

## Self-Consciousness

First published Thu Jul 13, 2017

Human beings are conscious not only of the world around them but also of themselves; their activities, their bodies, and their mental lives. They are, that is, self-conscious (or, equivalently, self-aware). Self-consciousness can be understood as an awareness of oneself; that is, a self-conscious subject is not just aware of something that merely happens to be themselves, as one is if one sees an old photograph without realising that it is of oneself. Rather a self-conscious subject is aware of themselves as themselves; it is essential to them that they themselves are the object of awareness. Self-consciousness is a form of consciousness that is paradigmatically expressed in English by the words "I", "me", and "my", terms that each of us uses to refer to ourselves as such.

A central topic throughout the history of philosophy—and increasingly so since the seventeenth century—the phenomena surrounding self-consciousness present a variety of fundamental philosophical and scientific questions, including its relation to consciousness, its semantic and epistemic features, its realisation in both conceptual and non-conceptual representation, and its connection to our conception of an objective world populated with others like ourselves.

- 1. Self-Consciousness in the History of Philosophy
  - 1.1 Ancient and Modern Discussions of Self-Consciousness
  - 1.2 Early Modern Discussions of Self-Consciousness
  - 1.3 Kantian and Post-Kantian Discussions of Self-Consciousness
  - 1.4 Early Twentieth-Century Discussions of Self-Consciousness
- 2. Self-Consciousness in Thought
  - 2.1 The Essential Indexical
  - 2.2 Kant's Thesis of Self-Consciousness

```

1  Notes
2  created | "2019-10-27T06:55:00.000Z+00:00"
3  updated | "2019-10-27T06:55:00.000Z+00:00"
4  user | "acct:georgiarutherford@hypothes.is"
5  uri | "https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/self-consciousness/"
6  text | "English terms for self"
7  tags | ["self-consciousness", "language"]
8  exact | "u2081c1u2082d, u2081c1u2082d, u2081c1u2082d"
9
10 created | "2019-10-27T06:55:10.712958+00:00"
11 updated | "2019-10-27T06:55:10.712958+00:00"
12 user | "acct:georgiarutherford@hypothes.is"
13 uri | "https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/self-consciousness/"
14 text | "Focus on self-consciousness increased since 17th century"
15 tags | ["self-consciousness"]
16 exact | "and increasingly so since the seventeenth century"
17
18 created | "2019-10-27T06:55:10.227867+00:00"
19 updated | "2019-10-27T06:55:10.227867+00:00"
20 user | "acct:georgiarutherford@hypothes.is"
21 uri | "https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/self-consciousness/"
22 text | "Introspective recognition and self-consciousness"
23 tags | ["self-consciousness", "other"]
24 exact | "For the related Hegelian view that various forms of self-consciousness depend on intersubjective recognition"
25
26 Analysis
27 user |
28 uri |
29 uri |
30 uri |
31 uri |
32 uri |
33 test
34 2 self-consciousness
35
36 1 th
37
38 1 times
39
40 1 since

```

## Two Minute Madness

Hypothes.is improves online collaboration and note taking but does not allow for local backups.

This proof of concept project allows users to make local backups of their notes.

It also performs basic analysis of the notes that are being backed up.

## Hypothes.is

- ▶ View web annotations in context
- ▶ Improve online collaboration
- ▶ No inbuilt way to locally back up annotations

## Self-Consciousness

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Human beings are conscious not only of the world around them but also of themselves: their activities, their bodies, and their mental lives. They are, that is, self-conscious (or, equivalently, self-aware). **Self-consciousness can be understood as an awareness of oneself.** But a self-conscious subject is not just aware of something that merely happens to be themselves, as one is if one sees an old photograph without realising that it is of oneself. Rather a self-conscious subject is aware of themselves as themselves; it is manifest to them that they themselves are the object of awareness. Self-consciousness is a form of consciousness that is paradigmatically expressed in English by the words "I", "me", and "my", terms that each of us uses to refer to ourselves as such.

