

Knowledge and Reality

Persistence and Change

How, if at all, do ordinary physical objects persist? (2011, 19)

Essential Reading

- Butterfield, J. (1985), "Spatial and Temporal Parts", *The Philosophical Quarterly*, vol. 35, no. 32-44
- Van Inwagen, Peter (1990), "Four-Dimensional Objects", *Noûs*, vol. 24, no. 2, pp. 245-55
- Sider, Theodore (1996), "All the World's a Stage", *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 74, no. 3, pp. 433-53
- Rea, Michael C. (1998), "Temporal Parts Unmotivated", *The Philosophical Review*, vol. 107, no. 2, pp. 225-60

Additional Reading

- Thomson, Judith Jarvis (1983), "Parthood and Identity Across Time", *The Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 80, no. 4, pp. 201-20
- Heller, Mark (1984), "Parts of Four Dimensional Objects", *Philosophical Studies*, vol. 46, no. 3, pp. 323-34
- Johnston, Mark & Forbes, Graham (1987), "Is There a Problem About Persistence?", *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, vol. 61, pp. 107-35+137-155
- Merricks, Trenton (1994), "Endurance and Indiscernibility", *The Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 91, no. 4, pp. 165-84
- Rea, Michael C. (1995), "The Problem of Material Constitution", *The Philosophical Review*, vol. 104, no. 4, pp. 525-52

Past Paper Questions

- How do we perceive change? (2004, 4)
- Can one thing turn into another? If not, why not? (2004, 11)
- "Two things are the same only if they have all their properties in common. Whenever anything changes, it loses or gains a property. So, nothing persists through change." Assess this argument. (2005, 13)
- "The problem of Theseus's ship is just a matter of which later ship we choose to call 'identical' with the earlier ship." Is persistence through time just a verbal matter, then? (2006, 19)
- Does the persistence of an object through time just consist in its temporal parts being located at different times? (2007, 12)
- Are you a collection of temporal parts? (2008, 13)
- Do objects have temporal parts? (2010, 16)
- How, if at all, do ordinary physical objects persist? (2011, 19)
- Can we make sense of change over time without appealing to temporal parts? (2012, 14)
- Is the phenomenon of change of properties over time any more puzzling than the variation of temperature along the length of an iron bar? (2013, 11)
- What is the best account of how objects can gain or lose parts over time? (2014, 14)