

Adrian M. S. Piper,  
*Rationality and the Structure of the Self, Volume II: A Kantian Conception*

Cambridge University Press Reader C

There's much about Piper's manuscript that is interesting and good, since she is obviously extremely intelligent and knowledgeable as well as a very articulate and talented writer such that her manuscript has many significant strengths. The manuscript's greatest strength is that it articulates a Kantian conception of the self that is interesting and has not been developed in the literature. ... In particular, Piper argues that certain principles of rationality (with both horizontal and vertical consistency built into subsentential concept usage) are required in order for unified agency to be possible. She argues further that this conception of agency can be linked to Kant's conception of self-consciousness in the Transcendental Deduction, contrasted with Humean desire-based conceptions, and formalized in such a way that it relates directly to "standard" versions of decision theory. She then illustrates how this theory of the self can make sense of a variety of phenomena in moral psychology. Another strength of the manuscript is that it tackles an important issue, not a mere technicality, and does so without being overly narrow, as some projects in analytical philosophy can be. It is also well written and clearly organized. ... a highly significant contribution.