



identity

culture of a people

ethnicity



a common identity within a social
category

meanings

multiple roles

in highly differentiated contemporary societies

last definition

Stryker

DEFINING IDENTITY

- What is **identity**? It can be the **culture of a people**; in this sense, it is coterminous with **ethnicity**.
- Identity could also refer to **a common identity within a social category**.
- Identity may instead refer to “parts of a self composed of the **meanings** that persons attach to the **multiple roles** they typically play **in highly differentiated contemporary societies**.”
- This **last definition** is the one that **Stryker** and Burke adopt here, a definition heavily influenced by George Mead and symbolic interactionism.

IDENTITY THEORY AND ITS VARIATIONS

