

Human Identity And Bioethics

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This book explores numerical and narrative accounts of identity, through philosophical and non-philosophical perspectives. When philosophers address personal identity, they usually explore numerical identity: what are the criteria for a person's continuing existence? When non-philosophers address personal identity, they often have in mind narrative identity: Which characteristics of a particular person are salient to her self-conception? This book develops accounts of both senses of identity, arguing that both are normatively important, and is unique in its exploration of a range of issues in bioethics through the lens of identity. Defending a biological view of our numerical identity and a framework for understanding narrative identity, DeGrazia investigates various issues for which considerations of identity prove critical: the definition of death, the authority of advance directives in cases of severe dementia, the use of enhancement technologies, prenatal genetic interventions, and certain types of reproductive choices. He demonstrates the power of personal identity theory to illuminate issues in bioethics as they bring philosophical theory to life. EAN/ISBN : 9780511123634 Publisher(s): Cambridge University Press Format: ePub/PDF Author(s): DeGrazia, David

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