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Introduction

Philosophical discussion of arguments for the existence of God appeared to have become extinct during the heyday of logical positivism and ordinary language philosophy. However, since the mid-1960s, there has been a resurgence of interest in these arguments, both within and beyond the academy.

Much of the discussion has focussed on Kant's "big three" arguments: ontological arguments, cosmological arguments, and teleological arguments.

Discussion of ontological arguments has been primarily concerned with (a) Anselm's ontological argument; (b) modal ontological arguments, particularly in the form finally given to them by Alvin Plantinga; and (c) higher order ontological arguments, particularly Gödel's ontological argument. Each of these kinds of arguments has

found supporters, though it seems fair to say that few regard these as the strongest arguments that can be given for the existence of God.

Discussion of cosmological arguments has been focussed much less on Aquinas' five ways, and much more on (a) *kalām* cosmological arguments (defended, in particular, by William Lane Craig); (b) cosmological arguments from sufficient reason (defended, in particular, by Richard Gale and Alexander Pruss); and (c) cosmological arguments from contingency (defended, in particular, by Robert Koons and Timothy O'Connor). Prominent critics of these popular versions of cosmological arguments include William Rowe and Quentin Smith.

Discussion of teleological arguments has, in recent times, been partly driven by the emergence of the Intelligent Design Movement in the United States. On the one hand, there has been a huge revival of enthusiasm for Paley's biological argument for design (in the work of Michael Behe and those who have followed his lead); and, on the other hand, there has also been the development of fine-tuning teleological arguments (which resonate with arguments from William Whewell and other earlier historical figures, but which are driven primarily by results from very recent cosmological investigation of our universe). Moreover, new kinds of what are essentially teleological arguments have also emerged as in, for example, Alvin Plantinga's arguments for the incompatibility of metaphysical naturalism with evolutionary theory, and Michael Rea's arguments for the incompatibility of the rejection of intelligent design with materialism, realism about material objects, and realism about other minds. Recent criticism of teleological arguments is interwoven with criticisms of the Intelligent Design Movement.

Other ('minor') arguments for the existence of God that have received serious discussion in recent times include: moral arguments (such as those initially developed by Kant and Newman); arguments from religious experience; arguments from miracles; arguments from consciousness; arguments from reason; aesthetic arguments; and a host of 'lesser' arguments that are mainly viewed as fodder for undergraduate dissection.

Further topics that are germane to any discussion of arguments for the existence of God include (a) the appropriate goals at which these arguments should aim, and the standards that they should meet; (b) the prospects for "cumulative" arguments that somehow draw together various of the arguments canvassed above; and (c) the prospects for prudential arguments that, unlike the theoretical arguments hitherto discussed, appeal to our desires rather than to our beliefs (e.g. Pascal's Wager).

General Overviews

Davies, B. (2004) *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion* Oxford: Oxford University Press

Wide-ranging introduction to philosophy of religion includes discussion of: ontological arguments, cosmological arguments, teleological arguments, arguments from religious experience, arguments from miracles, and moral arguments. Good coverage of a range of arguments for the existence of God.

Gale, R. (1991) *On the Nature and Existence of God* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Entertaining and energetic discussion of ontological arguments, cosmological arguments, arguments from religious experience and pragmatic arguments (e.g. Pascal's Wager).

Mackie, J. (1982) *The Miracle of Theism* Oxford: Clarendon

Superb presentation of cumulative case argument for atheism. Considers ontological arguments, cosmological arguments, teleological arguments, moral arguments, arguments from consciousness, arguments from religious experience, arguments from miracles, and Pascal's Wager. Benchmark text for critical discussion of arguments for the existence of God.

Martin, M. (1990) *Atheism: A Philosophical Justification* Philadelphia: Temple University Press

Comprehensive cumulative case for atheism. Considers ontological arguments, cosmological arguments, teleological arguments, arguments from miracles, arguments from religious experience, Pascal's wager and 'minor evidential arguments'. Worthy contribution to the literature on arguments for the existence of God.

Oppy, G. (2006) *Arguing about Gods* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Detailed discussion of cosmological arguments, teleological arguments, Pascal's Wager, and a range of other arguments. Discussion of ontological arguments that supplements *Ontological Arguments and Belief in God*. Also includes some discussion of methodology: the mechanics of assessment of arguments for the existence of God.

Plantinga, A. (1967) *God and Other Minds: A Study of the Rational Justification of Belief in God* Ithaca: Cornell University Press

Groundbreaking discussion of cosmological arguments, ontological arguments and teleological arguments. Instrumental in setting new standards of rigour and precision for the analysis of arguments for the existence of God.

Plantinga, A. (2007) "Appendix: Two Dozen (or so) Theistic Arguments" in D. Baker (ed.) *Alvin Plantinga* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 203-27

A collection of 'sketches' or 'pointers' to what Plantinga claims would be good arguments for the existence of God. Divided into: (a) metaphysical arguments (aboutness, collections, numbers, counterfactuals, physical constants, complexity, contingency); (b) epistemological arguments (positive epistemic status, proper function, simplicity, induction, rejection of global scepticism, reference, intuition); (c) moral arguments; and (d) other arguments (colours and flavours, love, Mozart, play and enjoyment, providence, miracles).

Sobel, J. (2004) *Logic and Theism: Arguments for and against Beliefs in God* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Brilliant discussion of major arguments about the existence of God. Contains very detailed analyses of ontological arguments, cosmological arguments, teleological arguments, and arguments from miracles. Brought new rigour and technical precision to discussion of these arguments for the existence of God.

