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Self-interest as given to people by nature.

Adam Smith's and Fryderyk Skarbek's analyses of division of labour.

An analysis of the phenomenon of labour (and its division), especially conducted from the point of view of the philosophy, cannot be detached from a description of a human being and his/her motivations, instincts and needs.

Self-interest (egoism, self-love) is one of the most frequently discussed issues when it comes to the analysis of Adam Smith's thought. My intention is to discuss the strive to self-preservation primarily in the context of its universal role as an instinct given to us by the nature – as it can be understood when referring to e.g. Adam Smith's paper *Of the External Senses*. This essay, strongly inspired by George Berkeley's *New Theory of Vision* does not only describe the external senses, but also makes few interesting points when discussing the question of so called “appetites”.

Self-interest is important for Adam Smith's theory in its numerous aspects. One of them is the question of labour and the division of labour. Therefore this paper is also to consider the issue of division of labour and its connection to self-interest in theories developed by Adam Smith and Fryderyk Skarbek. The latter thinker – inspired, amongst others, by Adam Smith created an economical and social theory, where he also addressed the problem of division of labour. Both these authors underlined the role of the division of labour in the process of economic growth, however, when Smith saw the roots of the division of labour primarily in the innate strive to self-preservation and market exchange, Skarbek considered the division of labour to be an effect of the private property.