



External World Skepticism

If the skepticism about the external world can be defended it would undermine a lot of what we take ourselves to know:

- ✦ Knowledge of our immediate environment
- ✦ Knowledge about the past
- ✦ Knowledge about the future
- ✦ Knowledge of general facts about the world
- ✦ Knowledge about the mental state of others
- ✦ Scientific Knowledge
- ✦ Moral knowledge (?)
- ✦ Religious knowledge (?)

Skepticism About The External World

Daniela Niemeyer



Skepticism About The External World:

Skepticism about the External World Panayot Butchvarov, 1998 Do we know or even have evidence that external material objects exist Drawing powerfully on techniques from both analytic and continental philosophy Butchvarov offers a strikingly original approach to this perennial issue He argues that only a direct realist view of perception the view that in perception we are directly aware of material objects has any hope of providing a compelling response to the skeptic The seemingly insuperable problem for direct realism has always been to explain hallucination dreaming and other situations where the object of awareness is not a really existing physical object This has led many philosophers to adopt views in which perceptual consciousness involves a subjective state that is the direct object of awareness Butchvarov argues persuasively that all such views are helpless in the face of the skeptic's arguments His radical innovation is to insist that the direct object of perceptual and even dreaming and hallucinatory experience is usually a material object but not necessarily one that actually exists This leads to a sophisticated metaphysics in which reality is ultimately constructed by human decisions out of objects that are ontologically more basic but which cannot be said in themselves to be either real or unreal Butchvarov's ingenious approach to a longstanding philosophical issue as well as the extensive range of his references to traditional and contemporary discussions of the topic makes *Skepticism about the External World* a thrilling and essential book for philosophers and philosophically minded readers

Dream, Death, and the Self J. J. Valberg, 2018-06-26 Might this be a dream In this book distinguished philosopher J J Valberg approaches the familiar question about dream and reality by seeking to identify its subject matter what is it that would be the dream if this were a dream It turns out to be a subject matter that contains the whole of the world space and time but which like consciousness for Sartre is nothing in itself This subject matter the personal horizon lies at the heart of the main topics the first person the self and the self in time explored at length in the book The personal horizon is Valberg contends the subject matter whose center each of us occupies and which for each of us ceases with death This ceasing to be presents itself solipsistically not just as the end of everything for me but as the end of everything absolutely Yet since it is the same for everyone this cannot be Death thus confronts us with an impossible fact something that cannot be but will be The puzzle about death is one of several extraphilosophical puzzles about the self that Valberg discusses puzzles that can trouble everyday consciousness without any contribution from philosophy Nor can philosophy resolve the puzzles Its task is to get to the bottom of them and in this respect to understand ourselves a task philosophy has always set itself

The Oxford Handbook of Skepticism John Greco, 2011-10-01 In the history of philosophical thought few themes loom as large as skepticism Skepticism has been the most visible and important part of debates about knowledge Skepticism at its most basic questions our cognitive achievements challenges our ability to obtain reliable knowledge casting doubt on our attempts to seek and understand the truth about everything from ethics to other minds religious belief and even the underlying structure of matter and reality Since Descartes the defense of

knowledge against skepticism has been one of the primary tasks not just of epistemology but philosophy itself The Oxford Handbook of Skepticism features twenty six newly commissioned chapters by top figures in the field Part One contains articles explaining important kinds of skeptical reasoning Part Two focuses on responses to skeptical arguments Part Three concentrates on important contemporary issues revolving around skepticism As the first volume of its kind the articles make significant contributions to the debate on skepticism

The Significance of Philosophical Scepticism Barry Stroud, 1984-07-05 This book raises questions about the nature of philosophy by examining the source and significance of one central philosophical problem how can we know anything about the world around us Stroud discusses and criticizes the views of such philosophers as Descartes Kant J L Austin G E Moore R Carnap W V Quine and others *Knowledge and Mind* Andrew Brook, Robert J. Stainton, 2001-07-27 This is the only contemporary text to cover both epistemology and philosophy of mind at an introductory level It also serves as a general introduction to philosophy it discusses the nature and methods of philosophy as well as basic logical tools of the trade The book is divided into three parts The first focuses on knowledge in particular skepticism and knowledge of the external world and knowledge of language The second focuses on mind including the metaphysics of mind and freedom of will The third brings together knowledge and mind discussing knowledge of mind other minds and our own and naturalism and how epistemology and philosophy of mind come together in contemporary cognitive science Throughout the authors take into account the needs of the beginning philosophy student They have made very effort to ensure accessibility while preserving accuracy

The Oxford Handbook of Epistemology Paul K. Moser, 2002 This reference work discusses one of the core topics of philosophy the theory of knowledge Connecting to virtually every other subfield epistemology is central to mainstream philosophy This book explains the ideas and problems of the field while avoiding overly technical detail

