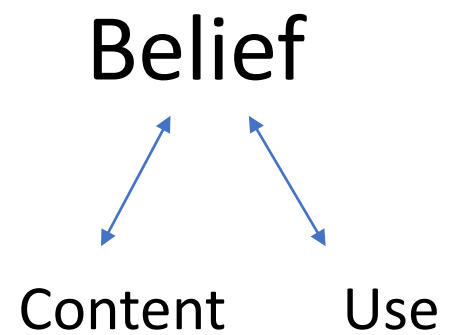


Conflict?

Shared Goal



Not the belief,
but the
believer



Kinds of
Reasons:
Evidential
Practical
Causal

Naturalism

If E is not
accessible to
scientific
investigation in
principle, then E
has no evidential
value.

Theism

Empirical +

Naturalism:
Sense experience
Science

Unbounded
Theism:

Sense
experience/Science
Religious experience(s)
Extra-ordinary modes of
perception

Truth Sources
Truth-conducive methods

Propositional Side of a Worldview

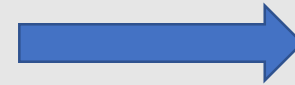
Naturalism



Propositional Set



Theism



Propositional Set



Believer –
Belief

Confusion can lead to:

Ad Hominem, misuse of authority,
appeal to ignorance, popular appeal

Evidential certainty vs. psychological
certainty

Justification of a belief vs.
ownership of a belief

Two Normative Standards

Beliefs and
Belief-
Systems:

Clarity

Consistency

Coherence

Believers:

The *way* to hold
a belief

Good epistemic
manners

Evidentialism

Locke on Optimal Faculty Performance

Locke's procedure:

- Collect evidence.
- Determine the probability of the belief (hypothesis, position) against the evidence.
- **Adopt a level of confidence in the belief(s) that corresponds to its probability on the evidence.**

Epistemic Manners



Rules of etiquette – Apply to our relations with others.

- Designed to promote social harmony.

Rules of epistemic manners – Apply to the relation between a cognitive agent and her beliefs.

- Designed to promote the pursuit of truth.

Finding Our Epistemic Place



Religious
Disagreement

Schellenberg's modest proposal for
intellectual humility:

Deep Time



Different Perspective



Good Epistemic Manners

Common Propositional Ground

More detail:

Jesus is the son of God.

Mohammed is the last prophet.

Buddha attained enlightenment.

More general:

There is a spiritual reality.

Some aspects of spiritual reality are sacred.

There is something wrong with us and the world.

Common Propositional Ground

More detail:

There is a spiritual reality.

Some aspects of spiritual reality are sacred.

There is something wrong with us and the world.

More general:

I exist.

There is an objective reality outside my experience.

I experience reality.

I have knowledge about the world.

Skepticism

Destructive Skepticism

- Global
- Restricted

Constructive Skepticism

- Descartes
- Ancient



Infinite Regress Argument

P1: In order to know something, I must have a good reason for believing it.

P2: What makes a reason good is its logical and evidential relations to other propositions.

P3: Any chain of reasons or argument constructed for this purpose must have one of the following structures:

(1) Infinite series

(2) Circular

(3) Begins with a belief for which there are no further reasons

P4: I cannot have an infinite chain of reasoning for any of my beliefs.

P5: Circular reasoning cannot produce knowledge.

P6: A noninferential belief is ineffective since I do not know if it is true.

Therefore, I cannot know anything.

The Problem of the Criterion

P1: All my beliefs are formed by some method.

P2: I am justified in accepting a belief formed by method X only if I first know that X is reliable.

P3: I do not have an infinite series of belief-forming methods.

C1: Thus, all my beliefs must rest on beliefs formed by methods whose reliability has not first been established.

MC: Therefore, none of my beliefs are justified.

More Skeptical Challenges

Externalism vs.
Internalism

The Problem
of the External
World

Our Epistemic Place

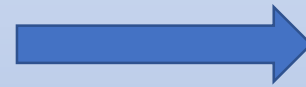
Balance between:



Intellectual despair

and

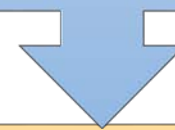
Intellectual overconfidence



Intellectual Humility

A
Responsible
Epistemic
Agent

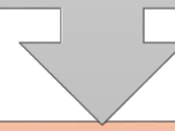
Charity (Find the best interpretation)



Credulity (Make it your own)



Critical analysis (Press your position
hard)



Whatever the result, handle with care
(wrap it in caution).

Tempered
Knowledge?

Is it possible?



Is there any sense in saying, “I believe that I know p ”?

Belief and
knowledge as
cognitive states

“I believe that I know that God
exists”

reads as

“I believe that my [state of] ‘knowing
that God exists’ is _____.”

or

“I have faith that my [state of]
‘knowing that God exists’ is _____.”

Cautious conviction?