



Epicureanism: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

By Catherine Wilson

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Epicureanism is commonly associated with a carefree view of life and the pursuit of pleasures, particularly the pleasures of the table. However it was a complex and distinctive system of philosophy that emphasized simplicity and moderation, and considered nature to consist of atoms and the void. Epicureanism is a school of thought whose legacy continues to reverberate today.

In this *Very Short Introduction*, Catherine Wilson explains the key ideas of the School, comparing them with those of the rival Stoics and with Kantian ethics, and tracing their influence on the development of scientific and political thought from Locke, Newton, and Galileo to Rousseau, Marx, Bentham, and Mill. She discusses the adoption and adaptation of Epicurean motifs in science, morality, and politics from the 17th Century onwards and contextualises the significance of Epicureanism in modern life.

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Epicureanism: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) By Catherine Wilson Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #414517 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2016-02-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 4.40" h x .50" w x 6.70" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 144 pages



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Editorial Review

About the Author

Catherine Wilson is the Anniversary Professor of Philosophy at York University and known for her work on the legacy of Epicureanism. She has contributed chapters to the *Cambridge Companion to Epicurus* (CUP, 2009) and is the author of the highly regarded monograph, *Epicureanism at the Origins of Modernity* (OUP, 2008).

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