

Three General Ontological Strategies

X is ontologically dependent on Y if and only if X cannot exist without Y existing.

Alternatively: X exists in virtue of standing in some relationship to Y.

X is ontologically independent of Y if and only if X can exist without Y existing.

Alternatively: X exists independently of any relationship it has to Y.

Conceptualism: X exists and X is ontologically dependent on some mind or other.

Realism: X exists and X is ontologically independent of any mind whatsoever.

Nominalism: X does not exist at all.

