



Subreption

Subreption is a concept in **Roman law** and, in this tradition, **Canon law**. In this context, **obreption and subreption** belong together. The Latin word for subreption is "subreptio", the German is "Erschleichung".

In German philosophy, the concept was used by **Christian Wolff** (philosopher) and **Immanuel Kant** to denounce illegitimate claims to empiricity of representations: I can perceive the formation of my will to lift my arm, and I can perceive the lifting of my arm. To say that I know empirically that my will lifted my arm would be a subreption in Wolff's sense.

The Latin phrase for the philosophical concept of subreption is "vitium subreptionis" -vitium: fault, crime, error; subreptionis: creep, stealth, fraud. The German is a literal translation of this Latin phrase: "Fehler der Erschleichung". It can also mean in general a creeping or tacit assumption(s) that is not explicitly given but is hidden either purposefully (as in sophistry) or not (as in a visual illusion).

- **Obreption and Subreption** With links to the Catholic Encyclopedia (1913)
- "Subreption". *Catholic Encyclopedia*. New York: Robert Appleton Company. 1913.

Navigation menu

Personal tools

- [Create account](#)
- [Log in](#)

Namespaces

- [Article](#)
- [Talk](#)

Variants

Views

- [Read](#)

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Categories:

- [Roman law](#)
- [Age of Enlightenment](#)

- [Edit](#)
- [View history](#)

Actions

Search

Navigation

- [Main page](#)
- [Contents](#)
- [Featured content](#)
- [Current events](#)
- [Random article](#)
- [Donate to Wikipedia](#)
- [Wikimedia Shop](#)

Interaction

- [Help](#)
- [About Wikipedia](#)
- [Community portal](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Contact page](#)

Tools

- [What links here](#)
- [Related changes](#)
- [Upload file](#)
- [Special pages](#)
- [Permanent link](#)
- [Page information](#)
- [Data item](#)
- [Cite this page](#)

Print/export

- [Create a book](#)
- [Download as PDF](#)
- [Printable version](#)

Languages

- [Deutsch](#)
-

- [Edit links](#)