

Engaged Epistemic Agents

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Abstract

In this paper, we address the problem of epistemic normativity. Our aim is to throw some light on the kind of normativity that is characteristic of human knowledge. In order to do that, we describe what we call normative domains. A normative domain is a certain field of human agency defined by the sort of achievement that is characteristic of it. In this sense, knowledge, considered as an achievement, constitutes the domain that is called “epistemic”. In order to infuse normativity, an achievement must involve more than mere success in performing a task or an activity; it requires to take into consideration *how* success is obtained. Success is a valuable outcome of our activities, but, as we will argue, the contribution of an agent to the obtaining of this particular state is critically relevant to evaluate it as an achievement. What is constitutive of the normative status of knowledge is explained by how an epistemic agent is engaged in the task of knowing. What ultimately explains the normativity of knowledge is the sort of agent's engagement that contributes to the success in an epistemic task. To elucidate what we mean by engagement, the last section of our paper proposes to appeal to the idea of adopting an epistemic perspective.