

Article - David Sedley - 1988 - "Epicurean Anti-Reductionism"

Post by "Cassius" of March 27, 2026 at 12:43 PM

[Quote from DaveT](#)

I think it would be a better course to maximize Epicurus' reasons for his physics and minimize the study of the details for the average student, like me.

Probably that's the crux of the issue. There's a wide variety of people here with different backgrounds and interests, but this is primarily a forum for the promotion of Epicurean philosophy, not for philosophy generalists (not placing you in that latter category).

I am working on how to better deal with people on the newer side but as I see it the primary need in Epicurean philosophy is not that of building bridges to people of different opinions but working to develop a core team of people who like me share the conviction that Epicurus is uniquely worth rebuilding a "team" or "camp" of those who want to approach modern problems from the perspective of actual ancient Epicureans.

In most respects other than pure technology I see mostly regression from 2000 years ago, and in order to deal with that regression we need to focus on where things went wrong and how applying core Epicurean attitudes could redress those problems.

There are plenty of places on the Internet where people can discuss raw hedonic calculus from generic point of view, but almost no one bringing to bear the insights that people like Dewitt and Sedley have written about over the last 50 years.

So I will work on both but that's the explanation for where we are.