A central topic throughout the history of philosophy—and increasingly so since the **seventeenth century**—the phenomena surrounding self-consciousness prompt a variety of fundamental philosophical and scientific questions, including its relation to consciousness, its semantic and epistemic features, its realisation in both conceptual and non-conceptual representation, and its connection to our conception of an objective world populated with others like ourselves.

- 1. Self-Consciousness in the History of Philosophy
  - 1.1 Ancient and Medieval Discussions of Self-Consciousness
  - 1.2 Early Modern Discussions of Self-Consciousness
  - 1.3 Kantian and Post-Kantian Discussions of Self-Consciousness
  - 1.4 Early Twentieth Century Discussions of Self-Consciousness
- 2. Self-Consciousness in Thought
  - 2.1 The Essential Indexical
  - 2.2 David Gauthier's Critique

Annotations 1 Page Notes

georgiarutherford  
Public

Self-consciousness can be understood as an awareness of oneself.

awareness of self

1 self-consciousness

georgiarutherford  
Public

44 secs ago

"I", "me", and "my"

English terms for self

2 self-consciousness

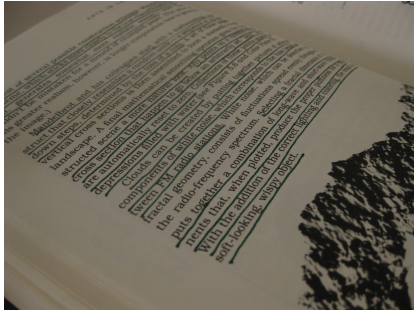
georgiarutherford  
Public

2 mins ago

and increasingly so since the seventeenth century

focus on self-consciousness increased since 17th century

self-consciousness



## Proof of Concept



- ▶ Downloads annotation information from [hypothes.is](#) API
- ▶ Reformats annotation information so it is human-readable
- ▶ Performs basic textual analysis on annotation information

## Significance



Locally backing up notes improves user security, organisation and allows for additional automatic analysis.

## Usage

```
❖ bash ProofOfConcept.sh https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/hegel/ hegel-notes
```

To run the code, the user must simply type "bash (url) (filename)" into terminal. The url should be where the user wishes to get annotations from, and the filename should be the desired filename for the end document. [more ...](#)

The result of successfully running the code is two files. One is named (filename)-original.txt and displays the annotation information as first given by the hypothes.is API. The other is named (filename).txt and displays the information reformatted with basic analysis.

```

1 Notes
2 created | "2019-09-18T03:02:36.093581+00:00"
3 updated | "2019-09-18T03:05:31.091234+00:00"
4 user | "acct:georgiarutherford@pythos.is"
5 uri | "https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/hegel/"
6 text | "Interesting. History of Hegel and analytic philosophy "
7 tags | []
8 exact | "Hegel came to be one of the main targets of attack by the founders of the
9      "analytic movement, Bertrand Russell and G.E. Moore. For Russell, the
10     "revolutionary innovations in logic starting in the last decades of the nineteenth century
11     "had destroyed Hegel's metaphysics by overturning the Aristotelian logic on which, so
12     "Russell claimed, it was based, and in line with this dismissal, Hegel came to be seen
13     "within the analytic movement as a historical figure of little genuine philosophical
14     "interest."
15
16 created | "2019-09-18T03:05:11.879683+00:00"
17 updated | "2019-09-18T03:05:11.879683+00:00"
18 user | "acct:georgiarutherford@pythos.is"
19 uri | "https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/hegel/"
20 text | "Interesting. Modern uptake of Hegel in analytic philosophy. Look into Robert
21      "Brandom and John McDowell."
22 tags | []
23 exact | "By the close of the twentieth century, even within core logico-metaphysical areas
24      "of analytic philosophy, a number of individuals such as Robert Brandom and John McDowell
25      "had started to take Hegel seriously as a significant modern philosopher,
26      "although generally within analytic circles a favorable reassessment of Hegel is still a
27      "long way to go"
28
29 Analysis
30 user | 2 acct:georgiarutherford@pythos.is
31
32 uri | 2 https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/hegel
33
34 text | 2 philosophy
35
36 interesting
37
38 hegel
39
40 analytic

