

Desires are conceptually prior to beliefs

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Abstract

Paul Boghossian (2003, 2005) has recently argued that beliefs are conceptually prior to desires, and relies on this claim in his influential argument for the normativity of mental content. Against this thesis, Allan Miller (2008) has argued that the concepts of beliefs and desires are in fact interdependent. In this paper, I argue for a more radical claim, namely that the conceptual dependence is the *opposite* of what Boghossian supposes: in at least one important sense, having to do with the use of mental concepts in simulation-based interpretation, desires are conceptually prior to beliefs.