

Nanopublication – Lange/Helmholtz's 'signs, not copies' matches the shape of P11-current – but the rule doing the work is Kant's, not a codex

by Arnaud Quercy

The line runs between shape and ownership: Lange/Helmholtz confirm that access is rule-governed rather than organ-given, exactly the move P11-current makes – but their rule is transcendental and shared, where the framework's rule must be constructed and someone's own. The source is a clean historical precedent for the demotion of the organ, and a clean counter-case for the personal-codex requirement that gives that demotion its point within this framework.

WHAT THE SOURCE SAYS [1]

The entry traces Friedrich Albert Lange's life as pedagogue, socialist activist, and philosopher, and his central philosophical argument in *History of Materialism*: drawing on Helmholtz's physiology of the sense organs, Lange argues that nerves are not faithful transmitters of external properties – sensations are 'signs' or 'effects', not copies, of things (retinal images are two flat stimulations composited into one three-dimensional percept; colours and sounds are 'peculiar forms of excitation' rather than properties of things themselves). Against the naive materialist Czolbe, who held that qualities like colour and sound are transmitted unchanged through the nerve into the brain, Lange and Helmholtz insist that reaching an external world at all requires an inference governed by the a priori principle 'no effect without cause' – a law of thought given before all experience, not learned from organs or experience. This grounds Lange's 'back to Kant' response to the materialism controversy, alongside his socialist Darwinism, his pedagogy, and his work in formal logic.

WHERE THE LENS GRIPS

P11-current ('access runs through the RULE, not the organ; probe the codex instead') finds a real historical analogue here. The source stages exactly this contest: Czolbe's naive materialism holds that the organ itself carries the content faithfully (colour 'detaches itself... to penetrate into us through the portals of the sense organs') – the very or-

gan-as-ouverture picture P11 retired. Lange and Helmholtz refute this, arguing that what secures access to an object at all is not the organ's transmission but an a priori rule (causality) that the mind supplies before any experience. The demotion of the organ and the promotion of the rule is the same move, made independently, a century and a half earlier.

WHERE IT BREAKS

The grip holds on shape, not on content. The 'rule' doing the work in Lange is Kant's transcendental a priori – universal, necessary, the same for every mind, 'forced upon us' as a 'fact of reason,' explicitly not something an individual constructs. The framework's rule is the opposite kind of thing: the personal codex of P14, built 'from within,' singular and irreducible to its formulation, authentic only insofar as it is one's own and not borrowed (P14, and the borrowing-is-counterfeit logic that surrounds it). Lange's rule is binding precisely because it is nobody's construction; the codex is meaningful precisely because it is someone's. A defender could say P11-current is abstract enough to cover any non-organ-level rule, Kantian or personal – that reading holds only if 'rule' is emptied of the constructedness P14 insists on; read with P14 in view, the fit breaks at exactly this point.

PROPOSITIONAL GRID [2]

Read this grid. “Not evaluated” does **not** mean the source has nothing to say about that proposition. It means **the reading did not instruct it**. That is not a result, and it counts in no denominator. A silence, by contrast, is a finding: the reading touched the proposition without concluding, or noted its absence itself.

Evaluated

proposi- tion		audit status	relational verdict
P11	Sensory Diffraction	audited [3]	evidence-for
P14	The Codex as Overture	not audited	pressure-against

What was instructed. These propositions have been judged and carry a current statement: it is **that** statement the reading tested, not the founding one.

- **P11** – judged in Note 03 · current statement : access runs through the RULE, not the organ – the senses are not ouvertures; probe the codex instead
- Not evaluated (35)** – P1, P2, P3, P3a, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P12, P13, P14a, P14b, P15, P16, P16a, P17, P18, P18a, P19, P19a, P20, P21, P22, P23, P24, P25, P26, P27, P28, P29, P30, P31

Overall verdict: Bounded – taxonomy of the August 2026 pass, predating the move to relational verdicts. Kept as metadata: the gap between the two forms is data, not residue. This reading’s judgement is in the grid above.

Reading of 2026-05-04 · model claude-sonnet-5 · source 124,569 chars · 1 attempt(s)

FIRST PASS – KEPT AS WRITTEN

Reading produced by the T50 RSS pass, before the boundary lens. It is reproduced UNCORRECTED. Keeping it is the point: without it, a changed title is just a changed title – with it, what the second pass refused becomes legible.

Title it carried : « Friedrich Lange's Codex: Self-Imposed Constraint as Pedagogical Emission »

Lange's systematic approach to pedagogy and philosophy – his deliberate structuring of constraints within educational practice – operates as a codex in ideamorphic terms. He did not simply express ideas; he engineered a formal system through which those ideas would diffract differently in each student's overture. His work as both philosopher and pedagogist reveals the game-design logic: the teacher is not the player, the student is. The emission (the structured curriculum, the philosophical argument) becomes creation only through the student's diffractive reception. Lange's documented methodology and self-imposed limitations on how knowledge should be transmitted make him a proto-ideamorphist – one who understood that coherence without surrender (alignment of form with variation in reception) is the engine of genuine pedagogy, not mere expression.

T50 RSS assessment · 2026-05-04 · remplacée par boundary-lens-2026-08

REFERENCES

[1] Friedrich Albert Lange (Revised Entry). Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2026-05-04. <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/friedrich-lange/>

[2] Quercy, A. (2026). The 31 Propositions of Ideamorphism. <https://ideamorphism.org/en/publications/2026/03/the-31-propositions-of-ideamorphism.html>

[3] Quercy, A. (2026). The Signal Is Mute About Its Rule. <https://ideamorphism.org/en/publications/2026/07/the-signal-is-mute-about-its-rule-5blm.html>

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	boundary reading
Voice	third person analysis
Epistemic status	bounded grip
Methodology	Boundary-finding lens applied to one source, model claude-sonnet-5, 1 attempt(s), traceability check passed.

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