The New York University Department of Philosophy sponsors annual conferences on issues in modern philosophy. Each conference invites a number of distinguished philosophers to examine the development of a central philosophical problem from early modern philosophy to the present, seeking to understand the evolution of formulations of the problem and of approaches to resolving it. By examining the work of philosophers of the past both in historical context and in relation to contemporary philosophical thinking, the conferences aim to allow philosophy’s past and present to illuminate each other. The topic of the inaugural conference is the nature and significance of self-consciousness and personal identity.

Conference Schedule

Friday, December 3
4:00-6:00 pm: Locke
Vere Chappell, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
“Locke and Consciousness”
Gideon Yaffe, University of Southern California
“Locke on Consciousness, Identity and the Idea of Duration”

Saturday, December 4
10:00-12:00 noon: Hume
Galen Strawson, University of Reading/City University of New York
“Hume on Personal Identity”
Wayne Waxman, New York University (visiting)
“Hume’s Subjectivization of the Self: Personal Identity as Affective Continuity”
1:30-3:30 pm: Kant
Patricia Kitcher, Columbia University
“Kant on Apperception and Self-Consciousness”
Houston Smit, University of Arizona
“Unity of Apperception and Identity of the Subject”
4:00-6:00 pm: Hegel
Rolf-Peter Horstmann, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
“Self-Consciousness and Personal Identity in Hegel”
Frederick Neuhouser, Barnard College
“No ‘I’ without a ‘We’: Conditions of Self-Consciousness”

Sunday, December 5
10:00-12:00 noon: Modern and Contemporary Philosophy
Sydney Shoemaker, Cornell University (visiting NYU)
“Persons, Animals, and Identity”
John Perry, Stanford University
“Selves and Self-Concepts”

Conference Directors: Béatrice Longuenesse, John Richardson, Don Garrett