Anthologies

Bromand, J. and Kreis, G. (2011) *Gottesbeweise von Anselm bis Gödel* Berlin: Suhrkamp Verlag

Excellent discussion of the history of arguments for the existence of God. Includes detailed discussion of ontological arguments, cosmological arguments, teleological arguments, and some discussion of moral arguments and Pascal's Wager.

Copan, P. and Moser, P. (eds.) (2003) *The Rationality of Theism* London: Routledge

Seven of thirteen chapters are on arguments for the existence of God. Includes chapters on: ontological arguments (Davis), cosmological arguments (Craig), teleological arguments (Collins), moral arguments (Copan), arguments from religious experience (Geivett), arguments from consciousness (Moreland), and arguments from miracles (Beckwith).

Craig, W. and Moreland, J. (eds.) (2009) *The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology* Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell

Massive recent addition to the literature. Contains lengthy chapters on: cosmological arguments (Pruss, Craig & Sinclair), teleological arguments (Collins), arguments from consciousness (Moreland), arguments from reason (Reppert), moral arguments (Linville), arguments from evil (Goetz), arguments from religious experience (Kwan), ontological arguments (Maydole), and arguments from miracles (McGrew & McGrew).

Gale, R. and Pruss, A. (2003) *The Existence of God* Aldershot: Dartmouth Publishing

Collection of significant post-war publications on arguments about the existence of God. Includes treatments of: ontological arguments (Lewis, van Inwagen); cosmological arguments (Craig, Grünbaum, Pruss, Gale & Pruss, Gellmann); teleological arguments (Wynn, Leslie), and arguments from religious experience (Alston). A handy resource.

Hick, J. (1964) *The Existence of God* New York: Macmillan

Selection of classic texts on arguments for the existence of God: ontological arguments (Anselm, Aquinas, Descartes, Leibniz, Kant, Malcolm); cosmological arguments (Plato, Aquinas, Copleston, Hume); teleological arguments (Paley,

Hume, Mill, Tennant); moral arguments (Kant, Rashdall); and arguments from religious experience (Taylor). Still a useful introductory resource.

Wainwright, W. (2009) *Philosophy of Religion: Critical Concepts in Philosophy, Volume II* London: Routledge

Selection of recent work on arguments for the existence of God: ontological arguments (Lewis, Plantinga, van Inwagen, Oppy); cosmological arguments (Rowe x2, Gale & Pruss x2, Oppy, Davey & Clifton); and teleological arguments (Swinburne, van Inwagen, Sober).

On-Line Resources

Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy <http://plato.stanford.edu/> (cosmological argument; Descartes, Rene: ontological argument; moral arguments; ontological arguments; pragmatic arguments and belief in God; teleology: teleological arguments for God's existence)

The premier on-line resource for any topic in philosophy. A work in progress, so doesn't provide complete coverage: but what is there is of the very highest quality. Entries are designed to be accessible to students, but useful even for specialists who are looking beyond their own particular areas of expertise. Highly recommended.

Philosophy Compass <http://philosophy-compass.com/philosophy-of-religion/> ("The Recent Revival of Cosmological Arguments"; "Higher-Order Ontological Arguments"; "The Fine-Tuning Argument"; "Cosmological Arguments from Contingency")

Excellent new on-line resource that will develop over time. Articles focus on current fields of research, assessing the best of the current literature, and providing suggestions about where future progress might be made. A general resource for philosophy but, as noted, already contains some entries on particular arguments for the existence of God.

The Secular Web <http://www.infidels.org/library/modern/theism/arguments.html> ("Arguments for the Existence of God")

Huge library of material – both historical and contemporary – on all matters bearing on non-belief. Contains many discussions of argument for the existence of God. While the quality is somewhat variable, there are many gems to be found here.

Assessing Arguments

Davis, S. (1997) *God, Reason and Theistic Proofs* Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press

General text containing a chapter that presents and defends widely held views about the standards that must be met by good arguments for the existence of God.

A useful starting place for investigation of theories about the assessment of arguments for the existence of God.

Everitt, N. (2004) *The Non-Existence of God* London: Routledge

General defence of atheism that begins with a chapter on “Reasoning about God”. Useful as a prompt for questions about the connections between reasons, reasoning and arguments (in connection with questions about the existence of God).

Feldman, R. (2007) “Reasonable Religious Disagreements” in L. Antony (ed.) *Philosophers without Gods: Meditations on Atheism and the Secular Life* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 194-214

Robust defence of the claim that it cannot be that epistemic peers who have shared their evidence can reasonably come to different conclusions. Worth treating as a starting point for reflection on the proper standards that good arguments for the existence of God should be required to meet.

Nelson, M. (1996) “Who are the Best Judges of Theistic Arguments?” *Sophia* 35, 1-12

Fascinating defence of the claim that the best judges of the goodness of arguments for the existence of God are theists whose belief in God is properly basic. Another fine starting point for reflection on the proper standards that good arguments for the existence of God should be required to meet.

Oppy, G. (2011) “Über die Aussichten erfolgreicher Beweise für Theismus oder Atheismus” [“Prospects for Successful Proofs of Theism and Atheism”, translated into German by G. Schlegel] in J. Bromand and G. Kreis (eds.) *Gottesbeweise von Anselm bis Gödel*, Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp Verlag, 599-642

Extended discussion of plausible goals for arguments for the existence of God, and of standards that good arguments for the existence of God can be expected to meet.

Plantinga, A. (2000) *Warranted Christian Belief* New York: Oxford University Press

Lengthy defence, of the claim that Christian belief is warranted if true, that includes extensive examinations of justification, rationality and warrant. Important background for any serious discussion of the goals and standards appropriate to arguments for the existence of God.