Anonymous Sceptics Lance Ashdown, 2002 At its deepest philosophical skepticism questions the sense of language Skepticism manifests itself in different forms three of the most powerful being logical external world and religious skepticism How has philosophy of religion addressed these challenges The attempt to answer this question leads Lance Ashdown to a consideration of three prominent contemporary philosophers of religion Richard Swinburne John Hick and William Alston The author shows that these philosophers are indeed open to the criticisms of the three types of skepticism mentioned above According to Ashdown they are rightly to be considered as anonymous skeptics Readers familiar with the work of the theologian Karl Rahner will recognize an echo of his famous doctrine that non Christian religious believers are really anonymous Christians i e Christian believers who do not recognize themselves as such In a similar way the philosophers of religion under consideration are skeptics who most certainly would not identify themselves as such They are anonymous skeptics in the sense that their epistemologies create the very conditions that allow for the severe and on their own terms unanswerable challenges of skepticism At the same time none of these philosophers thinks that skeptical objections pose a devastating or unanswerable threat to their epistemologies For example each of them

is an avowed believer in God and is fully aware of the challenge of religious skepticism yet none believes that skepticism need cause a rational Christian to abandon his or her beliefs Nevertheless each of the three philosophers adheres to a philosophical theory that remains open to the devastating critique of Philo in David Hume's essay Dialogue Concerning Natural Religion who argues at his deepest that talk of God is meaningless

Radical Skepticism and Epistemic Intuition Michael Bergmann, 2021-07-01 Radical skepticism endorses the extreme claim that large swaths of our ordinary beliefs such as those produced by perception or memory are irrational The best arguments for such skepticism are in their essentials as familiar as a popular science fiction movie and yet even seasoned epistemologists continue to find them strangely seductive Moreover although most contemporary philosophers dismiss radical skepticism they cannot agree on how best to respond to the challenge it presents In the tradition of the 18th century Scottish philosopher Thomas Reid Radical Skepticism and Epistemic Intuition joins this discussion by taking up four main tasks First it identifies the strongest arguments for radical skepticism namely underdetermination arguments which emphasize the gap between our evidence and our ordinary beliefs based on that evidence Second it rejects all inferential or argument based responses to radical skepticism which aim to lay out good noncircular reasoning from the evidence on which we base our ordinary beliefs to the conclusion that those beliefs are probably true Third it develops a commonsense noninferential response to radical skepticism with two distinctive features a it consciously and extensively relies on epistemic intuitions which are seemings about epistemic goods such as knowledge and rationality and b it can be endorsed without difficulty by both internalists and externalists in epistemology Fourth and finally it defends this commonsense epistemic intuition based response to radical skepticism against a variety of objections including those connected with underdetermination worries epistemic circularity disagreement problems experimental philosophy and concerns about whether it engages skepticism in a sufficiently serious way

Skepticism: The Basics Juan Comesaña, Manuel Comesaña, 2022-04-20 This book introduces students and other interested readers to the philosophical study of skepticism a central and long standing subject in philosophy The first three chapters cover knowledge providing the necessary foundation for introducing skepticism in the book's final three chapters Throughout the volume addresses basic questions in these two areas such as What are the differences between the three types of knowledge direct knowledge knowledge by ability and propositional knowledge What is the Gettier problem and why does it resist easy solutions Why do philosophers still talk about René Descartes techniques for raising doubts about what we can know but have largely forgotten Descartes attempts to answer these doubts How do we know that we're not just brains in a vat Is Pyrrhonian skepticism the idea that we know absolutely nothing ultimately self refuting With a glossary of key terms and suggestions for further reading Skepticism The Basics is an ideal starting point for anyone seeking a lively and accessible foray into the study of epistemology Key Features and Benefits Cover both traditional topics like the tripartite conception of knowledge and emerging issues like knowledge first epistemology and concessive responses to inductive

skepticism Demystifies an area where beginners frequently get stuck the difference between common sense skepticism and philosophical skepticism Clearly explains the important contributions from historical and contemporary thinkers like Descartes Hume Popper Quine Dretske Strawson Nozick and Sosa **Skepticism** Annalisa Coliva,Duncan Pritchard,2022-02-09 Skepticism is one of the perennial problems of philosophy from antiquity to the early modern period of Descartes and Hume and right through to the present day It remains a fundamental and widely studied topic and as Annalisa Coliva and Duncan Pritchard show in Skepticism it presents us with a paradox with important ramifications not only for epistemology but also for many other core areas of philosophy This book provides a thorough grounding in contemporary debates about skepticism exploring the following key topics the core skeptical arguments with a particular focus on Cartesian and Humean radical skepticism the epistemic principles that are held to underlie skeptical arguments such as the Closure and Underdetermination principles the content externalism of Putnam Davidson and Chalmers and how it might help us respond to radical skepticism the epistemic externalism internalism distinction and how it relates to the skeptical problematic contextualism in epistemology and its anti skeptical import the various interpretations of a Wittgensteinian hinge epistemology the viability of epistemological disjunctivism including whether it can be combined with hinge epistemology as part of a dual response to radical skepticism liberal and conservative responses to the Humean skeptical paradox Both authors are prominent figures who work on skepticism and so one novelty of the book is that it provides an insight into their own contrasting responses to this philosophical difficulty With the addition of annotated further reading and a glossary this is an ideal starting point for anyone studying the philosophy of skepticism along with students of epistemology metaphysics and contemporary analytic philosophy

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