

Williams 'The self and the future'

1. Explain and evaluate the considerations that motivate a 'changing bodies' conclusion.
2. Explain and evaluate the considerations that motivate a 'same bodies' conclusion. What is the upshot? If we are tempted by both lines of reasoning, can we diagnose what goes wrong on in one?
3. What is the "extraordinary difficulty" (p. 174) that Williamson finds with the suggestion that there are borderline cases here that we shouldn't try to settle?

Lewis 'Survival and Identity'

1. What are the two apparently conflicting theses concerning what matters in survival that Lewis seeks to reconcile? How does his theory try to achieve this? How successful is it?
2. I'm told that I am about to undergo fission and then one of the branches will not survive beyond today. How fearful should I be that I will soon be no more? How does Lewis's discussion in the first postscript bear on this? (You might compare this with a case in which one of the bodies will be put in a red room and one in a blue room. How confident should I be that I will be seeing red walls?)
3. What might Lewis make of the following apparent puzzle: Suppose Roger actually lives 80 years from t_0 to t_{80} . Call the aggregate of his person stages from t_0 to t_{50} 'Rog'. Roger \neq Rog since the former has parts the latter lacks. Consider any world in which due to a collision with a bus or other such mishap there are no further stages after t_{50} to which Rog's stages are R-related. At such a world Rog exists (no stage of Rog is affected by this). But *Roger* seems not to exist at this world (there is one person that lives from t_0 to t_{50} and that's Rog \neq Roger). So if Roger lives to 80 he couldn't possibly have died at 50 (or at any age less than 80)!

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