Rey, G. (2007) “Meta-Atheism: Religious Avowal as Self-Deception” in L. Antony (ed.) *Philosophers without Gods: Meditations on Atheism and the Secular Life* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 243-65

Controversial defence of meta-atheism, i.e. of the claim that those who sincerely claim to believe in God are typically self deceived: at some level, they believe that the claim is false. Clearly a view that would have significant implications for the

goals and standards appropriate to arguments for the existence of God, if it were sustained.

Ontological Arguments

Harrelson, K. (2009) *The Ontological Argument from Descartes to Hegel* Amherst: Humanity Books

Excellent discussion of the treatment of ontological arguments in modern philosophy, i.e. in the period from Descartes to Hegel. Includes chapters on Descartes, More & Cudworth & Locke & Clarke, Malebranche, Spinoza, Leibniz, Kant, and Hegel.

Hick, J. and McGill, A. (eds.) (1967) *The Many-Faced Argument: Recent Studies on the Ontological Argument for the Existence of God* New York: Macmillan

Classic anthology. Contains works by: Anselm (and Gaunilo), McGill, Backaert, Barth x2, Hayen, Stolz, Hick x2, Russell, Shaffer, Ryle, Harris, Forest, Malcolm, and Hartshorne x2. Some of the discussion has dated, but there is much that remains of value.

Leftow, B. (2005) "The Ontological Argument" in W. Wainwright (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Religion* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 80-115

Beautifully clear discussion of Anselm, Descartes, Leibniz, Kant and Gödel. An excellent starting point for investigation of ontological arguments.

Lowe, E. (2007) "The Ontological Argument" in C. Meister and P. Copan (eds.) *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Religion* London: Routledge, 331-40

Interesting and novel defence of an ontological argument, drawing upon considerations about degrees of existential dependence.

Oppy, G. (1995) *Ontological Arguments and Belief in God* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Analytical taxonomy of ontological argument conjoined to discussion of major types of objections: Are ontological arguments question-begging? Is existence a real predicate? Do parodies show that ontological arguments fail? Features a comprehensive bibliography and literature notes up to the time of publication.

Plantinga, A. (ed.) (1965) *The Ontological Argument* New York: Doubleday

A long-time standard anthology. Contains works by: Anselm (and Gaunilo), Aquinas, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Kant, Schopenhauer, Moore, Alston, Findlay, Hartshorne, Malcolm, Plantinga, and Henle. Still a valuable resource.

Anselm's Proslogion

Adams, R. (1971) "The Logical Structure of Anselm's Argument" *Philosophical Review* 80, 28-54

Classic analysis of *Proslogion II*. Formative for many subsequent discussions of the logical structure of Anselm's argument.

Chambers, T. (2000) "On Behalf of the Devil: A Parody of Anselm Revisited" *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 100, 93-113

Careful and insightful examination of parodies of Anselm's *Proslogion II* argument that argue for the existence in reality of that than which no worse can be conceived.

Charlesworth, M. (1965) *St. Anselm's Proslogion* Oxford: Oxford University Press

Excellent edition of the *Proslogion*. Standard modern translation of the text. Meets highest scholarly standards.

Lewis, D. (1970) "Anselm and Actuality" *Noûs* 4, 175-88; reprinted, with a postscript, in D. Lewis (1983) *Philosophical Papers, Volume 1* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1-25

Superb analysis. Introduces the idea that Anselm's text admits of different readings, some of which yield evidently invalid arguments, and the rest of which are evidently question-begging.

Millican, P. (2004) "The One Fatal Flaw in Anselm's Argument" *Mind* 113, 437-76

Fascinating recent analysis of Anselm's *Proslogion II* argument. The most important recent contribution to the literature.

Oppenheimer, P. and Zalta, E. (1991) "On the Logic of the Ontological Argument" in J. Tomberlin (ed.) *Philosophical Perspectives Volume 5: The Philosophy of Religion* Atascadero: Ridgeview, 509-29

Original discussion of the logical form of the *Proslogion II* argument. Draws on Meinongian theorising about intentional objects.

Modal Ontological Arguments

Hartshorne, C. (1965) *Anselm's Discovery: A Re-Examination of the Ontological Proof for God's Existence* La Salle: Open Court

Useful encapsulation of Hartshorne's thinking about ontological arguments. Refers to most significant episodes in the history of ontological arguments.

Malcolm, N. (1960) "Anselm's Ontological Arguments" *Philosophical Review* 69, 41-62

Very influential paper which defends the idea that there are distinct ontological arguments in *Proslogion II* and *Proslogion III*, and which argues for the virtues of the “modal” argument that is claimed to be set out in *Proslogion III*.

Plantinga, A. (1974) “God and Necessity” in *The Nature of Necessity* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 196-221

Essential text for modal ontological arguments. Sets out and defends a “victorious modal version” of Anselm’s *Proslogion II* argument that, “while not proving or establishing its conclusion, nonetheless shows that it is rational to accept that conclusion”.

Pruss, A. (2010) “The Ontological Argument and the Motivational Centre of Lives” *Religious Studies* 46, 233-49

Very interesting recent contribution to the literature. An argument for the claim that the key possibility premise in modal ontological arguments can be given a justification in terms of the central motivation role that belief in that which the premise claims is possible has played in some human lives.

Rowe, W. (2008) “Alvin Plantinga on the Ontological Argument” *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 65, 87-92

Interesting recent formulation and defence of the view that modal ontological arguments are question-begging (and, in particular, the Plantinga’s “victorious modal version” of Anselm’s *Proslogion II* argument is question-begging).

