

Title	Total Recall
Director	Paul Verhoeven
Date	1990
Area	Early Modern Philosophy
Theme	Locke – personal identity
Plot Summary	Doug Quaid (Arnold Schwarzenegger), who dreams recurrently about Mars, goes to Recall, a 'travel agency' that implants memories of holidays for those who can't afford the real thing. In the course of the implant procedure, having chosen the 'invincible secret agent on Mars' adventure, he finds he has already undergone a memory implant procedure. He comes to believe that he is in fact not a lowly construction worker but a secret agent called Hauser, apparently fighting against the evil Mars administrator Cohagen. He goes to Mars to find out why someone wiped his memory. Can be used to discuss Locke's memory criterion for personal identity i.e. the idea that I am the same person I was yesterday because I can remember things I experienced and did yesterday.
Key Scenes	Quaid, captured by the Martian authorities, learns from a message recorded by his former self, Hauser, that his former self has set him up. Hauser has had his memories wiped and become Quaid in order to get access to the Martian resistance leader, whose psychic abilities would have allowed him to spot Hauser. Now Hauser wants to be restored: "That's my body you've got there, and I want it back", which entails the destruction of Quaid's memories, of his whole personality. See also an earlier scene in which Hauser, again through a pre-recorded message, informs Quaid that "you're not you, you're me". Here personal identity is tied closely to memory. It is not seen as bound up with bodily identity, having the same body. On this basis, Quaid is distinguished from Hauser even though they have the same body. They are also different moral agents. Quaid is 'good' and Hauser is 'bad'.
Relevant Text	Locke, Essay Concerning Human Understanding, 'Of Identity and Diversity' (II. Xxvii)