



Self-Knowledge and Skepticism

Guest Editor:

Prof. Dr. Richard V. Greene

Department of Political Science
and Philosophy, Weber State
University, Ogden, UT 84408, USA

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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.





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Prof. Dr. Marcin J. Schroeder
The Faculty of International
Liberal Arts, Akita International
University, Akita 010-1292, Japan

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Philosophies Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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