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What is epistemic normativity, and why?

Date : 23 March 2026 (Monday)

Time : 16:45 – 18:15

Venue : LKK303 & Zoom Seminar

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What is the distinction between what we ought to believe simpliciter and what we ought to believe epistemically speaking, and why do we draw that distinction? I motivate this question through a series of examples, consider various existing answers, and find them wanting. Then I propose and explore an alternative based on a version of rule consequentialism transposed to the epistemic realm: the norms that determine what we ought to do epistemically speaking are those such that broad adherence to them across your epistemic community would give the best results from an epistemic point of view. I argue that norms that exhort us to believe only what we ought to believe epistemically speaking follow from this epistemic version of rule consequentialism. In a coda, I offer an alternative account of the function of knowledge ascriptions that improves on Edward Craig's.

All are welcome!

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