

Material Dependence and Kant's Refutation of Idealism

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Accepted: 7 October 2022

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Abstract

The paper argues that in the Critique of Pure Reason Kant develops two anti-sceptical strategies. In the Fourth Paralogism

(CPR A) he believes himself able to refute the sceptic by demonstrating that external perception is immediate.

This strategy

is rather unconvincing. In the Refutation of Idealism (CPR B) Kant promotes the material dependence of inner sense on

outer sense. I show that Kant's argument for material dependence has been widely overlooked, even though it is the strongest

argument against external world scepticism he develops, since it anticipates mental content externalism while preserving

transcendental idealism and empirical realism.

Keywords Kant · *Refutation of idealism* · *Fourth paralogism* · *External world scepticism* · *Mental content externalism*