

Content

| | |
|---|----|
| Abstract | 3 |
| Acknowledgments | 4 |
| Contents | 6 |
| Section One..... | 13 |
| Organization of the Dissertation..... | 16 |
| Chapter 1: The Self and the Me..... | 19 |
| The World of the Self | 19 |
| The World of the Me | 21 |
| Kara = Self + Me | 23 |
| Chapter 2: My Story..... | 24 |
| Applying my Story..... | 37 |
| Chapter 3: Theoretical Foundations | 40 |
| The Influence of Postmodern Philosophy and Social Construction Theory | 40 |
| Modernism..... | 40 |
| Postmodernism..... | 42 |
| Social Construction Theory and Practice | 43 |
| Dialogue..... | 44 |
| Language | 46 |
| Relational | 48 |
| Responsibility | 49 |
| Methodology Through a Postmodern Stance | 50 |
| Generative Conversation | 52 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Identity Crisis..... | 52 |
| A Pivotal Moment..... | 53 |
| Dialogue Led to Change of Direction | 56 |
| Transformation..... | 59 |
| Artificial End | 60 |
| Post Script..... | 60 |
| Section Two..... | 62 |
| Chapter 4: Charles Horton Cooley: The Social Self..... | 64 |
| Historical Context..... | 64 |
| Human Nature and the Social Order..... | 66 |
| Instinct..... | 66 |
| Individual's Place in Society..... | 67 |
| Free Will and Choice..... | 68 |
| Looking-glass Self..... | 70 |
| Self-feeling | 71 |
| Reflections While Reading Cooley..... | 74 |
| Significance of the 'Other' | 75 |
| 1 st Reflective Process..... | 75 |
| 2 nd Reflective Process | 76 |
| Free Will and Choice..... | 76 |
| 1 st RP..... | 76 |
| 2 nd RP | 78 |
| Identity..... | 80 |

| | |
|---|----|
| 1 st RP..... | 80 |
| 2 nd RP..... | 81 |
| Responsibility/Accountability | 81 |
| 1 st RP..... | 81 |
| 2 nd RP..... | 83 |
| To Be Versus To Feel | 84 |
| 1 st RP..... | 84 |
| 2 nd RP..... | 85 |
| Self Awareness | 85 |
| 1 st RP..... | 85 |
| 2 nd RP..... | 86 |
| Ignoring the Self..... | 86 |
| 1 st RP..... | 86 |
| 2 nd RP..... | 90 |
| Imagined Reader's Reflections While Reflecting Upon Cooley..... | 90 |
| Question of Ontology | 91 |
| 1 st RP..... | 91 |
| 2 nd RP..... | 92 |
| Question of Validity and Reliability | 93 |
| 1 st RP..... | 93 |
| 2 nd RP..... | 93 |
| Question of the Chicken and the Egg..... | 94 |
| 1 st RP..... | 94 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| 2 nd RP | 95 |
| Questioning if my Self is Socially Constructed | 95 |
| 1 st RP..... | 95 |
| 2 nd RP..... | 96 |
| Chapter 5: Kenneth Gergen: The Relational Self | 97 |
| Historical Context..... | 97 |
| The Saturated Self: Dilemmas of Identity in Contemporary Life..... | 98 |
| Reflections While Reading Gergen..... | 101 |
| Postmodernism and the Self | 101 |
| 1 st Reflective Process..... | 102 |
| 2 nd Reflective Process | 103 |
| Understanding the Self..... | 103 |
| 1 st RP..... | 103 |
| 2 nd RP | 104 |
| Relational Self..... | 105 |
| 1 st RP..... | 105 |
| 2 nd RP | 106 |
| Morality..... | 107 |
| 1 st RP..... | 107 |
| 2 nd RP | 107 |
| Imagined Reader's Reflections While Reflecting Upon Gergen..... | 108 |
| Aren't you Being Just a Little Selfish? | 108 |
| 1 st RP..... | 108 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| 2 nd RP | 108 |
| Chapter 6: Plato: The A Priori Self..... | 110 |
| Historical Context..... | 110 |
| Republic..... | 110 |
| Reflections While Reading Plato..... | 116 |
| Is the Truth Out There?..... | 116 |
| 1 st Reflective Process..... | 116 |
| 2 nd Reflective Process | 117 |
| Education as a Means to Know the Self..... | 118 |
| 1 st RP..... | 118 |
| 2 nd RP..... | 119 |
| Imagined Reader's Reflections While Reflecting Upon Plato..... | 120 |
| Aren't you Being Hypocritical? | 120 |
| 1 st RP..... | 120 |
| 2 nd RP..... | 122 |
| Chapter 7: St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo: The Self as Means to an End | 124 |
| Historical Context..... | 124 |
| On Free Choice of the Will..... | 125 |
| Reflections While Reading St. Augustine..... | 128 |
| Either/or Versus Both/and | 128 |
| 1 st Reflective Process..... | 128 |
| 2 nd Reflective Process | 129 |
| The A Priori Problem..... | 129 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 1 st RP..... | 130 |
| 2 nd RP..... | 130 |
| Are we Really Free?..... | 130 |
| 1 st RP..... | 130 |
| 2 nd RP..... | 133 |
| Reason..... | 133 |
| 1 st RP..... | 134 |
| 2 nd RP..... | 134 |
| Imagined Reader's Reflections While Reflecting Upon St. Augustine.... | 135 |
| The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing | 135 |
| 1 st RP..... | 135 |
| 2 nd RP..... | 136 |
| Chapter 8: Rene Descartes: The Separate Self | 138 |
| Historical Context..... | 138 |
| Meditations of First Philosophy, With Selections from the Objections and Replies | 139 |
| Reflections While Reading Descartes..... | 143 |
| “I am my Self, Therefore I am” | 143 |
| 1 st Reflective Process..... | 143 |
| 2 nd Reflective Process | 144 |
| Doubt..... | 144 |
| 1 st RP..... | 144 |
| 2 nd RP..... | 145 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Body | 145 |
| 1 st RP..... | 145 |
| 2 nd RP..... | 146 |
| God | 147 |
| 1 st RP..... | 147 |
| 2 nd RP..... | 147 |
| Imagined Reader's Reflections While Reflecting Upon Descartes..... | 148 |
| Where is your Evidence? | 148 |
| 1 st RP..... | 148 |
| 2 nd RP..... | 151 |
| Section Three | 153 |
| Chapter 9: Discussion..... | 154 |
| Perspective in Scholarship..... | 155 |
| Perspective Comes to Life | 160 |
| Individual: An Alternative Meaning..... | 165 |
| Application to the Field of History..... | 168 |
| Appendix A | 174 |
| Bibliography..... | 176 |