

Nanopublication – Locke's hidden constitution has no author to disclose it – the given/instituted axis needs one

by Arnaud Quercy

The given/instituted axis grips the surface/depth shape of Locke's real-nominal distinction but presupposes an emitter whose codex could in principle be disclosed; Locke's real essence is a hidden constitution with no author to consult, so the axis's 'activatable through dialogue' clause has no purchase there – the line is the presence or absence of an author behind the hidden layer.

WHAT THE SOURCE SAYS [1]

Locke distinguishes the real essence of a physical substance – its unknown internal (corpuscular) constitution, the cause of its observable qualities – from the nominal essence, the abstract idea we construct by selecting which observed qualities count as definitional of a species or genus (the 'workmanship of the understanding'). Species and genera are nominal, not natural, because we have no idea of real essences and so cannot sort things by them. Against Scholastic substantial forms and corpuscularian 'real-essence' natural-kind realism, Locke insists the real essence remains permanently unknown to us – we sort by outward qualities alone, never by the hidden constitution those qualities depend on.

WHERE THE LENS GRIPS

P3a's given/instituted axis finds a real analogue: Locke's nominal essence – an idea that elects which perceptible qualities count as definitional – reads exactly like an INSTITUTED rule electing relations among surface properties, and the perceptible qualities themselves (color, weight, malleability) read like the GIVEN layer, what 'a sensor measures on the surface without the codex'. The two-layer shape (surface qualities / hidden constitution that grounds them) is not manufactured – it is the entry's own architecture.

WHERE IT BREAKS

Locke's real essence is not latent pending disclosure – it is declared unknowable IN PRINCIPLE ('we know them not'; 'impossible for us to know'), a permanent epistemic ceiling on

human faculties, not a lock a dialogue can open. P3a's instituted invariant, by contrast, is 'activatable through dialogue' precisely because there is an emitter who encoded it and could disclose the codex. Locke's material constitution has no such author – nature is not an artist holding a codex to reveal. This slips IF one reads P3a's axis as a general epistemology of hidden-versus-surface layers (then Locke's real essence is a counter-case: a hidden layer that no disclosure reaches); it holds if one reads P3a as scoped to authored emissions, in which case Locke's substance simply falls outside its domain of application rather than refuting it – and note P3a's own constraint already disclaims being a matter/physical-substrate distinction, which is exactly the structure Locke's real essence has.

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

proposition		audit status	relational verdict
P3a	Double Structure of the Invariant	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.

- **P3a** – judged in Note 05 · current statement : say GIVEN invariant and INSTITUTED invariant, never 'physical' and 'intentional' – the axis is MODE OF EXISTENCE, read as regime of access: the given is what a sensor measures on the surface WITHOUT the codex; the instituted is the rule that elects relations in that surface and that only the disclosed codex deciphers

Not evaluated (36) – P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P13, P14, 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 2026-09-02 · model claude-sonnet-5 · source 84,891 chars · 1 attempt(s)

REFERENCES

[1] Locke on Real Essence. Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2026-09-02. <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/real-essence/>

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

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

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