



PRIFYSGOL CYMRU
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
UNIVERSITY OF WALES
Trinity Saint David

Institute of Education and Humanities/
Yr Athrofa Addysg a'r Dyniaethau

**MA Dissertation Approval Form/
Ffurflen Gymeradwyo Traethawd Hir MA**

Student Name/ <i>Enw Myfyriwr</i>	LEOROY ANTHONY HARTLEY
Degree Scheme/ <i>Cynllun Gradd</i>	MA DISSERTATION (PHILOSOPHY) HPPH7014
Start date/ <i>Dyddiad cychwyn</i>	3 RD OCTOBER 2022

I have completed PG/cert and PG/dip in philosophy and religion.

Yr wyf wedi/ ar fun cwblhau Rhan 1 o fy ngradd

** Dileu fel sy'n briodol*

Title of Dissertation:

WHAT IS THE SELF

An evaluation of the extent to which Eastern and Western philosophy can be said to offer conflicting views of the self (personal identity, individualism and consciousness)

Aims and Objectives:

- 1) Make a distinction on the differences and similarities on how the self is viewed in both Eastern and Western thought.
- 2) How these differences and similarities in philosophical thought on the self have shaped the perspective on personal identity, individualism, consciousness, family and society
- 3) To make the case that the self is more than just personal identity, individualism but is more of a consciousness that is multi layered and when the layers are peeled back we find that which is common to all humanity.

Abstract (approximately 500 words):

The research methodology I shall be utilising for my dissertation will be the thematic process, which will predominately consist of a literature review of published philosophical materials. I have decided to use this method as it allows

me to cover a wide range of different philosophies whilst being able to compare and contrast similarities and differences.

The research literature for my dissertation will concentrate predominantly on the evaluation of the abstract philosophies that can be found in both Eastern and Western schools of thought. The first philosophers that will be critiqued on what the abstract construct of the self are those thinkers whom come from Taoism (or Daoism) and Confucianism, both of these philosophies are indigenous to China. Also from India in the East both Hinduism and Buddhism will be critiqued along the same abstract construct question on what the self is. Although some philosophies have become religions in their native countries of origin it is not the premise of this dissertation to delve into religious doctrine but to stay within the parameters of philosophical critique.

The literature review will consider a number of prominent philosophers from the West who will be critiqued along the same lines as those thinkers from the East. These philosophers will include in no particular order such thinkers as:

- David Hume
- Rene Descartes
- John Lock
- Immanuel Kant
- Wittgenstein
- Arthur Shopenhauer
- Marcus Aurelius
- Epictetus

This list may expand or contract depending on the literature review and research I have used. During the research those ideologies on the self from both Eastern and Western philosophers, a comparative analysis of the conflicting views on the self will be deliberated. Although different ideologies from the different philosophies will be compared, the similarities will also be highlighted.

The research found from these schools of thought will further be used to analyse how these have shaped perspectives on the self (personal identity, individualism, consciousness, family and society) in the East and West.

The premise of the dissertation is **(a)** to demonstrate that the abstract social construct of self whether coming from Eastern or Western philosophies, is a multi layered construct that when stripped down to it's core conception, is the mutual fundamental core element that is a common denominator connecting the human family. **(b)** It is my hypothesis that demographical displacement has resulted in different social condition, culture and philosophies. These factors have resulted in conflicting and similar schools of thought that give us this supposedly Eastern and Western divide in philosophical concepts of the self.

Short Introductory Bibliography:

1. The Analects Confucius, translated by Simon Leys edited by Michael Nylon
2. The Way of Zen, Alan Watts edited by Vintage books
3. An Introduction to Indian Philosophy. Christopher Bartley
4. The encyclopaedia of Eastern philosophy and religion, Buddhism , Hinduism ,
5. Taoism, Zen. Editor Stephan Schumacher
6. History of Indian philosophy edited by Purushottama Bilimoria with Amy Rayner
7. The Upanishads a complete guide edited by Signe Cohen
8. Ten Theories of Human Nature, Third Edition Leslie Stevenson & David L Haberman
9. David Hume, A Treatise of Human Nature, Book I, Edited by David Fate Norton
10. Kant and the Philosophy of mind, Perception, Reason and the self. Edited by Anil Gomes and Andrew Stephenson
11. Five levels of self-awareness as they unfold early in life Philippe Rochat
12. Bernard Williams, the self and the future. Edited by Cambridge press
13. John Perry, A Dialogue on personal Identity and immortality
14. Rene Descartes A Discourse on the method new translation by Ian Maclean
15. Hagen, Steve (1997) Buddhism Plain and Simple. Publish by Penguin
16. Gowans, Christopher W Philosophy of the Buddha. Published by Routledge
17. Mahathera, Venerable Narada. The Buddha and his teachings.
18. The complete works of Zhuangzi Translated by burton Watson
19. Karyn Lai. Learning from Chinese philosophies. Ethics of Interdependent and Contextualized Self, Edited by David E Cooper.
20. Karyn Lai An Introduction to Chinese philosophy, Cambridge university press
21. journal, Chinese Conception of the self-key terms
22. Lauren F.P Fister, Family ethics and new visions of self-hood in post-secular Chinese teachings, Journal of Chinese Philosophy.
23. Visuddhimagga. The Path of Purification, Translated from the Pali by Bhikkhu Namamoli
24. Deng MING-Dao, Every day Tao, Living with balance and harmony, First edition Calligraphy by Edwards E. Thi
25. Marcus Aurelius , Meditations, translated by George Long.
26. Personal notes on Buddhism
27. Hans-George Moeller , Daoism Explained , from the dream of the butterfly to the fishnet allegory , Edited by open court Chicago and La Salle , Illinois
28. Lecture handout, the Chinese Conception of the self , towards a person-making perspective.

29. Irene Bloom, Mencius edited Philip J. Ivanhoe
30. Reading in Hang Chinese thought Edited and translated by Mark
Csikszentmihalyi.

Proposed Supervisor:
Goruchwyliwr awgrymedig

Please indicate whether ethical approval for project is needed –**NO**
Nodwch a oes angen cymeradwyaeth foesegol ar gyfer y prosiect - OES / NAC
OES

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The above topic, proposal, and supervisor have been agreed:
Cytunwyd ar y pwnc, y cynnig a'r goruchwyliwr uchod:

Signed : Programme Director/
Llofnod Cyfarwyddwr y rhaglen

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