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# READING **PARFIT** ON WHAT MATTERS

EDITED BY  
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# Reading Parfit

**Kasper Lippert-Rasmussen**



## Reading Parfit:

**Reading Parfit** Jonathan Dancy, 1997-08-15 Reading Parfit brings together some of the most distinguished scholars in the field to discuss and critique Derek Parfit's outstanding work *Reasons and Persons* *Reading Parfit* Simon Kirchin, 2017-03-16 Derek Parfit was one of the world's leading philosophers. His *On What Matters* was the most eagerly awaited book in philosophy for many years. Reading Parfit *On What Matters* is an essential overview and assessment of volumes 1 and 2 of Parfit's monumental work by a team of international contributors and includes responses by Parfit himself. It discusses central features of Parfit's book including the structure and nature of reasons, the ideas underlying moral principles, Parfit's discussions of consequentialism, contractualism, and Kantian deontology, and his metaethical ideas and arguments. Reading Parfit will be central reading for students of ethics and anyone seeking a deeper understanding of one of the most important works of philosophy published in the last fifty years. **Derek Parfit's *Reasons and Persons*** Andrea Sauchelli, 2020-02-12 Derek Parfit 1942-2017 is widely considered to be one of the most important moral philosophers of the twentieth century. *Reasons and Persons* is arguably the most influential of the two books published in his lifetime and hailed as a classic work of ethics and personal identity. Derek Parfit's *Reasons and Persons: An Introduction and Critical Inquiry* is an outstanding introduction to and assessment of Parfit's book with chapters by leading scholars of ethics, metaphysics, and of Parfit's work. Part I provides a much needed introduction to key topics and themes in *Reasons and Persons* that will be useful for those new to Parfit's complex work. These include Parfit's idea of self-defeating theories, rationality and time, personal identity, future generations, and well-being. Part II explores various debates generated by *Reasons and Persons*, including its connections with Buddhism, metaethics, theory of rationality, transformative choices, and further developments in personal identity and metaphysics, such as conativism. Combining clear exposition of the major topics and arguments in *Reasons and Persons* with scholarly perspectives on more advanced themes, this book is ideal for students of ethics, metaethics, metaphysics, and anyone interested in Derek Parfit's philosophy. **Personal Identity** Ellen Frankel Paul, Fred Dycus Miller, Jeffrey Paul, 2005 What is a person? What makes me the same person today that I was yesterday or will be tomorrow? Philosophers have long pondered these questions. In Plato's Symposium, Socrates observed that all of us are constantly undergoing change; we experience physical changes to our bodies as well as changes in our manners, customs, opinions, desires, pleasures, pains, and fears. Aristotle theorized that there must be some underlying substratum that remains the same even as we undergo these changes. John Locke rejected Aristotle's view and reformulated the problem of personal identity in his own way: is a person a physical organism that persists through time, or is a person identified by the persistence of psychological states by memory? These essays, written by prominent philosophers and legal and economic theorists, offer valuable insights into the nature of personal identity and its implications for morality and public policy. [Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics](#), 2025-06-05 Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics is an annual forum for new work in normative ethical

theory Leading philosophers present original contributions to our understanding of a wide range of moral issues and positions from analysis of competing approaches to normative ethics including moral realism constructivism and expressivism to questions of how we should act and live well OSNE is an essential resource for scholars and students working in moral philosophy

**The Oxford Handbook of Consequentialism** Douglas W. Portmore, 2020 Provides an authoritative and comprehensive overview of consequentialism today Includes a brief summary of the anthology's four parts and a concise primer on the nature and importance of the consequentialism/nonconsequentialism distinction Relates consequentialism to the significant reform movements calling for environmentalism effective altruism animal liberation and women's liberation Book jacket

**Parfit's Ethics** Richard Yetter Chappell, 2021-05-13 Derek Parfit 1942-2017 was one of the most important and influential moral philosophers of the late 20th and early 21st centuries This Element offers a critical introduction to his wide-ranging ethical thought focusing especially on his two most significant works *Reasons and Persons* 1984 and *On What Matters* 2011 and their contribution to the consequentialist moral tradition Topics covered include rationality and objectivity distributive justice self-defeating moral theories Parfit's Triple Theory according to which consequentialism contractualism and Kantian ethics ultimately converge personal identity and population ethics

**Understanding Love** Susan Wolf, Christopher Grau, 2014-02 A unique and interdisciplinary collection in which scholars from Philosophy join those from Film Studies English and Comparative Literature to explore the nature and limits of love through in-depth reflection on particular works of literature and film

