

1. Absolute Idealism (Hegel, Green, Bradley, McTaggart)

- (a) Rejection of the Kantian noumenal world

Green: postulation of a world of things-in-themselves, defined by its role in the Kantian system as unknowable, is indefensible.

- (b) Monism

The doctrine of internal relations

- (c) Antinomies of space, time, and the infinite

- i. Space and time are not real

- ii. Our idea of infinity contains contradictions

- (d) The imperfection of all discursive knowledge

- (e) Dialectic and synthesis

2. Moore and Russell's rebellion

- (a) Direct Realism: cut out the middleman

Objectivity needs *objects*

- (b) Paradoxes of the infinite resolved by 19th century mathematics ("Mathematics and the metaphysicians" 1901)

- (c) Logicism: mathematical knowledge doesn't depend on intuition

3. Propositions and their constituents

- (a) **Definition:** A *proposition* is what is expressed by a sentence.

- (b) Propositions are mind-independent, and are simply true or false.

- (c) Russell: Propositions consist of those things that they are about.
Particulars and universals

- (d) Russell against *Sinn*

4. The problem of non-referring terms (*Principles of Mathematics* 1903)

- (a) Meinong: Non-existent things have *being*, or *subsist*.

- (b) Russell: When the subject doesn't refer, then the proposition contains a *denoting concept*.

- (c) Take home point: bamboozled by grammar

5. Historical interlude: International Congress of Philosophy, Paris, 1900

Three technical advances in logic

- (a) Propositional functions
- (b) Unsaturated functions and concepts
- (c) Quantifiers

6. Russell on uncovering logical form (“On denoting” 1905)

- (a) The grammatical subject of a sentence might not be its logical subject
- (b) “The so-and-so” is not a name, and has no meaning outside of a proposition.
- (c) But what about Santa Claus?

7. Knowledge by acquaintance

- (a) Sense data
- (b) Almost all proper names are really definite descriptions in disguise.
- (c) The only logically proper names are “I” and “this”.

8. Open problem for Russell: Reconstruct objects of the everyday world and of physics (“The relation of sense-data to physics” 1914)

9. Emerging themes

- (a) Surface grammar vs. logical grammar
- (b) Philosophy localized