Tooley, M. (1981) “Plantinga’s Defence of the Ontological Argument” *Mind* 90, 422-7

Interesting variation on Gaunilo’s objection to Anselm in which the conclusion is an explicit contradiction rather than mere absurdity. Asks us to consider twin parodies concerning (a) that solvent than which no greater solvent can be conceived; and (b) that insoluble substance than which no greater insoluble substance can be conceived.

van Inwagen, P. (1999) “Necessary Being: The Ontological Argument” in E. Stump and M. Murray (eds.) *Philosophy of Religion: The Big Questions* Oxford: Blackwell, 69-83

Excellent introductory account of modal ontological arguments. Very useful resource for those who are meeting these arguments for the first time.

Gödel’s Ontological Argument

Adams, R. (1995) “Introductory Note to *1970” in S. Feferman (ed.) *Collected Works of K. Gödel, Volume 3*, New York: Oxford University Press, 388-402

Very useful introduction and overview of Gödel's ontological argument. An excellent starting place for investigation of this argument.

Anderson, A. (1990) "Some Emendations on Gödel's Ontological Proof" *Faith and Philosophy* 7, 291-303

Interesting refashioning of Gödel's ontological argument so that it avoids the problem of modal collapse identified by Sobel. Most recent discussion of Gödel's ontological argument starts with Anderson's formulation.

Goldman, R. (2000) *Gödel's Ontological Argument*, unpublished PhD dissertation, University of California at Berkeley

Thesis which provides soundness and completeness proofs for a third-order modal logic that supports Gödel's ontological argument. An important technical achievement.

Hazen, A. (1998) "On Gödel's Ontological Proof" *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 76, 361-77

Very interesting commentary on Gödel's ontological argument, and on discussion of the argument prior to the writing of the article. One for serious students of the argument.

Pruss, A. (2009) "A Gödelian Ontological Argument Improved" *Religious Studies* 45, 347-53

Significant generalisation from Gödel's argument to a whole class of higher-order ontological arguments. Useful in providing simpler and more intuitive versions of the argument.

Sobel, J. (1987) "Gödel's Ontological Proof" in J. Thomson (ed.) *On Being and Saying: Essays for Richard Cartwright* London: MIT Press, 241-61

Very significant paper, in which it is established that the framework that Gödel established for his proof is actually subject to modal collapse. This paper prompted significant work revising Gödel's framework in order to avoid the problem of modal collapse.

Cosmological Arguments

Clarke, S. (1738) *A Discourse Concerning the Being and Attributes of God, the Obligations of Natural Religion, and the Truth and Certainty of the Christian Revelation* London: John and Paul Knapton

Classic defence of a cosmological argument. (Might usefully be supplemented with further material from the Leibniz-Clarke correspondence.)

Craig, W. (1980) *The Cosmological Argument from Plato to Leibniz* London: Macmillan

Scholarly history of discussion of cosmological arguments between Plato and Leibniz. Very useful resource for those interested in working with a range of different arguments.

Oppy, G. (2009) "Cosmological Arguments" *Noûs* 43, 31-48

Distinguishes several different categories of cosmological arguments, and aims to provide general objections to all arguments belonging to each of these categories.

Reichenbach, B. (1972) *The Cosmological Argument: A Reassessment* Springfield: Charles C. Thomas

Interesting defence of cosmological arguments. Reichenbach is also the author of the *Stanford Encyclopaedia* entry on cosmological arguments.

Rowe, W. (1975) *The Cosmological Argument* Princeton: Princeton University Press

Very influential discussion of cosmological arguments. Essential reading for beginners and serious scholars alike.

Williams, B. (1978) "God" in *Descartes: The Project of Pure Enquiry* Harmondsworth: Penguin 130-162

Penetrating analysis of the cosmological argument of *Meditation III*. Essential reading for anyone interested in this argument.

Aquinas's Five Ways

Aquinas, T. (1963-1981) *Summa Theologiae* Cambridge: Blackfriars (Part One, Question Two, Article Three: "Whether God Exists?")

The horse's mouth. Some may prefer other translations, but Blackfriars is perhaps the most widely available.

Kenny, A. (1969) *The Five Ways: St. Thomas Aquinas' Proofs of God's Existence* London: Routledge

Enormously influential discussion of Aquinas' five ways. Significant source for the idea that the arguments of the Five Ways share a common logical structure applied to different subject matters (determined by distinct elements of the Aristotelian schedule of causes).

Meyer, R. (1987) "God Exists!" *Noûs* 21, 345-61

Fascinating attempt to use the axiom of choice in order to meet one of the standard objections to Aquinas' cosmological arguments. A charming and witty paper, but challenging for anyone not acquainted with twentieth century logic.

Oderberg, D. "“Whatever is Changing is Being Changed by Something Else”: A Reappraisal of Premise One of the First Way", in J. Cottingham and P. Hacker (eds.) *Mind, Method, and Morality: Essays in Honour of Anthony Kenny* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010): 140-64

Bold and interesting recent defence of the argument of Aquinas' first way. Worth a look for anyone who supposes that Aquinas' argument have been consigned to the dustbin of philosophical history.

Sanford, D. (1967) "Degrees of Perfection, Argument for the Existence of God" in P. Edwards (ed.) *Encyclopedia of Philosophy* New York: Macmillan, 324-6

Careful and interesting discussion of the argument of Aquinas' fourth way. A useful aid for those who are new to this rather difficult argument.

Arguments from Sufficient Reason

Davey, K. and Clifton, R. (2001) "Insufficient Reason in the 'New Cosmological Argument'" *Religious Studies* 37, 485-90

Important critique of the Gale-Pruss cosmological argument. Makes the point that there is intuitive support for the claim that it is *possible* that there be brute contingencies.

Gale, R. and Pruss, A. (1999) "A New Cosmological Argument" *Religious Studies* 35, 461-76

Interesting attempt to resuscitate arguments from sufficient reason. Invokes an allegedly weakened version of the principle of sufficient reason. Has generated a substantial subsequent literature.

Leibniz, G. (1991) "On the Ultimate Origination of Things" in *Philosophical Writings*, edited by G. Parkinson, translated by M. Morris, London: Dent, Rowman & Littlefield

Locus classicus. The argument from this essay is a template for many recent formulations of cosmological arguments.

Pruss, A. (2006) *The Principle of Sufficient Reason: A Reassessment* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Extended discussion of principles of sufficient reason. A very significant contribution to the recent literature.

Pruss, A. (2009) "The Leibnizian Cosmological Argument" in W. Craig and J. Moreland (eds.) *The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology* Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 24-100

Comprehensive recent discussion and defence of a Leibnizian cosmological argument.

Rescher, N. (2002) *G. W. Leibniz's Monadology: An Edition for Students* London: Routledge

Classic source for cosmological arguments from sufficient reason. This edition is particularly useful for students.

Arguments from Contingency

Duns Scotus, J. (1941) *Tractatus de Primo Principio* Friburgi: Herder

Essential reading for anyone interested in classical arguments for the existence of God. A truly magisterial work. Available in various translations (and from various websites).

Koons, R. (1997) "A New Look at the Cosmological Argument" *American Philosophical Quarterly* 34, 193-211

Hugely interesting defence of an argument from contingency that draws upon modal, causal, and mereological considerations. One of the most original and provocative contributions to the recent literature on arguments for the existence of God.

Koons, R. (2008) "Epistemological Foundations for the Cosmological Argument" *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Religion* 1, 105-33

Fascinating transposition of the original metaphysical argument into an epistemological key. Aims to link rejection of the metaphysical cosmological argument to broad epistemological scepticism.

O'Connor, T. 'From First Efficient Cause to God: Scotus on the Identification Stage of the Cosmological Argument' in L. Honnefelder, R. Wood and M. Dryer (eds.) *John Duns Scotus: Metaphysics and Ethics* Leiden: E. J. Brill, 435-54

Interesting initial discussion of one part of the argument of Scotus' *Tractatus de Primo Principio*.

O'Connor, T. (2008) *Theism and Ultimate Explanation: The Necessary Shape of Contingency* Oxford: Blackwell

Important recent contribution to the literature on cosmological arguments. Defends a version of 'the identification stage' of the first part of Scotus' *Tractatus*

de Primo Principio. Contains a very useful account of the notion of “necessity” that is invoked in cosmological arguments from contingency.

Rasmussen, J. (2010) “Cosmological Arguments from Contingency” *Philosophy Compass* 5, 806-12

Helpful overview of recent discussion of cosmological arguments from contingency. Excellent starting point for those new to this topic.

Kalām Cosmological Arguments

Craig, W. (1979) *The Kalām Cosmological Argument* London: Macmillan

Widely cited work which reintroduced the kalām cosmological argument to a new generation of philosophers. Defends the kalām syllogism as a proof of the existence of God.

Craig, W. and Smith, Q. (1993) *Theism, Atheism and Big Bang Cosmology* Oxford: Clarendon

Collection of papers in which Craig and Smith debate the merits of the kalām cosmological argument. A significant part of the recent history of discussion of kalām cosmological arguments.

Craig, W. and Sinclair, J. (2009) “The Kalām Cosmological Argument” in W. Craig and J. Moreland (eds.) *The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology* Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 101-201

A recent revamp of Craig’s earlier book on kalām cosmological arguments. This is an excellent starting point for those who are new to the topic.

Davidson, H. (1987) *Proofs for Eternity, Creation and the Existence of God in Medieval Islamic and Jewish Philosophy* New York: Oxford University Press

An excellent resource for those interested in the history of the kalām cosmological argument.

Morrison, W. (2000) “Must the Beginning of the Universe have a Personal Cause?: A Critical Examination of the Kalām Cosmological Argument” *Faith and Philosophy* 17, 149-69

One of a number of papers in which Morrison makes significant objections to kalām cosmological arguments. This paper focuses on the “gap” objection, i.e. on the problem of establishing that an initial (or first) cause must be a personal God.

Smith, Q. (2007) “Kalām Cosmological Arguments for Atheism” in M. Martin (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Atheism* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 182-98

A recent instalment in Smith's on-going campaign to establish that the premises of the kalām cosmological argument actually support atheism rather than theism. A significant element in recent debate about kalām cosmological arguments.

Teleological Arguments

Dembski, W. (1998) *The Design Inference: Eliminating Chance through Small Probabilities* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

One of the pivotal texts for the intelligent design movement and for recent defences of teleological arguments. Provides an introduction to Dembski's "explanatory filter", the key driver of his version of the teleological argument.

Hume, D. (1948) *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, edited with an introduction by H. Aiken, New York: Macmillan

Delightful classical critique of teleological arguments. Arguably the finest instance of the philosophical dialogue form since Plato. Essential reading for anyone interested in arguments about the existence of God.

Manson, N. (ed.) (2003) *God and Design* London: Routledge

Wonderful collection of contemporary writings on teleological arguments. Provides sustained coverage of both biological and fine-tuning teleological arguments. Includes chapters by: Sober, Leslie, O'Connor, Narveson, Swinburne, Ratzsch, Davies, Craig, Collins, McGrew & McGrew & Vestrup, Rees, Mellor, White, Dembski, Behe, Miller, and Ruse.

Plantinga, A. (1993) *Warrant and Proper Function* Oxford: Oxford University Press

Contains a chapter in which Plantinga famously argues that it would be irrational to accept both (a) metaphysical naturalism; and (b) contemporary theories of the evolution of life on earth. A significant influence on recent discussions of teleological arguments.

Rea, M. (2002) *World without Design: The Ontological Consequences of Naturalism* Oxford: Clarendon

An interesting and provocative extended argument for the view that rejection of the claim that our cognitive faculties are the products of intelligent design is inconsistent with (a) materialism; (b) realism about material objects; and (c) realism about other minds.

Sober, E. (2003) "The Design Argument" in N. Manson (ed.) *God and Design* London: Routledge

Much anthologised introduction to discussion of teleological arguments. Sober considers and heavily criticises 'likelihood' versions of arguments for design.

Biological Arguments for Design

Behe, M. (1996) *Darwin's Black Box* New York: Free Press

Central text of the Intelligent Design movement. Contains updated defence of Paley's teleological argument. Introduces Behe's claims about the irreducible complexity of various kinds of biological systems and structures.

Dembski, W. and Ruse, M. (eds.) (2004) *Debating Design: From Darwin to DNA* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Handy anthology. Includes contributions by: Ruse, Menuge, Ayala, Miller, Sober, Pennock, Kauffman, Weber & Depew, Davies, Barham, Haught, Polkinghorne, Ward, Roberts, Swinburne, Dembski, Bradley, Behe, and Meyer.

Forrest, B. and Gross, P. (2004) *Creationism's Trojan Horse: The Wedge of Intelligent Design* New York: Oxford University Press

Controversial critique of the Intelligent Design movement. Potentially important in the assessment of the pragmatics of recent teleological argumentation (particularly in the public square).

Miller, K. (1999) *Finding Darwin's God: A Scientist's Search for Common Ground between God and Evolution* New York: Cliff Street Books

Passionate defence of the compatibility of theism and evolutionary biology. Raises interesting scientific objections to Behe's claims about the irreducible complexity of various kinds of biological systems and structures.

Paley, W. (2006) *Natural Theology*, edited with an introduction and notes by M. Eddy and D. Knight, Oxford: Oxford University Press

The paradigmatic source for contemporary teleological arguments. Begins with the famous 'watch' argument. Excerpted in almost every introductory text on arguments for the existence of God.

Ruse, M. (2001) *Can a Darwinian be a Christian? The Relationship between Science and Religion* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Passionate defence of the compatibility of Christianity and evolutionary biology. Usefully compared to the discussion in Miller's *Finding Darwin's God*.

Shanks, N. (2004) *God, the Devil and Darwin: A Critique of Intelligent Design Theory* Oxford: Oxford University Press

Serious and thoughtful critique of the teleological arguments mounted and defended by proponents of Intelligent Design. A significant but highly accessible contribution to the recent literature.

Cosmological Fine-Tuning Arguments for Design

Collins, R. (2009) "The Teleological Argument: An Exploration of the Fine-Tuning of the Universe" in W. Craig and J. Moreland (eds.) *The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology* Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 201-281

Extended recent development and defence of a fine-tuning teleological argument. Contains a useful bibliography, and references to shorter and more accessible works.

Juhl, C. (2006) "Fine-Tuning is not Surprising" *Analysis* 66, 269-75

Interesting and provocative argument for the conclusion that the fine-tuning of our universe for life is not surprising. Short and sweet.

Leslie, J. (1989) *Universes* New York: Routledge

The text that launched contemporary philosophical interest in fine-tuning teleological arguments. Remains an excellent introduction to the topic. Recommended to everyone with an interest in teleological arguments.

Manson, N. (2000) "There is no Adequate Definition of 'Fine-Tuned for Life'" *Inquiry* 43, 341-51

Important contribution to contemporary debate about fine-tuning teleological arguments. More attention should be paid to the question of how to explain what it would be for a universe to be "fine-tuned for life".

McGrew, T., McGrew, L. and Vestrup, E. (2001) "Probabilities and the Fine-Tuning Argument: A Sceptical View" *Mind* 110, 1027-38

Initial development of what has turned out to be one of the major sticking points for fine-tuning teleological arguments: how to place an acceptable metric on the space of possible worlds.

White, R. (2000) "Fine-tuning and Multiple Universes" *Noûs* 34, 260-76

Very interesting critique of "many universe" objections to fine-tuning teleological arguments. One of the first to emphasise the importance of considerations about "this" universe.

'Minor' Arguments

Martin, M. (1990) *Atheism: A Philosophical Justification* Philadelphia: Temple University Press

Martin's chapter on "minor evidential arguments" includes discussion of: arguments from common consent, reward, justice, scripture, and providence.

Meierding, L. (1998) "The *Concensus Gentium* Argument" *Faith and Philosophy* 15, 271-97

A rare recent defence of an argument from common consent.

Oppy, G. (2006) *Arguing about Gods* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

The chapter on "other arguments" includes discussion of: arguments from authority (common consensus, historical tradition, expert testimony, scripture); religious experience; morality (objective values, virtue, happiness, scripture, justice, costs of irreligion, heavenly reward, conscience); and puzzling phenomena (providence, efficacy of prayer, mathematical knowledge, Jesus, mystery, information, beauty).

Plantinga, A. (2007) "Appendix: Two Dozen (or so) Theistic Arguments" in D. Baker (ed.) *Alvin Plantinga* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 203-27

Plantinga's "two dozen" are a mixture of well-known (ontological, cosmological, teleological) and less well-known arguments. They map fairly well onto the arguments considered by Martin and Oppy.

Moral Arguments

Adams, R. (1987) "Moral Arguments for Theistic Belief" in *The Virtue of Faith and Other Essays in Philosophical Theology* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 144-63

Endorsement of a range of moral arguments for theistic belief, combined with provision of reasons for thinking that theists need to take seriously the kind of considerations adverted to by these arguments.

Byrne, P. (2011) "Kant and the Moral Argument" in J. Jordan (ed.) *Key Thinkers: Philosophy of Religion* London: Continuum, 76-99

Excellent introduction to the moral argument that Kant advances in the *Critique of Practical Reason*. A good point of entry to the discussion of moral arguments for the existence of God.

Kant, I. (1956) *Critique of Practical Reason*, translated by L. Beck New York: Liberal Arts Press

Kant's very influential positive contribution to arguments for the existence of God (or, at any rate, to arguments for the practical necessity of belief in the existence of God). Essential reading for anyone interested in debate about the existence of God and the rationality of belief therein.

Mavrodes, G. (1986) "Religion and the Queerness of Morality" in R. Audi and W. Wainwright (eds.) *Rationality, Religious Belief and Moral Commitment* Ithaca:

Cornell University Press; reprinted in W. Rowe and Wainwright (eds.) *Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings* New York: Oxford University Press, 197-208

Accessible development of a moral argument for the existence of God based on the kinds of considerations that led Mackie towards moral fictionalism.

Newman, J. (1870) *Essay in Aid of a Grammar of Assent* Longmans: London

Contains development of a very interesting “argument from conscience” (though Newman himself might not have liked to describe what he offers in those terms). Contemporary interest in this argument was rekindled by Mackie.

Owen, H. (1965) *The Moral Argument for Christian Theism* London: Allen & Unwin

Thorough exposition and assessment of moral arguments for the existence of God. Remains one of the better books on this topic.

Sorley, W. (1921) *Moral Value and the Idea of God*, second edition, New York: Macmillan

Classic defence of a moral argument for the existence of God. Still worthy of attention.

Arguments from Religious Experience

Atran, S. (2002) *In Gods we Trust: The Evolutionary Landscape of Religion* Oxford: Oxford University Press

Detailed presentation of an evolutionary psychological theory of religion. The kind of theory that needs to be taken into account in any proper assessment of the evidential value of religious experience.

Gellman, J. (1997) *Experience of God and the Rationality of Theistic Belief* Ithaca: Cornell

Presentation and defence of a kind of argument from religious experience: a defence of the claim that certain kinds of religious experience render certain kinds of religious belief *rational*.

Hick, J. (2010) *The New Frontier of Religion and Science: Religious Experience, Neuroscience and the Transcendent*, reissued with new preface and forward by B. Clack, New York: Palgrave Macmillan

Defence of the claim that religious experience validates certain kinds of religious beliefs, and that this validation is not overthrown by contemporary neuroscientific research.

James, W. (1960) *The Varieties of Religious Experience* London: Fontana

The classic work on the varieties of religious experience. Essential data for the development of any arguments for the existence of God on the basis of religious experience.

Kwan, K. (2009) "The Argument from Religious Experience" in W. Craig and J. Moreland (eds.) *The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology* Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 498-552

Extended defence of an argument from religious experience. Contains a very useful bibliography.

Mawson, T. (2005) "The Argument from Religious Experience" in *Belief in God: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 163-78

Accessible introductory presentation and defence of an argument from religious experience. A good starting point for those wishing to explore arguments from religious experience.

Schloss, J. and Murray, M. (2009) *The Believing Primate: Scientific, Philosophical and Theological Reflections on the Origin of Religion* Oxford: Oxford University Press

Useful anthology of recent work that bears on the explanation of religious experience. Includes contributions by: Schloss, Johnson & Bering, Bulbulia, Barrett, Bloom, van Inwagen, Plantinga, Murray, Murray & Goldberg, Taliaferro, Ratzsch, Haught, Murphy, Haidt, Smith and Wilson.

Arguments from Miracles

Butler, J. (1736) *The Analogy of Religion, Natural and Revealed, to the Constitution and Course of Nature* Philadelphia: Lippecott

Early proponent of an argument from miracles. Defends the reasonableness of belief in miracles. Classic of the literature.

Earman, J. (2000) *Hume's Abject Failure* Oxford: Oxford University Press

Robust attack on Hume's critique of belief in miracles.

Hájek, A. (2008) "Are Miracles Chimerical?" *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Religion* 1, 82-104

Vigorous defence of Hume's critique of belief in miracles against various kinds of objections.

Hume, D. (1748) *Enquiries Concerning Human Understanding and Concerning the Principles of Morals*, reprinted and edited with an introduction by L. Selby-Bigge, third edition with text revised and notes by P. Nidditch Oxford: Clarendon

Key text for anyone interested in either arguments from miracles, or the reasonableness of belief in miracles (on the basis of testimony to their occurrence).

Lowder, J. and Price, R. (eds.) (2005) *The Empty Tomb* Amherst: Prometheus

Useful anthology which collects reasons for scepticism about the truth of the account of the death of Christ in the Gospels.

McGrew, T. and McGrew, L. (2009) "The Argument from Miracles: A Cumulative Case for the Resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth" in W. Craig and J. Moreland (eds.) *The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology* Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 593-662

Careful presentation and defence of an argument from miracles.

