

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-01612-5 - Justification and the Truth-Connection  
Clayton Littlejohn  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

## JUSTIFICATION AND THE TRUTH-CONNECTION

The internalism–externalism debate is one of the oldest debates in epistemology. Internalists assert that the justification of our beliefs can only depend on facts internal to us, while externalists insist that justification can depend on additional, for example environmental, factors. In this book Clayton Littlejohn proposes and defends a new strategy for resolving this debate. Focusing on the connections between practical and theoretical reason, he explores the question of whether the priority of the good to the right (in ethics) might be used to defend an epistemological version of consequentialism, and proceeds to formulate a new “deontological externalist” view. His discussion is rich with insights and will be valuable for a wide range of readers in epistemology, ethics, and practical reason.

CLAYTON LITTLEJOHN is Lecturer in Philosophy at King’s College London. He has published a number of articles in epistemology and ethical theory in journals including *Journal of Philosophy* and *American Philosophical Quarterly*.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-01612-5 - Justification and the Truth-Connection  
Clayton Littlejohn  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-01612-5 - Justification and the Truth-Connection  
Clayton Littlejohn  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

# JUSTIFICATION AND THE TRUTH-CONNECTION

CLAYTON LITTLEJOHN

*King's College London*



**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
 978-1-107-01612-5 - Justification and the Truth-Connection  
 Clayton Littlejohn  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
 Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,  
 Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press  
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
 Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107016125](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107016125)

© Clayton Littlejohn 2012

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception  
 and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,  
 no reproduction of any part may take place without the written  
 permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2012

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*  
 Littlejohn, Clayton.

Justification and the truth-connection / Clayton Littlejohn.  
 p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references (p. ) and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-01612-5 (hardback)

1. Justification (Theory of knowledge) 2. Knowledge, Theory of. 3. Truthfulness  
 and falsehood. 4. Epistemics. 5. Belief and doubt. I. Title.

BD 212.L58 2012

121'.6—dc23

2012007359

ISBN 978-1-107-01612-5 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or  
 accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in  
 this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is,  
 or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

## *Contents*

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i> vi
1 Introduction	I
2 Epistemic value	62
3 Reasons for belief (I)	89
4 Reasons for belief (II)	121
5 Assertion	157
6 Action	191
7 Justification	223
<i>References</i>	254
<i>Index</i>	265

## *Acknowledgments*

There are a great number of friends and colleagues that I would like to thank for helpful discussion and comments: Mike Almeida, Robert Audi, Eric Barnes, Bryan Belknap, Selim Berker, Tim Black, Brent Braga, John Brunero, Ray Buchanan, Matthew Burstein, Al Casullo, Richard Yetter Chappell, Nate Charlow, Matthew Chrisman, Philippe Chuard, Chris Cloos, E. J. Coffman, Stewart Cohen, Juan Comesaña, Michael Conboy, Earl Conee, Andrew Cullison, Rodney Cupp, Ken Daley, Jonathan Dancy, Mark Decker, Keith DeRose, Kimberly Dill, Dylan Dodd, Sinan Dogramaci, Dale Dorsey, Trent Dougherty, Janice Dowell, Dough Ehring, Meylan Engel Jr., David Enoch, Jeremy Fantl, Richard Feldman, Steve Finlay, Branden Fitelson, Dorit Ganson, Mikkel Gerken, John Gibbons, Emily Given, Sandy Goldberg, Soraya Gollop, Peter Graham, Stephen Grimm, Danielle Hampton, John Harris, Ali Hasan, John Hawthorne, Allan Hazlett, David Henderson, Jill Hernandez, Pamela Hieronymi, Steve Hiltz, Leo Iacono, Jonathan Ichikawa, Harry Ide, Chris Kelp, Justin Klocksien, Danny Z. Korman, Tim Kraft, Jonathan Kvanvig, Larry Lacy, Brian Leiter, Lauren Leydon-Hardy, S. Matthew Liao, Dustin Locke, Errol Lord, Jack Lyons, Kevin McCain, Christopher McCammon, Aidan McGlynn, Matt McGrath, Anna-Sara Malmgren, Jon Matheson, Neil Mehta, Joe Mendola, Anne Meylan, Giovanni Mion, Andrew Moon, Matthew Mullins, Mark Murphy, Peter Murphy, Eric Nelson, Ram Neta, Nathan Nobis, Alastair Norcross, Nicolette Ocheltree, Steve Odmark, David Pitt, Albert Popovic, Doug Portmore, Lewis Powell, Duncan Pritchard, Andrew Reiser, Luke Robinson, Guy Rohrbaugh, Sruthi Rothenfluch, Dylan Sabo, Sarah Sawyer, Mark Schroeder, David Sosa, Jason Stanley, Daniel Star, Asbjorn Steglich-Petersen, Matthias Steup, Jussi Suikkanen, Jonathan Sutton, Steve Sverdlík, Steven Swartzter, Bradley Thomas, Brad Thomson, Chris Tucker, John Turri, Candice Upton, Charles Wallis, Brian Weatherson,

*Acknowledgments*

vii

Ralph Wedgwood, Alistair Welchman, Matt Weiner, Dennis Whitcomb, Daniel Whiting, Eric Wiland, Sarah Wright, and Becky Zavada. Two anonymous referees offered generous amounts of wonderful feedback. Thanks to Larry Lacy and Pat Shade for introducing me to philosophy and encouraging me to pursue graduate work. I am especially grateful to Howard Hewitt, Robert Howell, and Mark van Roojen for philosophical discussion and for their friendship. I would like to thank my editor Hilary Gaskin for her encouragement and guidance. I have (I believe) benefitted tremendously from the work of Jonathan Dancy, John Gardner, Judith Thomson, and Timothy Williamson, and it seems appropriate to express my appreciation here.

I would like to thank audiences at Boston University, King's College London, Southern Methodist University, the University of Edinburgh, and the University of Texas at San Antonio, as well as those who attended my talks at the 2010 *Episteme* Conference at the University of Edinburgh, the 2010 Royal Ethics Conference at the University of Texas at Austin, the 2010 Pacific Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association, the 2010 Central Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association, the 2009 Eastern Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association, the 2009 Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress at the University of Colorado, the 2008 Eastern Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association, the 2007 Northwest Philosophy Conference, and the 2006 Conference for the Central States Philosophical Association for helpful feedback.

Sigurdur Gudmundsson has generously agreed to let me use his *Study for Horizon* for the cover. I cannot think of a more fitting image for a book on epistemic normativity.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my family (Brianna, Jaimie, Taylor, Roger, Lorraine, and now Sherri, John, Melissa, and Scott) for their love and unflagging support. To Amy, I dedicate this work to you. You are a wonderful mother to our beloved dog Agnes and the best friend I could ever hope to have. Every day I am reminded how incredibly fortunate I am to spend my time with you.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-01612-5 - Justification and the Truth-Connection  
Clayton Littlejohn  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---