

Rationalization in the Pejorative Sense and the Aim of Belief

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Abstract

In this paper I consider the bearing of rationalization in the pejorative sense to the claim that belief aims at truth. Widespread and systematic patterns of biased self-justification in deliberation present a *prima facie* challenge to view that the distinctive mark of belief is that it is designed to be responsive to evidence and reasoning in a way that is truth conducive. I argue that some versions of the claim that belief has a truth aim come away unscathed, while others do not.