

Eliminative Materialism

Post by “Cassius” of January 4, 2025 at 7:55 PM

I've reread the thread and I can certainly see that it's legitimate to say that O'Keefe winds up in the same place as Sedley ultimately, with O'Keefe agreeing that *the idea that our reality is unreal is bad*, but saying that *reductionism doesn't necessarily mean that our reality is unreal*.

But that observation just leads me back to Bryan's initial inclination that O'Keefe was "splitting hairs." The real question is not how to get the finest dictionary definition of the term "reductionism," but to understand what the philosophical issue is and why it has practical importance. That's what David Sedley did very eloquently in his original observations in *Hellenistic Philosophers* and his later article.

If all someone has time for is the big picture, I'd suggest that page 34 of Dr. Sedley's article will give them most everything they really need to know about the relationship between Epicurus and Democritus on this point. But if someone finds that the additional points made in "Epicurus On Freedom" provides them a more clear picture, or fills in some gap that they find missing in Sedley's viewpoint, then of course that's helpful.