

Logically Negative Thoughts without Negaters
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Abstract:

For the purposes of this talk, I'll assume that sentences like 'Aristotle was not dumb' and 'None/Some/All/Most of the dots are purple' correspond to mental sentences of some Language of Thought (LoT) that is available to humans without special training. I'll review some motivations for suspecting that the relevant LoT doesn't have a negation operator that can (i) combine with a complete thought T to form the logically negated thought $\sim T$, or (ii) combine with a mental predicate P to form the complement predicate $\sim P$, which applies to whatever P does not apply to. I'll suggest a different way of thinking about logically negative thoughts. The suggestion invites experimental investigation.