

A Defense of Mr. Locke's Essay of Human Understanding
Catharine Trotter Cockburn

Readability: Moderate/Difficult

Possible Applications:

Philosophy of Mind (thinking matter, immortality/immateriality of soul/mind)
Personal Identity (defense/disambiguation of Locke's view)
Metaphilosophy (arguments, charity, dialectic)

Complimentary Texts/Resources:

Jane Duran, "Early English Empiricism and the Work of Catharine Trotter Cockburn"

Martha Brandt Bolton, "Some Aspects of the Philosophical Work of Catharine Trotter"

Patricia Sheridan, "Reflection, Nature and Moral Law: The Extent of Catharine Cockburn's Lockeanism in her Defence of Mr. Locke's Essay"

SEP article on Cockburn:

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/cockburn/>

Women-philosophers.com on Cockburn:

<http://www.women-philosophers.com/Catharine-Trotter-Cockburn.html>

Editions:

The entire "Defence" is available electronically, though in a hard-to-read format:

<http://catalog.library.georgetown.edu/record=b2953974~S4>

A portion (p.69-92 of the Birch) is available version is in Atherton's *Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period*:

<http://www.amazon.com/Women-Philosophers-Early-Modern-Period/dp/0872202593/>

Cockburn's works are collected, in this collection (and elsewhere):

<http://www.broadviewpress.com/product.php?productid=767&cat=12&page=3>

Thesis:

Catharine Trotter Cockburn argues that Burnet's critiques of Locke are mistaken. In particular, she argues (a) that Burnet has misunderstood Locke, (b) that Burnet's conclusions aren't supported by his arguments, and (c) that, even if they were, they would not constitute criticisms of Locke. Primarily, Cockburn is eager to show that Locke's view is consistent with a view of the mind/soul as immaterial and immortal.

Key Definitions:

Summary:

Class Activities: