



JME
McTaggart

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The Unreality of Time

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JME McTaggart - The Unreality of Time

John McTaggart Ellis McTaggart (1866-1925) was a British metaphysician and philosophical idealist. In this famous article, first published in 1908 in the periodical *Mind*, he introduced the notion of the A, B and C series, which was to become a leading theory in explaining the nature of time. McTaggart claims that our descriptions of time are either contradictory, circular, or insufficient, and therefore time is unreal.



To frame his argument, he identifies two descriptions of time, which he calls the A-series and the B-series. The A-series identifies positions in time as past, present, or future; the B-series, as earlier than or later than some time position. A further C-series displays order but not the temporal relations of the B-series.

McTaggart argues that, for various reasons, all of these views of time are illogical and flawed and that time is not a 'real' phenomenon.

Read by Carl Manchester

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