

‘How the self is understood has implications for how it is studied.’ Discuss this statement in relation to both the phenomenological and social psychoanalytic perspectives. (2013/SEP)

The main source for this question is Book 1, Chapter 5 and Chapters 2 and 3. To begin to address this question you would need to spend some time at the beginning explaining how the two perspectives understand the self. For the phenomenological perspective you would need to explain that it refuses the separation between the world and the subjective experience of that world. For the social psychoanalytic perspective you would need to explore how the self is produced from conscious and unconscious processes. You would need to explain how the two perspectives see the role of when considering the self and what implications this has for the study of the self. You should then outline the different methodological approaches adopted in the two perspectives making sure that you explain the links between these methods, the assumptions underlying these methods and the ways in which the self is understood in them. You should outline the steps adopted by phenomenological social psychologists showing the main things focused on and why and illustrate your discussion with reference to relevant examples. The same approach should be adopted when explaining the social psychoanalytic approach and illustrating it with reference to examples. You should also point out that the social psychoanalytic approach has developed methods derived from but not the same as the clinical work of psychoanalysis. Finally as well as summarising their differences you might want to point to the things that the two perspectives share in their understanding of and approach to the self.

- Resources
 - Book 1
 - Chapter 5: **Self**
 - Chapter 2: Social psychology: past and present
 - Chapter 3: Methods and knowledge in social psychology
- 1. **Explain** how the two perspectives understand the self
 - 1. Perspectives
 - 1. **Phenomenological**: refuses the separation between the world and the subjective experience of that world.
 - 2. **Social psychoanalytic**: how the self is produced from conscious and unconscious processes.
 - 2. **Explain** how the role of 'experience' when considering the self
 - 1. **Phenomenological**
 - 2. **Social psychoanalytic**
 - 2. What implications does this have for the study of the self?
- 3. **Outline** the different methodological approaches adopted, **explain**
 - 1. the links between the methods
 - 2. the assumptions underlying these methods
 - 3. the ways in which the **self** is understood in them
- 4. Methods: **outline** the steps adopted
 - 1. **Phenomenological**
 - 1. main things focused on and why

2. illustrate by referencing relevant examples
2. **Social psychoanalytic**
 1. main things focused on and why
 2. illustrate by referencing relevant examples
 3. point out that methods are derived from but not the same as clinical psychoanalysis.
5. Considering each perspective's understanding/approach to the **self**, **summarise** perspective
 1. differences
 2. similarities