

Welcome Aristos!

Post by “Aristos” of July 22, 2026 at 1:15 PM

Since I am still unable to participate fully in the forum, I wanted to share a piece of secondary literature that I recently came across and have been actively reading these days. The author is Ivan Nišavić, a local scholar from my region, and the work is titled: Nature, Soul, and Happiness: Foundations of Epicurean Ethics (2022), published by the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory in Belgrade.

At the moment, I am reading the chapter on Epicurus' theory of sense perception. Near the end of the chapter, the author takes the liberty of drawing a comparison between modern mainstream cognitive theories and Epicurus' teachings. He classifies Epicurus as an indirect realist, concluding that Epicurus is a realist because he allowed for the existence of objects and events independently of the perceiving subject; indirect because he required “intermediaries” (eidola) through which we gain access to the external world - because external objects have their specific properties, but for the observer - they reach cognition only after what I will paraphrase as a kind of “filtering through intermediaries.”

In the end, the very intuition that guided Epicurus (while we must keep in mind the historical distance and speculative nature of thought in the age without any of our present day knowledge) - it appears to be remarkably close to the assumptions of mainstream cognitive theories of today...

Thanks for your time and have a nice day ☺