**Justice** Young Kim, 2018-03-24 The moral inquiry into the nature of justice is often marginalized as contemporary discussions focus primarily on political considerations Yet the need to examine the moral framework of justice is fundamental What is the point of justice after all if not to establish a moral framework for political interactions The question resonates especially when recognizing that no monocultures exist over time and space In examining Plato's thoughts on individual and social morality *dikaia* and Aristotle's focus on individual virtue *arête* and the pursuit of well-being *eudaimonia* the author proffers foundational resources for today's discussions of justice Moreover he brings this nexus of thought into conversation with theories that have emerged over the centuries such as Kant's concept of *due concern* and respect individual rights and responsibilities as in Hobbes Locke and J S Mill Thus he engages contemporary disputes of justice including distributive vs relational schemes choice vs chance considerations group rights theories value pluralism the right vs the good as well as international and future justice His inquiry concludes with the provision of a deontological framework set against a liberal political context justice as right actions for further examination of questions of justice

**Surviving Death** Mark Johnston, 2010-01-24 Johnston presents an argument for a form of immortality that divests the notion of any supernatural elements The book is packed with illuminating philosophical reflection on the question of what we are and what it is for us to persist over time

**Self and Subjectivity** Kim Atkins, 2008-04-15 *Self and Subjectivity* is a collection of seminal essays with commentary that traces the development of conceptions of self and

subjectivity in European and Anglo American philosophical traditions including feminist scholarship from Descartes to the present     Biographical Dictionary of Twentieth-Century Philosophers Stuart Brown, Diane Collinson, Robert Wilkinson, 2012-09-10 This Biographical Dictionary provides detailed accounts of the lives works influence and reception of thinkers from all the major philosophical schools and traditions of the twentieth century This unique volume covers the lives and careers of thinkers from all areas of philosophy from analytic philosophy to Zen and from formal logic to aesthetics All the major figures of philosophy such as Nietzsche Wittgenstein and Russell are examined and analysed The scope of the work is not merely restricted to the major figures in western philosophy but also covers in depth a significant number of thinkers from the near and far east and from the non European Hispanic language communities The Biographical Dictionary also includes a number of general entries dealing with important schools of philosophy such as the Vienna Circle or currents of thought such as vitalism These allow the reader to set the individual biographies in the context of the philosophical history of the period With entries written by over 100 leading philosophy scholars the Biographical Dictionary is the most comprehensive survey of twentieth century thinkers to date Structure The book is structured alphabetically by philosopher Each entry is identically structured for ease of access and covers nationality dates and places of birth and death philosophical style or school areas of interest higher education significant influences main appointments main publications secondary literature account of intellectual development and main ideas critical reception and impact At the end of the book a glossary gives accounts of the schools movements and traditions to which these philosophers belonged and thorough indexes enable the reader to access the information in several ways by nationality by major areas of contribution to philosophy e g aesthetics by major influences on the thinker concerned e g Plato Kant Wittgenstein     What is this thing called Metaphysics? Brian Garrett, 2017-04-04 How did our universe come to be Does God exist Does time flow What are we Do we have free will What is truth Metaphysics is concerned with the nature of ourselves and the world around us This clear and accessible introduction covers the central topics in metaphysics in a concise but comprehensive way Brian Garrett discusses the crucial concepts and arguments of metaphysics in a highly readable manner He addresses the following key areas of metaphysics God Existence Modality Universals and particulars Facts Causation Time Puzzles of material constitution Free will determinism Fatalism Personal identity Truth This third edition has been thoroughly revised Most chapters include new and updated material and there are now two chapters devoted to attacks on free will and fatalism What is this thing called Metaphysics contains many helpful student friendly features such as a glossary of important terms study questions annotated further reading and a guide to web resources Text boxes provide bite sized summaries of key concepts and major philosophers and clear and interesting examples are used throughout     Science Fiction and Philosophy Susan Schneider, 2016-03-07 Featuring numerous updates and enhancements Science Fiction and Philosophy 2nd Edition presents a collection of readings that utilize concepts developed from science fiction to explore a variety of classic and contemporary

philosophical issues Uses science fiction to address a series of classic and contemporary philosophical issues including many raised by recent scientific developments Explores questions relating to transhumanism brain enhancement time travel the nature of the self and the ethics of artificial intelligence Features numerous updates to the popular and highly acclaimed first edition including new chapters addressing the cutting edge topic of the technological singularity Draws on a broad range of science fiction s more familiar novels films and TV series including I Robot The Hunger Games The Matrix Star Trek Blade Runner and Brave New World Provides a gateway into classic philosophical puzzles and topics informed by the latest technology

