

Perspectives and possibility

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Abstract

It has often been noted that when we are dealing with the self, consciousness, or personal identity, first-person conceivability intuitions often conflict with their third-person counterparts and elicit importantly different philosophical conclusions (e.g. Williams, 1973). While I cannot conceive that I do not exist, I can for example conceive that AB does not exist and you can conceive that I do not exist. In this paper, I argue that this kind of *perspectival relativity* (a) cannot be accounted for by differences in cognitive capacities or nonmodal, empirical knowledge, (b) that it threatens the most influential versions of the thesis that conceivability is a good guide to possibility, (c) and that it is much more widespread and significant than it is usually assumed.