

Wilson (Catherine), Epicureanism at the Origins of Modernity

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https://www.academia.edu/26175858/Intro...ent_Materialism

This turned up in my email this morning; it may add some context to her latest book. This is the intro to a previous book of hers.

I've only had a chance to read a bit of it. A couple of notes:

- page 3: Gassendi stripped Epicurus of anti-providentialism, mortality of the soul, multiple worlds and a priori knowledge and in so doing laid the foundation for British empiricism. It sounds to me like he also laid the foundation for the destruction of the philosophy!
- page 5: "pain... is an unqualified evil". Followed by a decent description of Epicurean pleasure, except for her inclusion of the word "should". At first blush this seems to get to the heart of our disagreement with her: shoulds and unqualifieds imply Ideas, not a material universe.