



Identity and Discrimination

By Timothy Williamson



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Identity and Discrimination, originally published in 1990 and the first book by respected philosopher Timothy Williamson, is now reissued and updated with the inclusion of significant new material. Williamson here proposes an original and rigorous theory linking identity, a relation central to metaphysics, and indiscriminability, a relation central to epistemology.

- Updated and reissued edition of Williamson's first publication, with the inclusion of significant new material
- Argues for an original cognitive account of the relation between identity and discrimination that has been influential in the philosophy of perception
- Pioneers the use of epistemic logic to solve puzzles about indiscriminability
- Develops the application of techniques from mathematical logic to understand issues about identity over time and across possible worlds

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Editorial Review

Review

"The decades of research since *Identity and Discrimination* was first published have shown how badly a theory of indiscriminability is needed for understanding a wide range of philosophical problems. Williamson's discussion has numerous applications in metaphysics, epistemology, and the philosophy of mind."

--Susanna Siegel, Harvard University

"This is the first book of one of our greatest philosophers. Unrelenting in his clear, thorough style, Williamson presents a groundbreaking epistemic account of indiscriminability. The unified vision underlying some of Williamson's best-known subsequent work---on vagueness, identity, and knowledge---emerges here."

--Delia Graff Fara, Princeton University

From the Back Cover

This updated edition of *Identity and Discrimination*, first published in 1990 and the first book by well-known philosopher Timothy Williamson, is now reissued with the inclusion of significant new material. This major work - influential in philosophy of perception and the theory of vagueness - continues in an original and rigorous way to highlight the necessity of discrimination and the thresholds which determine the approximate criteria of identity.

Williamson's proposal for an original and rigorous theory links identity, a relation central to metaphysics, and indiscriminability, a relation central to epistemology. He provides a distinctive cognitive account of the nature of discrimination, with important applications to the philosophy of perception and the theory of vagueness. The book pioneers the use of epistemic logic to solve the notorious paradoxes of indiscriminability, and develops the application of techniques from mathematical logic to understand issues about identity over time and across possible worlds.

About the Author

Timothy Williamson is the Wykeham Professor of Logic at the University of Oxford. He has previously taught at the University of Edinburgh, Trinity College Dublin, and as a visitor at MIT, Princeton, the Australian National University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is the author of *Vagueness* (1994), *Knowledge and its Limits* (2000), *The Philosophy of Philosophy* (Blackwell, 2007), and *Modal Logic as Metaphysics* (2013). He is a Fellow of the British Academy and a Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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