

ALEX BRANTL
INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY, PROFESSOR MARCUS

***Divided Minds and
the Nature of
Persons***

Derek Parfit

COMING UP....

Does a “self” exist?

- **Argues against the Ego Theory**
- **Defends the Bundle Theory**
- **Bases his conclusions on Split-Brain Cases**

THE EGO THEORY

There is a self.

-Separate from the body and mind.

-Subject of all experiences.

A person is this self.

This view is similar to the views of Plato (in *Phaedo*) and Locke (in *The Prince and the Cobbler*).

THE BUNDLE THEORY

A platonic self does not exist.

There is no subject of experiences.

Instead, a person is a collection of experiences, thoughts, and mental states, all “bundled” together.

Parfit defends the Bundle Theory.

IN DEFENSE OF THE BUNDLE THEORY

Teletransportation

- Your brain and body are scanned, and destroyed
- This information is transmitted to a new planet, and your Replica is created
- The Replica is psychologically and physically identical to you
- Through this thought experiment, Parfit defends the Bundle Theory.

IN DEFENSE OF THE BUNDLE THEORY

Cell Replacement

-A proportion of cells in your body and brain are replaced by exact duplicates

Is this new being, with the same cells, you? Or someone just like you?

Furthermore, is there a critical percentage or proportion that determines this distinction?

IN DEFENSE OF THE BUNDLE THEORY

Cell Replacement

- Through the Bundle Theory, Parfit argues that neither of these questions matter
- There is no difference between a person, and a person's Replica
- What would happen to you would only be relevant if you were a self, separate from the cells that were replaced.

BUNDLE THEORY AND THE REJECTION OF A DISTINCTION POST CELL DUPLICATION

“You do not merely want there to be psychological continuity between you and some future person. You want to *be* this future person. On the Bundle Theory, there is no such special further fact.”

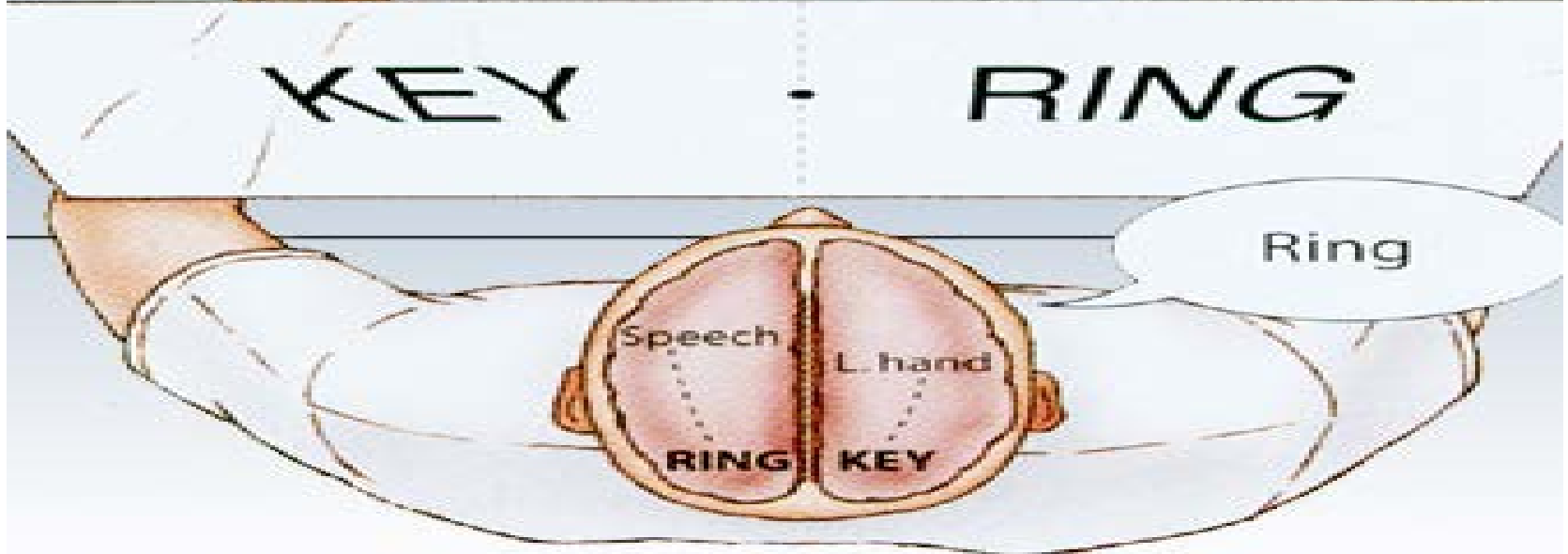
SPLIT-BRAIN CASES

- The brain has two hemispheres**
- In split-brain cases, there is a disruption in the connection between the two hemispheres**
- Parfit argues that there are two streams of consciousness in split-brain cases.**



KEY

RING



Ring

Speech

L. hand

RING

KEY

SPLIT-BRAIN CASES AND THE EGO THEORY

-People with a split-brain have two streams of consciousness

-Ego-theory would only be able to apply to this if there were two egos, each having one experience simultaneously

SPLIT-BRAIN CASES AND THE BUNDLE THEORY

-The Bundle Theory allows for one person to have two streams of consciousness at one time

-Multiple experiences at once



CONCLUSION

-Defense of the Bundle Theory based on:

-Teletransportation

-Cell duplication

-Split-brain cases

-A self does not exist, there is no subject of experiences separate from the being

-Instead, a being is a collection of experiences and mental states “bundled” together

-Multiple experiences can be had at one time, in multiple streams of consciousness

IMPLICATIONS

- Personal identity?

-What makes up human beings?

-How do we value human life?

