

Bělohrad, Radim

Summary

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Summary

The book presents an exposition and a critique of the psychological theory of personal identity in its historical and current forms and a defense of the biological theory of personal identity. The exposition of the psychological theory is based on J. Locke's theory and Parfit's influential conception, which develops Locke's ideas. Apart from a detailed critique of Parfit's thoughts I also analyze L. R. Baker's constitution theory, the role of which is to explain the problematic relation between people and organisms in psychological theory. I conclude that constitution theory fails and with it the whole project of psychological theory of personal identity. However, Parfit has also influenced the theory of personal identity with his ideas on its practical significance. I deal with them in detail and, with some reservations, I accept Parfit's conviction that numerical identity of people does not practically matter. The findings are then applied in the exposition and defense of the biological theory of personal identity - animalism.