

Cambridge Elements

Elements in Epistemology
edited by
Stephen Hetherington
University of New South Wales, Sydney

THE NATURE AND NORMATIVITY OF DEFEAT

Christoph Kelp
University of Glasgow



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-45406-3 – The Nature and Normativity of Defeat
Christoph Kelp
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009161039

DOI: 10.1017/9781009161022

© Christoph Kelp 2023

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 & Assessment.

First published 2023

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

ISBN 978-1-009-45406-3 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-16103-9 Paperback
ISSN 2398-0567 (online)
ISSN 2514-3832 (print)

Cambridge University Press & Assessment 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.

The Nature and Normativity of Defeat

Elements in Epistemology

DOI: 10.1017/9781009161022
First published online: August 2023

Christoph Kelp
University of Glasgow

Author for correspondence: Christoph Kelp, Christoph.kelp@glasgow.ac.uk

Abstract: Defeat is the loss of justification for believing something in light of new information. This Element mainly aims to work towards developing a novel account of defeat. It distinguishes among three broad views in the epistemology of defeat: scepticism, internalism, and externalism and argues that sceptical and internalist accounts of defeat are bound to remain unsatisfactory. As a result, any viable account of defeat must be externalist. While there is no shortage of externalist accounts, the Element provides reason to think that extant accounts remain unsatisfactory. The Element also takes on the constructive tasks of developing an alternative account of defeat and showing that it improves on the competition.

Keywords: epistemology, defeat, justification, knowledge, virtue epistemology

© Christoph Kelp 2023

ISBNs: 9781009454063 (HB), ISBNs: 9781009161039 (PB), 9781009161022 (OC)
ISSNs: 2398-0567 (online), 2514-3832 (print)

Contents

1 Introduction	1
2 Defeat Scepticism	8
3 Internalism and Defeat	20
4 Externalism and Defeat	27
5 Virtue Epistemology and Internal Defeat	35
6 Virtue Epistemology and External Defeat	44
References	58