**Rethinking the Good** Larry S. Temkin, 2014-12-04 In choosing between moral alternatives choosing between various forms of ethical action we typically make calculations of the following kind using the principle of transitivity A is better than B B is better than C therefore A is better than C Larry Temkin shows is that if we want to continue making plausible judgments we cannot continue to make these assumptions

**Sidgwick and Contemporary Utilitarianism** M. Nakano-Okuno, 2011-09-02 A rare academic study on what John Rawls Peter Singer and Derek Parfit acknowledge as the finest book in ethics The Methods of Ethics With a rather shocking conclusion that none of us can match Sidgwick Mariko Nakano Okuno lucidly analyzes Henry Sidgwick s impacts on contemporary ethics

**Deontology, Responsibility, and Equality** Kasper Lippert-Rasmussen, 2005 Three questions that loom large in moral and political philosophy are these Can deontological moral constraints be justified When if ever are we morally responsible for what we do How is the ideal of equality best configured Deontology Responsibility and Equality deals with selected aspects of these three broad questions It critically discusses certain attempts by Frances Kamm and Thomas Nagel among others to account for the impermissibility of minimizing violations in terms of moral status Also it challenges the view that there is a morally relevant difference between doing and allowing harm and especially between killing and letting die In relation to the second question it concentrates on recent developments within compatibilist accounts of moral responsibility prompted by the work of Harry Frankfurt It challenges his purported refutation of the principle of alternative possibilities as well as certain positive compatibilist identification based accounts of respon

The Ontology of Well-Being in Social Policy and Welfare Practice Steven R. Smith, 2022-11-11 This book provides important philosophical insights concerning the kind of creatures we are such that we can experience something we understand as well being with these insights then being applied to various areas of social policy and welfare practice The author defends what he calls The Ontology of Well Being Thesis TOWT addressing ontological questions about the human condition and how these questions are fundamental to issues concerning what we might know about human well being and how we should promote it Yet surprisingly these ontological questions are often side lined in academic political and policy and practice based debates about well being Addressing these questions head on six features of the human condition are identified via TOWT human embodiment finiteness sociability cognition evaluation and agency The main argument of the thesis is that these features reveal the conflicting character of human experiences which can in turn

have a profound bearing on our experience of well being Notably it is our conflicting experiences of time emotion and self consciousness which can potentially help us experience well being in complex and multi dimensional ways The author then applies these insights to various social policies and welfare practices concerning for example pensions disability bereavement counselling social prescribing within health settings the promotion of mental health and co production practices This book is of importance to philosophers social policy analysts and welfare practitioners and is also relevant to the fields of psychology sociology politics and the health sciences

What Matters in Survival Douglas Ehring, 2021-05-06 This study is about what matters in survival about what relation to a future individual gives you a reason for prudential concern for that individual For common sense there is such a relation and it is identity but according to Parfit common sense is wrong in this respect Identity is not what matters in survival In *What Matters in Survival* Douglas Ehring argues that this Parfitian thesis does not go far enough The result is the highly radical view Survival Nihilism according to which nothing matters in survival Although we generally have motivating reasons to have prudential concern and perhaps even indirect normative reasons for such concerns there is no relation that gives you a basic foundational normative reason for prudential concern This view goes beyond what Parfit calls the Extreme View It is the More Extreme View and is in effect something like an error theory about prudential reason as a special kind of normative reason

*Inwardness and Morality* Eric Wolf Fried, 2005-01-01 This book reminds us that in inwardness I am in myself It defines our experience in terms of subjectivity private self awareness and complex relationships between interiority and outwardness The book shows that our inwardness need not confine us to narcissistic self absorption but may expand our capacity for richer more sympathetic relations with others

## **Reading Parfit** Book Review: Unveiling the Power of Words

In a world driven by information and connectivity, the energy of words has been evident than ever. They have the capacity to inspire, provoke, and ignite change. Such is the essence of the book **Reading Parfit**, a literary masterpiece that delves deep to the significance of words and their affect our lives. Written by a renowned author, this captivating work takes readers on a transformative journey, unraveling the secrets and potential behind every word. In this review, we shall explore the book's key themes, examine its writing style, and analyze its overall effect on readers.

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