

CALL FOR PAPERS

Skeptical Problems in Political Epistemology

An assumption behind epistemic justifications for a political order is that the legitimacy of an order depends on it being capable of producing good epistemic outcomes. And so go epistemic critiques of political orders, that their legitimacy is harmed by the fact that they are productive of bad epistemic outcomes. Democracy, in particular, has been a target for both sorts of arguments – that democracies are effective places of knowledge-production, yet are also sites of extreme epistemic and deliberative vice. Skeptical programs in epistemology, then, have political ramifications. If particular arrangements of power, rights, or resources yield systematic error or confusion, then the case for their legitimacy is significantly harmed.

This special issue of *Symposion* will be devoted to essays outlining the skeptical challenges for a variety of programs of epistemic justification for and within political orders. These skeptical challenges may be general in form, perhaps as applications of more global skeptical problems to political epistemology, or may be particular, as unique defeating conditions in specific contexts of deliberation. Topics for this issue may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Propaganda and Alternative Facts
- Consequences of Epistemic Injustice
- Reasonable Pluralism and Liberal Constraints on Public Justification
- Deep Disagreement and Group Polarization
- Classical Skeptical Tropes in Political Discourse
- Voter Ignorance
- Ideal vs. Non-Ideal Theory in Epistemology and Political Theory
- Testimony and Trust
- Critical Thinking and Education
- Epistemic Vice and Corrupting Political Environments

This issue will include essays by:

- Kristie Dotson (Michigan State University)
- Catherine Hundleby (University of Windsor) and Moira Howes (Trent University)
- José Medina (Northwestern University)
- Alessandra Tanesini (Cardiff University)

This special issue of *Symposion* will be co-edited by Scott Aikin (Vanderbilt University) and Tempest Henning (Vanderbilt University).

Papers should be submitted in format appropriate for anonymous review and should be between 4,000 and 8,000 words. (Please use the [Chicago](#) author-date system for references.)

Papers for this special issue of *Symposion* are due to Scott Aikin (scott.aikin@vanderbilt.edu) by May 10, 2018. Decisions will be made by early June, 2018, and the issue will be published in November 2018.