

University of Geneva
Departement of Philosophy
Episteme research group

Igal Kwart (Hebrew University)

Rational Assertability, the Steering Role of 'know' and Pragmatic Encroachment

march 14th 2012, 16h-18h

room B015, Uni Bastions

Abstract

In this paper, I lay out an account of the pragmatics of 'know', and use it to argue against pragmatic encroachment into the semantics of 'know'. In the past couple of decades, there have been a couple of major attempts to establish the thesis of pragmatic encroachment. Contextualism and Subject-Sensitive Invariantism offered accounts of knowledge in which standard and/or stakes play a major role in the semantics. These accounts were propelled first and foremost by examples that seemed to require a pragmatic component in the truth-conditions of knowledge ascriptions in order to be accounted for. The pragmatic account I propose explains the admittedly pragmatic character of the examples in question within the pragmatic field, obviating the need for pragmatic encroachment into the semantics. The main pragmatic components I employ are that of rational assertability as well as the pragmatic role of the use of 'know' in deliberation that resorts to practical inference. This pragmatic account is fundamentally different than the Gricean approach. It accounts for the intuitions associated with the paradigmatic examples, and offers new insight about the methodology of using intuitions as semantic evidence.

The talk is open to everyone interested.

Organisers: Prof. Pascal Engel and Julien Dutant (Episteme research group, Departement of Philosophy, University of Geneva). Please contact Julien Dutant for further information (name.surname@unige.ch).