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Guest Editors' Preface

This issue of *Discipline filosofiche* brings together a number of articles on knowledge and epistemic justification that arise from papers presented at the Meeting of the European Epistemology Network that was held in Bologna and Modena in June 2012.¹ The articles that comprise this collection provide only a limited sample of the wide array of issues and themes that were discussed at the conference. But the questions they address are invariably among those that occupy centre stage in the current epistemological debate on knowledge and justification.

The first two articles tackle the problem of disagreement. Klemens Kappel focuses on *deep* disagreement, that is, difference of opinion about the reliability of epistemic principles, and discusses the sort of practical problem it raises. On the other hand, Michele Palmira focuses on *peer* disagreement, that is, difference of opinion among epistemic peers, and criticizes some recent attempts to understand this phenomenon in contextualist terms.

A second group of papers takes up different aspects of the sceptical challenge to our knowledge claims. Tim Kraft argues that “Cartesian” sceptical arguments need not be premised on controversial infallibilist assumptions and reformulates them in a way that avoids two familiar pitfalls. Raban Reichmann develops a version of the sceptical challenge that does not exploit the familiar scenarios usually found in the epistemological literature, but invokes the possibility that we are mistaken in our beliefs for a reason that we cannot even understand. Maria Cristina Amoretti and Nicla Vassallo provide a detailed argument to the effect that the three conditions that have been traditionally regarded as necessary for knowledge – truth, belief and justification – may be satisfied even in a global sceptical scenario.

¹ The European Epistemology Network was brought into existence by some of the leading researchers in the theory of knowledge with the aim of providing a platform for cooperation and exchange among epistemologists and those interested in the theory of knowledge in Europe. Its fifth meeting was held on 28-30 June 2012 under the auspices of the former Department of Communication Studies of the University of Bologna, the Department of Linguistic and Cultural Studies of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia and COGITO Research Centre (ISS, University of Bologna). Organized by Carla Bagnoli, Annalisa Coliva, Paolo Leonardi, Sebastiano Moruzzi, Michele Palmira and Giorgio Volpe, it featured ten invited talks and more than sixty contributed papers.

The other articles address three further issues connected with the subject of knowledge. René van Woudenberg focuses on the relationship between will and belief, arguing that the evidence provided by various thought experiments as well as by empirical psychology unequivocally supports doxastic involuntarism. Arturs Logins discusses and neutralizes a number of purported counterexamples to the Reason-Knowledge principle – a principle relating knowledge to rational action that was first proposed by John Hawthorne and Jason Stanley. Dan O'Brien draws on the insights of virtue epistemology to present a fresh view of Hume's account of intellectual virtues, casting doubts on the adequacy of the usual reductionist portrayal of the Scottish philosopher's epistemology of testimony.

Needless to say, the articles collected in this issue cannot aspire to provide a comprehensive overview of the vast and intricate domain of today's epistemology. But they give an idea of the variety of topics addressed in the papers presented at the 2012 European Epistemology Network Meeting, and they offer a realistic and illuminating perspective on some of the currently most hotly debated issues in the field.

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