Campus Theme 2022-23

Identity

The concept of identity has become the subject of much interest and debate from a variety of viewpoints. But what exactly does "identity" entail? It is not uncommon to hear people talk about identity in terms of gender, social class, ethnicity, race, language, abilities and dis/abilities, and so on. With the goal of understanding the idea in its fullness, SOU has chosen **Identity** as its 2022-23 Campus Theme. We will undertake a rigorous, multidisciplinary inquiry into the subject of identity.

Throughout the year, we will explore questions of identity from philosophical, social, political, religious, scientific, mathematical, artistic, and other perspectives. We will also examine how the concept of identity has become one of the most powerful, mobilizing, and, at the same time, contentious forces in contemporary culture. In keeping with the Campus Theme tradition, we will undertake this exploration with genuine curiosity, rationally and dispassionately.

"Identity" is widely understood as a predicate that functions as an identifier, i.e., a marker that distinguishes and differentiates one object from other objects. Thus, identity in this sense focuses on the uniqueness of the concerned object. In Aristotle, the principle of identity stands as the highest principle attainable by philosophical thought. Since the 17th century, the question concerning the nature of "personal identity" has been at the center of philosophical speculation, having profound implications for such diverse domains as law, medicine, technology, ethics, economics, commerce, and political theory.

More recently, while the concept of identity has generated much interest in the humanities and social sciences, its natural scientific, mathematical, and other dimensions are often neglected, and even ignored. As a topic of our Campus Theme, we will broaden the focus of this critical issue to include these overlooked dimensions.

We would greatly appreciate a prompt approval of the theme. We are pleased to announce that 2022-23 marks the 15th year of Campus Theme Program at SOU!

Prakash Chenjeri / Justin Harmon

May 14, 2022