

NATURALIZING EPISTEMIC VIRTUE

An epistemic virtue is a personal quality conducive to the discovery of truth, the avoidance of error, or some other intellectually valuable goal. Current work in epistemology is increasingly value-driven, but this volume presents the first collection of essays to explore whether virtue epistemology can also be naturalistic, in the philosophical definition meaning "methodologically continuous with science." The essays examine the empirical research in psychology on cognitive abilities and personal dispositions, meta-epistemic semantic accounts of virtue-theoretic norms, the role of emotion in knowledge, "oughtimplies-can" constraints, empirically and metaphysically grounded accounts of "proper functioning," and even applied virtue epistemology in relation to education. *Naturalizing Epistemic Virtue* addresses many core issues in contemporary epistemology, presents new opportunities for work on epistemic abilities, epistemic virtues and cognitive character, and will be of great interest to those studying virtue ethics and epistemology.

ABROL FAIRWEATHER is Lecturer in Philosophy at San Francisco State University. He is the co-editor (with Linda Zagzebski) of *Virtue Epistemology: Essays on Epistemic Virtue and Responsibility* (2001).

OWEN FLANAGAN is James B. Duke Professor of Philosophy at Duke University. His books include *Varieties of Moral Personality* (1991), *Consciousness Reconsidered* (1992), *The Really Hard Problem: Meaning in a Material World* (2007), and *The Bodhisattva's Brain: Buddhism Naturalized* (2011).





NATURALIZING EPISTEMIC VIRTUE

EDITED BY
ABROL FAIRWEATHER

San Francisco State University

and

OWEN FLANAGAN

Duke University





CAMBRIDGEUNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

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

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107028579

© Cambridge University Press 2014

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 2014

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

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

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data
Naturalizing epistemic virtue / edited by Abrol Fairweather and Owen Flanagan.

pages cm Includes bibliographical references and index. ISBN 978-1-107-02857-9 (hardback)

1. Virtue epistemology. 2. Naturalism. I. Fairweather, Abrol, editor of compilation.

BD176.N38 2014 121–dc23 2013039682

ISBN 978-1-107-02857-9 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

List of contributors		page v11
I	Introduction: naturalized virtue epistemology Abrol Fairweather and Owen Flanagan	I
2	Warrant, functions, history Peter J. Graham	15
3	The epistemic "ought" Ram Neta	36
4	Naturalism and norms of inference Carrie Ichikawa Jenkins	53
5	Indirect epistemic teleology explained and defended David Copp	70
6	Moral virtues, epistemic virtues, and the Big Five <i>Christian Miller</i>	92
7	Epistemic dexterity: a Ramseyian account of agent-based knowledge Abrol Fairweather and Carlos Montemayor	118
8	Re-evaluating the situationist challenge to virtue epistemology Duncan Pritchard	143
9	Stereotype threat and intellectual virtue Mark Alfano	155
IO	Acquiring epistemic virtue: emotions, situations, and education Heather Battaly	175

V



vi	Contents	
II	Virtue and the fitting culturing of the human critter David Henderson and Terence Horgan	197
12	Expressivism and convention-relativism about epistemic discourse <i>Allan Hazlett</i>	223
Bib Ind	oliography Jex	247 267



Contributors

- MARK ALFANO is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Oregon.
- HEATHER BATTALY is Professor of Philosophy at California State University, Fullerton.
- DAVID COPP is Distinguished Professor and Chair of Philosophy at the University of California, Davis.
- ABROL FAIRWEATHER is Lecturer in Philosophy at San Francisco State University.
- OWEN FLANAGAN is James B. Duke Professor of Philosophy at Duke University.
- PETER J. GRAHAM is Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, Riverside.
- ALLAN HAZLETT is Reader in Philosophy at the University of Edinburgh.
- DAVID HENDERSON is Robert R. Chambers Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- TERENCE HORGAN is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Arizona.
- CARRIE ICHIKAWA JENKINS is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Canada Research Chair at the University of British Columbia, and Professor of Theoretical Philosophy in the Northern Institute of Philosophy at the University of Aberdeen.
- CHRISTIAN MILLER is Professor of Philosophy at Wake Forest University.
- CARLOS MONTEMAYOR is Professor of Philosophy at San Francisco State University.

vii



viii

List of contributors

RAM NETA is Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

DUNCAN PRITCHARD is Professor and Chair of Epistemology at the University of Edinburgh.