



Institut für Christliche Philosophie



Gastvortrag

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(Haifa)

Nullius in Verba: Skepticism in the Epistemology of Testimony

Mi., 24. 05. 2017, 18:00 Uhr s.t., Seminarraum VI (Karl-Rahner-Platz 3)

In this talk, I examine the skeptical challenge to testimonial knowledge, and argue that in as much as contemporary epistemologists have considered that challenge, they have failed to address it in its strongest form. I start by examining what an interesting skeptical view with respect to testimony might look like, if it is to have any chance of being plausibly defended. I argue that such a view—call it testimonial skepticism—is very different from the kind of skeptical view often argued against by contemporary epistemologist of testimony. Next, I examine whether such a skeptical position can be dismissed in the way in which some philosophers, such as G. E. Moore, have attempted to dismiss other skeptical positions. I argue that if a seemingly plausible argument were presented in favor of testimonial skepticism, then dismissive counter-responses of this kind would not have much force against it. Finally, I canvass the outlines of what may seem to constitute a plausible argument for testimonial skepticism. Whether or not the details of such an argument can be filled out in a way that should convince us that testimonial skepticism is true, this outline allows us to appreciate what sort of argument epistemologists must address, if they are to explain why testimonial skepticism should be rejected.



Arnon Keren is a senior lecturer in the dept. of philosophy at Haifa University, Israel. He currently holds a position as visiting research fellow in the dept. of philosophy at King's College, London, and as a visiting scholar at the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics. His areas of specialization include epistemology (especially social epistemology), the philosophy of science, and bioethics. He has won numerous awards and fellowships and has published widely in the above mentioned areas (e. g., in *Analysis*, *Synthese*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Episteme*, and other prestigious journals).

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