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Summary of Research Project

Throughout my PhD project at UCL, I want to think about a number of metaphysical and ethical problems associated with arriving a better understanding of our personal identities. At this stage in my thinking, these problems primarily coalesce around a singular concern: What does it mean to be authentic? Naïvely, authenticity seems to be nothing more than placing a special emphasis on the things that represent who you really are as a person and what matters most to that person. But after that point, philosophers quickly descend into disagreement. And so, I hope to trace our understanding of authenticity—what it means to be authentic—across a variety of philosophical discussions, including those within both applied and experimental philosophy. In particular, I plan to wade into debates about authenticity in the context of transformative experience, non-identity, freedom, moral responsibility, and several others.