AND ITS VARIATIONS

- **Identity theory** has primarily evolved into two main strands of thought, influenced by the structural symbolic interaction framework.
- The first strand focuses on **how social structures impact structures of the self**, which themselves shape social behaviors.
- The second strand focuses more on the **internal processes within the self**.

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