

Special Issue

Self-Knowledge and Skepticism

Message from the Guest Editor

Descartes, who is arguably the father of modern forms of philosophical skepticism, held something akin to the thesis that one could not be skeptical about the content of one's own thoughts. In Descartes' view, even if one is dreaming or one is being deceived by an evil demon, such that one has reason to doubt the very existence of the external world and all that is in it, one can still always know what one is thinking. This claim, while once considered beyond reproach, has been under attack for decades, beginning with Hilary Putnam's bold claim that "meaning just ain't in the head." Of course, the problem of knowing the content of one's mental states is just one form of skepticism about self-knowledge. Recent decades have brought to light numerous others. The goals of this Special Issue of *Philosophies* are to (1) bring to light the myriad skeptical arguments related specifically to self-knowledge, (2) highlight many of the proposed solutions to these problems, and (3) identify that which is distinctive about skepticism regarding self-knowledge, as compared to skepticism about the external world.

Guest Editor

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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Philosophies searches for the syntheses of philosophical and scientific inquiries. It promotes philosophical work that is derived from the experience of diverse scientific disciplines and cultures. Multiple philosophies already exist—those of logic, information, computation, natural and artificial life, natural or artificial intelligence, complexity, technology, etc. Our mission is not to abandon philosophical roots and traditions of inquiry, but to promote the development of philosophical foundations and effective methodologies derived from diverse scientific explorations, and intended to enhance these explorations as to generate deeper and more holistic knowledge. Innovation may also be achieved through the cultural dimension. Other cultures can offer from their heritage a diversity of resources for exploration; these resources can also contribute to the emergent synthesis of philosophical inquiry.

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