Decision Theory and Pragmatic Encroachment

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Pragmatic Encroachment: Even if we fix all the truth-relevant factors, varying pragmatic factors can make a difference in determining whether or not a subject's true belief counts as knowledge

Challenges to Pragmatic Encroachment

1. Challenges to the epistemic norms connecting knowledge and the practical

2. The unintuitive consequences of pragmatism

3. The irrelevance of practical factors in Gettier cases

4. Development of an anti-luck epistemology

Practical Role of Belief: Belief plays a role in simplifying one's deliberations.

Practically Adequate Belief: For any given practical situation, S's belief that P is practically adequate iff it makes no rational difference whether one takes P as true or consider the likelihood that P.

Minimally justified belief: S's belief that P is minimally justified iff S's rational degree of belief is greater than .5.

Pragmatically Warranted Belief: S's belief that P is pragmatically warranted iff in decision problems that account for objective parameters, S's belief that P is practically adequate and minimally justified.

Decision Theory

Q: What counts as a coherent standard of evaluation for a decision problem?

1. What is a decision problem? *Decision Table: Acts, States, consequences*

2. Which types of judgments are relevant for evaluating the choices that one is choosing between? *Preferences between acts, beliefs about states, desires for consequences.*

3. What constraints must these judgments meet in order to count as rational? *Principles of Rational Preference = Expected Utility*

Constructive Decision Theory:

1. Framing: How does/should the DM frame her decision problem?

2. Construction: How does/should the DM construct her preferences?

Framing a decision problem:

Consequences: The consequences that count as relevant depend upon the goal of one's deliberation (what deliberation is for).

Consequence-determining states: The possible states that the DM thinks will determine whether one or another of the relevant consequences obtains

Evidentially-relevant states: The possible states whose actualization is relevant for assessing the likelihood of the consequence-determining states

Objective evidential relevance: Actualized states that are evidentially-relevant.

	Subjective Parameters	Objective Parameters
Consequences	Goals	Objective values?
Consequence-Determining States	Beliefs about actions	?
Evidentially-Relevant States	Conditional Probabilities	Facts