```

```

1 # Will download notes from hypothesis, rename original, move info into a new file without unwanted sections and perform basic analysis of
  notes
2 # Warning: This will rename all files beginning with search?url
3 # Warning: If note includes the phrases "created", "updated", "user", "uri", "text", "tags", "group", "exact", or "prefix" (including the ""
  this code will not work
4 # Must also have a stopwords.txt file for the analysis to be useful
5 # Usage: bash ProofOfConcept.sh URL Filename
6 # This section of code gets the annotation information from the hypothesis api and then renames the file to original.txt
7 wget https://hypothes.is/api/search?url="$1"
8 mv search?url* original.txt
9 # This line of code creates a variable which is a count of every instance of the term "created" (including the quotation marks)
10 var=$(grep -o "created" original.txt | grep -c "created")
11 # This section of code creates a variable that is the same as the above variable but plus one
12 var2=$((var+1))
13 # This section of code sets the initial value of i within the until loop
14 i=1
15 # This line of code states that the loop will continue until $i is equal to the value of var2 set above
16 until [ $i -gt $var2 ]
17 # This command begins the loop
18 do
19 # This section of code examines the original.txt file and moves a section of text (which changes based on the i variable) to a new file for
  reformatting
20 cat original.txt | awk -v FS="id:" '{print $i}' > output1.txt
21 # This section of code copies the text between the terms "created" and "updated", and then deletes the term "updated"
22 grep -o "created".*"updated" output1.txt > output2.txt
23 sed 's/"updated"/g' output2.txt >> output3.txt
24 # This section of code copies the text between the terms "updated" and "user", and then deletes the term "user"
25 grep -o "updated".*"user" output1.txt > output2.txt
26 sed 's/"user"/g' output2.txt >> output3.txt
27 # This section of code copies the text between the terms "user" and "uri", and then deletes the term "uri"
28 grep -o "user".*"uri" output1.txt > output2.txt
29 sed 's/"uri"/g' output2.txt >> output3.txt
30 # This section of code copies the text between the terms "uri" and "text", and then deletes the term "text"
31 grep -o "uri".*"text" output1.txt > output2.txt
32 sed 's/"text"/g' output2.txt >> output3.txt
33 # This section of code copies the text between the terms "text" and "tags", and then deletes the term "tags"
34 grep -o "text".*"tags" output1.txt > output2.txt
35 sed 's/"tags"/g' output2.txt >> output3.txt
36 # This section of code copies the text between the terms "tags" and "group", and then deletes the term "group"
37 grep -o "tags".*"group" output1.txt > output2.txt

```

Example section of code. For full code please see  
<https://github.com/GeorgiaRutherford/ProofOfConcept>

## References

- ▶ Project Repository:  
<https://github.com/GeorgiaRutherford/ProofOfConcept>
- ▶ Slides Template:  
<https://www.overleaf.com/latex/templates/pico-presentation-template/tgjkwwcwjpbf>
- ▶ Slides Template Original:  
<https://github.com/snowtechblog/pico-latex-presentation> by An-selm Köhler



- ▶ Figures 1 and 3: Smith, Joel, "Self-Consciousness", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Fall 2017 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2017/entries/self-consciousness/>
- ▶ Figures 2, 8 and 9: Redding, Paul, "Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Summer 2018 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2018/entries/hegel/>.
- ▶ Figure 4: "book highlighting" by devaburger is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
- ▶ Figure 5: "Technology" by Sephko is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 4.0
- ▶ Figure 6: "Technology" by Sephko is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

*Thank you!*