

Arts Faculty Research Seminar Series

29 Nov 2022 (Tue)
3:00pm-4:30pm



Professor Adam GIBBONS
Assistant Professor
Department of Philosophy



Professor Florin-Stefan MORAR
Assistant Professor
Department of Translation

Is Epistocracy Irrational?

Proponents of epistocracy worry that voter ignorance can harm democracies. To combat such ignorance, they recommend allocating more political power to politically knowledgeable citizens. However, recent critics of epistocracy contend that epistocratic institutions risk causing even more harm, since evidence from political psychology indicates that politically knowledgeable citizens are typically less rational about politics than their less knowledgeable counterparts. If so, epistocratic institutions may be epistemically inferior to democratic alternatives.

I argue that this 'problem of epistocratic irrationality' can be overcome. First, I argue that critics of epistocracy have overlooked several complications regarding the data they claim shows that more knowledgeable citizens are less politically rational. Second, I argue that appropriately designed epistocratic institutions could overcome the problem of epistocratic irrationality even if such critics have interpreted the data correctly.

Translation and the Limits of Artificial Intelligence

Translation has been revolutionized by the application of computing. But will machines ever be able to replace human translators? Is fully automatic machine translation feasible? This talk will illustrate some of the most paradigmatic approaches to machine translation and their limitations. The talk will argue that translation offers a higher threshold for artificial intelligence than the Turing test. It is likely this threshold will not be crossed in the foreseeable future.



Moderator

Professor Darrell ROWBOTTOM
Professor of Department of Philosophy

The seminar will be conducted via Zoom.
No registration is required.
1.5 ILP units (Aesthetic Development)

Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/3SfU3h6>