

# "On Methods of Inference": Notes For Review And Discussion (Including David Sedley Article: "On Signs")

Post by "Cassius" of August 26, 2021 at 6:46 PM

Here's an interesting one:

cally, yes.<sup>24</sup> Rejecting the Epicurean inductive inference from the mortality of men within our experience to the mortality of men outside our experience, the Stoics teasingly offer alternative formulations which they judge valid, for example 'Since the men within our experience are mortal, so too if there are elsewhere men resembling the men within our experience in other respects and especially in respect of being mortal, they would be mortal' (2.36–3.4); or 'Since the men within our experience are mortal, and if elsewhere there are mortal men, they are mortal' (3.10–12); or again, 'Since all men resemble men within our experience also in respect of being mortal, all men must be mortal' (19.36–20.4). Finally, their own serious formulation of the argument is: 'Since men within our experience are mortal *insofar as* they are men, men everywhere are mortal' (3.30–5; cf. 35.2–3). It is clear that both the frivolous and the serious formations offered as valid share the characteristic of resting on a purely logical relation of entailment.

I interpret that to mean "The Stoics are playing a word game."