

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled, "JOHN LOCKE'S THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE: A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT" submitted to the University of North Bengal in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy is a record of original research work done by me, under the supervision and guidance of Prof. Jyotish Chandra Basak, of the Department of Philosophy, University of North Bengal, and the thesis has not formed the basis for the award of any Degree/ Diploma/Associate-ship/Fellowship or any other similar titles before.

Place: N. B. U .

Mrinal Kanti Basak
(Mrinal Kanti Basak)

Date: 13.12.2022

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

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DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY



समानो मन्त्रः समितिः समानी

E-mail : deptphilosophy1@gmail.com
Visit us at : www.nbu.ac.in
P.O. North Bengal University
Raja Rammohunpur, Dt. Darjeeling
West Bengal, India, PIN - 734 013

Ref. No. :

Date :

13-12-2022

Certificate

Certified that the thesis titled "JOHN LOCKE'S THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE: A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT" submitted by Mrinal Kanti Basak in partial fulfilment of the Ph. D. Programme in Philosophy is a bonafide research work. This work has not been submitted anywhere previously for any other degree of this or any other University. Further, it is confirmed that the candidate has complied with all the formalities as per the requirements of the University of North Bengal.

It is hereby recommended the thesis may be processed for adjudication by the experts.

Supervisor

Jasax

13-12-2022

Supervisor

Department of Philosophy
University of North Bengal

(Prof. Jyotish Chandra Basak)





Department of Philosophy

University of North Bengal

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JOHN LOCKE'S THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE: A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT A Thesis submitted to the University of North Bengal in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy Submitted by Mrinal Kanti Basak Under the Supervision of Prof. Jyotish Chandra Basak DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL DARJEELING – 734013 INDIA DECEMBER 2022

1 CHAPTER | INTRODUCTION Development of John Locke's philosophy British empiricist John Locke (1632-1704) is known to the philosophical and intellectual world for many of his fundamental contributions. It is not that he was merely a philosopher. He, of course, was a philosopher but in addition to that, he had expertise in medicine and experimented with many political ideas. On account of his manifold contributions, he is remembered in the intellectual world. He was also a controversial person for his bizarre stand on certain philosophical issues such as his epistemological views and certain of his political activities. Out of his many contributions his espousal and initiation of empiricism, contribution to moral philosophy and thinking and writings in the field of political philosophy stand out clearly. Locke was born in a small village in Wrington situated in North Somerset. Born and reared up in a liberal puritan family he imbibed the virtues such as temperance, simplicity etc. In order to have good education he was admitted to Westminster School. But he was not happy with the curriculum of the school and hence we find him criticizing it later on. In 1656 he graduated from Oxford's Christ Church College and then entered a master's. He also learned medicine and established contact with many noted physicians of his time. We find him accepting diplomatic missions on

Basak
13-12-2022

Supervisor
Department of Philosophy
University of North Bengal

Mrinal Kanti Basak
13.12.2022

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The Department of Philosophy of the University of North Bengal is the place from where I completed my P G. When I left this place after my P G I did not think that I shall come back here again for further study. However, my appointment at A. B. N Seal college through the West Bengal Public Service Commission kindled my hope for further study, i. e. to do a Ph. D. University of North Bengal was an obvious choice for this aspiration as it was my parent university. With this hope, I came back to this University and got admitted to the Ph. D. programme.

During the programme, I have no hesitation to say, that I got support from all my teachers and staff of the Department. As a research scholar, I was placed under the supervision of Dr. Jyotish Chandra Basak. I was indeed happy to have him as my supervisor. His continuous guidance, unconditional support, motivation and encouragement were treasures for me and, of course, were a source of inspiration. It would have been impossible for me to continue my research work and complete the thesis writing without his kind help.

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Mrinal Kanti Basak
13.12.2022
(MRINAL KANTI BASAK)