

# Kant's Epistemology

## Part IV: Critique of Rationalistic Metaphysics

# Overview:

- Kant Epistemology—the details

- Critique of Rationalistic Metaphysics

- The Self

- Being-in-general (the world)

- God

- Regulative Use of Reason

# Kant's Critique of Rationalistic Metaphysics

## ■ The Self

- Kant thought the argument for the existence of self as a subject (or substance) failed on what is termed a “fallacy of four terms”
  - He thought the rationalist's argument used different senses for the term “self” in their argument for the existence of self—so the argument had 4 terms instead of 3 terms
  - In one premise they are speaking of “self” as an empirical self and in the other as a transcendental self

# Kant's Critique of Rationalistic Metaphysics

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Intuitive forms of  
space and time

Categories of the  
Understanding

Regulative Ideas

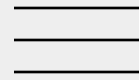
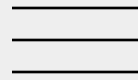
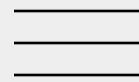
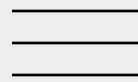
Creates greater unity of reason than just with  
the categories of the understanding

Sensations directly shaped  
by:

S

T

Imagination



World

Self

God

Noumena

Ding an sich  
Things in Themselves  
Unknown X

Phenomena

**The Synthesizing Activities of the Mind**





Intuitive forms of  
space and time

Categories of the  
Understanding (constitutive)

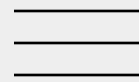
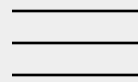
Regulative Ideas

Creates greater unity of reason than just with  
the categories of the understanding; establish  
relationships to world, self, God

Sensations directly formed  
by:

S

T



World

Self

God

Imagination

Noumena

Ding an sich  
Things in Themselves  
Unknown X

Phenomena

**The Synthesizing Activities of the Mind**

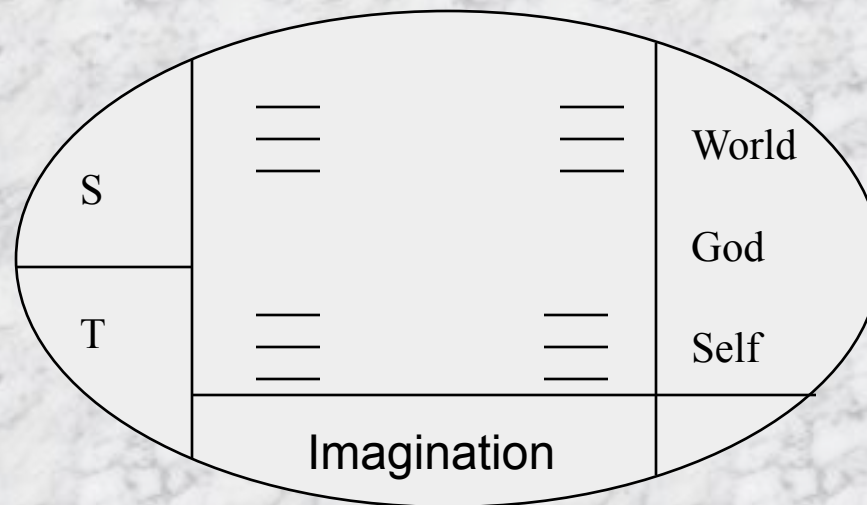


Fichte took Kant's idea a step further by asserting this:  
The I or Ego which is the pure original unchangeable consciousness

Kant

Transcendental Unity of Apperception  
Or  
Transcendental Apperception  
(riding "above" the syntheses below)

Sounds like the  
glue that holds  
self together and  
objects together  
(Because of the  
term "unity")



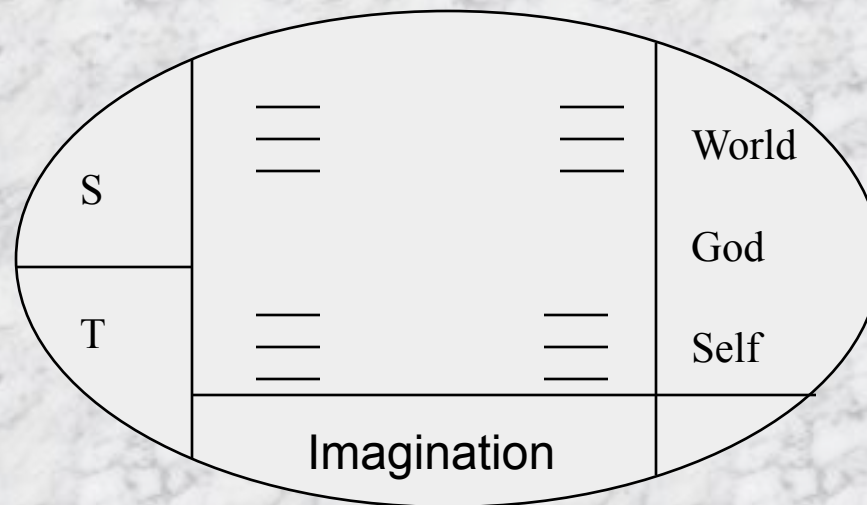
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**The Synthesizing Activities of the Mind**