Self Meets Mind

(a graduate seminar, or an advanced undergraduate seminar given some adjustments)

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Time: TBD
Place: TBD
Office Hours: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores how the self is represented in cognition. We will begin by looking at use of the representation of self in language and thought. This will involve examining why 'I' is thought to be an "essential indexical" and why some 'I'-thoughts are considered to be immune to error through misidentification. Then, we will investigate whether this conceptual representation of self (or something like it) is used in cognitive systems outside of thought. Specifically, we will look at how first-personal information is used in perception and bodily awareness. We will end by asking how such information connects to the conceptual representation of self used in thought.

All course readings will be available through the course website.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

Questions: To facilitate discussion, two students will be assigned to ask two questions (each) per class. These questions will not affect your grade but are a course requirement.

Papers: You will write three papers. The first two will be quite short (3-5 pages). These should raise a small problem, and space permitting, address it briefly. The final paper will be longer (12-15 pages). You are permitted to expand one of the short papers to write the final paper. Submitting a draft of the final paper is recommended but not required. Drafts must be submitted at least one week prior to the deadline.

Grade Breakdown: Final grades will be calculated as follows:

- Participation: 10%
- First paper: 15%
- Second paper: 15%
- Final paper: 60%

Late Policy: All requests for 24-hour extensions on papers will be automatically granted. Papers that are turned in late will be docked 1/3 of a letter grade for each 48-hour period late. For example, a B will be lowered to a B- if the assignment is within 48 hours late.

SCHEDULE

This schedule is subject to change. Please regularly consult the course website for updates.

Week One: The First-Person in Language and Thought

- David Kaplan: "Demonstratives: An essay on the semantics, logic, metaphysics, and epistemology of demonstratives and other indexicals" (1977)
- G.E.M. Anscombe: "The first person" (1975)

Week Two: The Essential Indexical

- John Perry: "The problem of the essential indexical" (1979)
- David Lewis: "Attitudes *de dicto* and *de se*" (1979)
- Herman Cappelen and Josh Dever: "Indexicality, the *de se,* and agency", *The Inessential Indexical: On the Philosophical Insignificance of Perspective and the First Person* (2013)

Week Three: 'I'-thoughts

- Gareth Evans: "Demonstrative identification" and "Self-identification", *The Varieties of Reference* (1982)

⇒ **Paper One Due**

Week Four: Immunity to Error Through Misidentification

- Sydney Shoemaker: "Self-reference and self-awareness" (1968)
- John Campbell: "Schizophrenia, the space of reasons, and thinking as a motor process" (1999)
- Gabriella Bottini et. al.: "Feeling touches in someone else's hand" (2002)

Week Five: Nonconceptual Representations of Self

- José Luis Bermúdez: "The paradox of self-consciousness", *The Paradox of Self-Consciousness* (1998)
- Susan Hurley: "Nonconceptual self-consciousness: Perspective, access, and agency", *Consciousness in Action* (1998)
- Christopher Peacocke: "Primitive self-representation" and "The first person concept and its nonconceptual parent", *The Mirror of the World: Subjects, Consciousness, & Self-Consciousness* (2014)

Week Six: Nonconceptual Representations of Self and Perception

- John Schwenkler: "Vision, self-location, and the phenomenology of the 'point of view'" (2014)
- Jonathan Mitchell: "Self-locating content and the 'here-replacement' account" (2021)
- François Recanati: "Content and mode", *Perspectival Thought: A Plea for Moderate Relativism* (2007)

⇒ **Paper Two Due**

Week Seven: Egocentric Representations

- Christopher Peacocke: "Perceptual concepts", *A Study of Concepts* (1992)
- Adrian Alsmith: "Perspectival structure and agentive self-location" (2017)
- Rick Grush: "Self, world, and space: The meaning and mechanisms of ego- and allocentric spatial representation" (2000)

Week Eight: The Sense of Body Ownership

- Frédérique de Vignemont: "Habeas corpus: The sense of ownership of one's own body" (2007)
- Manos Tsakaris: "The sense of body ownership" (2011)
- Bill Brewer: "Bodily awareness and the self" (1995)

Week Nine: Disruptions to Bodily First-Person Information

- Matthew Botvinik and Jonathan Cohen: "Rubber hands 'feel' touch that eyes see" (1998)
- Olaf Blanke and Thomas Metzinger: "Full-body illusions and minimal phenomenal selfhood" (2009)
- Raphaël Millière: "Looking for the self: Phenomenology, neurophysiology and philosophical significance of drug-induced ego dissolution" (2017)

Week Ten: Building back up to 'I'-thoughts

- Tyler Burge: "Self and self-understanding. Lecture I: Some origins of self" (2011)
- Kristina Musholt: "Self and others, or the emergence of self-consciousness" and "Self-consciousness in nonhuman animals", *Thinking About Oneself: From Nonconceptual Content to the Concept of Self* (2015)

⇒ **Final Paper Due**

ACCESSIBILITY & ACCOMODATIONS

Any students seeking disability services should register with the University's Center for Accessible Education (CAE) as soon as possible. If you are already registered and require assistance for the quarter, please release your accommodation letters by the end of week one.

More generally, if you are experiencing difficulty (health-related, financial, other), please reach out to me. We will try to figure out how to best navigate the course under the circumstances.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

- Campus Assault Resources and Education (CARE): https://careprogram.ucla.edu/
- Center for Accessible Education (CAE): https://cae.ucla.edu/
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): https://counseling.ucla.edu/
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Office: https://equity.ucla.edu/
- Student Conduct Code: https://deanofstudents.ucla.edu/student-conduct-code
- Writing Center: https://uwc.ucla.edu/

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students are expected to know and to follow the University's guidelines for academic honesty, available here. Academic misconduct can occur in a variety of ways, including (but not limited to) cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism. Any suspected violation of university policy regarding academic conduct will be reported directly to the Office of the Dean of Students.