Swinburne, R. (ed.) (1989) *Miracles* New York: Macmillan

Valuable anthology. Contributions from: Aquinas, Hume, Paley, McKinnon, Holland, Tillich, Swinburne x2, Mackie, Flew, Taylor, Owen, Penelhum, Stump and Purtill.

Arguments from Consciousness

Adams, R. (1987) "Flavors, Colors, and God" in *The Virtue of Faith and Other Essays in Philosophical Theology* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 243-62

Nice, accessible introduction to arguments from consciousness. One of the most important contributions to the recent literature.

Locke, J. (1964) *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, abridged and edited with an introduction by A. Woozley New York: William Collins (Book IV, Chapter X, Section 10, "Of our Knowledge of the Existence of God", 379-87)

Classic presentation of an argument from consciousness. Brought back to currency through discussion in Mackie's *The Miracle of Theism*.

Moreland, J. (2008) *Consciousness and the Existence of God: A Theistic Argument* New York: Routledge

Recent defence of arguments from consciousness. Contains a useful overview of the literature.

Swinburne, R. (1986) *The Evolution of the Soul* Oxford: Clarendon

Sustained defence of substance dualism. Foundation for an argument from consciousness for the existence of God. (Usefully read in conjunction with the Chapter on consciousness in *The Existence of God*.)

Taliaferro, C. (1984) *Consciousness and the Mind of God* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Sustained presentation and defence of an argument from consciousness.

Arguments from Reason

Anscombe, G. (1981) *Collected Papers, Volume 2* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press

Contains critical discussion of Lewis' argument from reason.

Beverluis, J. (2007) *C. S. Lewis and the Search for Rational Religion* Amherst: Prometheus Books

Extended recent critique of Lewis' argument from reason.

Lewis, C. (1947) *Miracles: A Preliminary Study* New York: Macmillan

An original source for arguments from reason.

Reppert, V. (2003) *C. S. Lewis' Dangerous Idea: In Defense of the Argument from Reason* Downer's Grove: InterVarsity Press

Recent exposition and defence of Lewis' argument from reason. (Summarised and updated in the relevant chapter of *The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology*.)

Aesthetic Arguments

Swinburne, R. (1979) *The Existence of God* Oxford: Clarendon

Contains brief restatement of Tennant's aesthetic argument as part of its discussion and defence of teleological arguments.

Tennant, F. (1930) *Philosophical Theology Volume Two* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Standard source for aesthetic arguments for the existence of God.

Ward, K. (1996) *God, Chance and Necessity* Oxford: One World

Another source in which Tennant's ideas are discussed and defended.

Wigner, E. (1960) "The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Mathematics in the Natural Sciences" *Communications in Pure and Applied Mathematics* 13.

Source for new versions of aesthetic arguments for the existence of God. (See, for example, Plantinga's "Two Dozen" arguments.)

"Cumulative" Arguments

Draper, P. (2010) "Cumulative Cases" in C. Taliaferro, P. Draper and P. Quinn (eds.) *A Companion to Philosophy of Religion* Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 414-24

Interesting recent introduction to the discussion of "cumulative case" arguments. A useful starting point.

Mackie, J. (1982) *The Miracle of Theism* Oxford: Clarendon

The book is a sustained defence of a "cumulative case" argument for atheism. Makes an interesting point of contrast with Swinburne's *The Existence of God*.

Mitchell, B. (1973) *The Justification of Religious Belief* New York: Macmillan

Develops and defends a "cumulative case" for belief in God.

Swinburne, R. (1979) *The Existence of God* Oxford: Clarendon

Paradigmatic instance of "cumulative case" for the existence of God. Draws upon cosmological arguments, teleological arguments, arguments from consciousness, arguments from morality, arguments from providence, arguments from history, arguments from miracles, and arguments from religious experience. Includes explicit methodological discussion.

Pascal's Wager

Bartha, P. (2007) "Taking Stock of Infinite Value: Pascal's Wager and Relative Utilities" *Synthese* 154, 5-52

Superb recent updating of Pascal's argument in terms of relative utilities. Provides grounds for questioning the strength of some of the standard objections to Pascal's Wager (e.g. the many gods objection).

Duff, A. (1986) "Pascal's Wager and Infinite Utilities" *Analysis* 46, 107-9

One of the most important challenges to Pascal's wager. The problem of "mixed" strategies strongly suggests that Pascal's Wager is simply invalid.

Hacking, I. (1972) "The Logic of Pascal's Wager" *American Philosophical Quarterly* 9, 186-92

Classic treatment of Pascal's wager. Introduces the idea that there are several different arguments in the Wager text: an argument from dominance, an argument from expectation, and an argument from dominating expectation.

Hájek, A. (2003) "Waging War on Pascal's Wager" *Philosophical Review* 112, 27-56

Superb, imaginative critique of the Wager argument. Essential reading for anyone interested in the contemporary fate of the argument.

Jordan, J. (1994) *Gambling on God: Essays on Pascal's Wager* Rowman & Littlefield

Excellent collection of papers on Pascal's Wager. Includes chapters by: Hacking, Foley, Jordan, McClennen, Morris, Quinn, Ryan, Schlesinger and Sorensen.

Jordan, J. (2006) *Pascal's Wager: Pragmatic Arguments and Belief in God* Oxford: Oxford University Press

Extended defence of a "Jamesian" variant of Pascal's Wager.

Pascal, B. (1910) *Pascal's Pensées*, translated by W. F. Trotter

One translation of the original text. There are other translations that are also in widespread use. This one has the advantage that it is available on-line.

Rescher, N. (1985) *Pascal's Wager* South Bend: University of Notre Dame Press

Interesting defence of Pascal's Wager. One of the key contributions to the recent literature.