

Philosophy of Space, Time and Spacetime: Study Questions for Leibniz-Clarke Debate

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1. What is the Principle of Sufficient Reason? How does Leibniz use it in his arguments? Is he consistent in his formulation and use of it? How does Clarke reply to arguments based on it?
2. What is the Principle of the Identity of Indiscernibles? How does Leibniz use it in his arguments? Is he consistent in his formulation and use of it? How does Clarke reply to arguments based on it?
3. Leibniz claims that it not conceivable that God could have created the entire universe exactly as it actually is now, with the one exception that everything in it should be “shoved three feet to the left”. What do you make of this argument? What are the assumptions Leibniz needs for the argument to be valid? Do you agree with them?

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