

Innovations/Updates in Epicurus Philosophy

Post by "Cassius" of April 18, 2026 at 4:58 PM

Thanks to Joshua for his post which I did not previously see.

As to the "fourth criteria" we have this earlier thread which explains the DeWitt position. Again, I'm by no means saying it is ridiculous to talk about the present impressions of the mind. The issue is what rank to give it and how to consider it, and clearly Epicurus himself did not consider there to be four criteria - his were the sensations, anticipations and feelings. To talk of "four criteria" is to presumptively take a position on an issue that is not at all settled in that direction, and which in fact is not the way Epicurus himself spoke. This is the hazard I was referring to earlier. Someone new to Epicurus and reading about "four criteria" as if it were a given that that was Epicurus' approach is going to be immediately misled.

Thread

[Thoughts On The Alleged "Fourth Leg of the Canon"](#)

I don't have time for a long post but I wanted to start this topic with a couple of general thoughts which are prompted by our recent discussions of images in book four of Lucretius, plus the articles from [the Encyclopedia Britannica](#) (thanks Nate) as to the development of skepticism within the Academy, as well as the Stoic/Academic interplay involving how the Stoics attempted to remain dogmatic. Let me particularly highlight this paragraph:

[...]

Now as to the Epicureans, here is the primary...



Cassius

May 3, 2021 at 8:49 AM