



The “thinking matter” hypothesis and its metaphysical import in Locke’s *Essay concerning human understanding*

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Abstract: Locke’s thinking matter hypothesis, besides illustrating our epistemic limitations, raises important metaphysical questions. As it is clear that it is not the mere invocation of a miracle, it raises questions for the coherence of the *Essay*’s metaphysical underpinning, and in particular for the compatibility between Locke’s presumed ‘mechanism’ and the existence of properties that God is ‘superadding’ to the essential properties of matter.

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