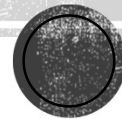


PEACEMAKING AND PRESUPPOSITIONS

Resolving Conflict in the Run of the Life with Gospel Wisdom



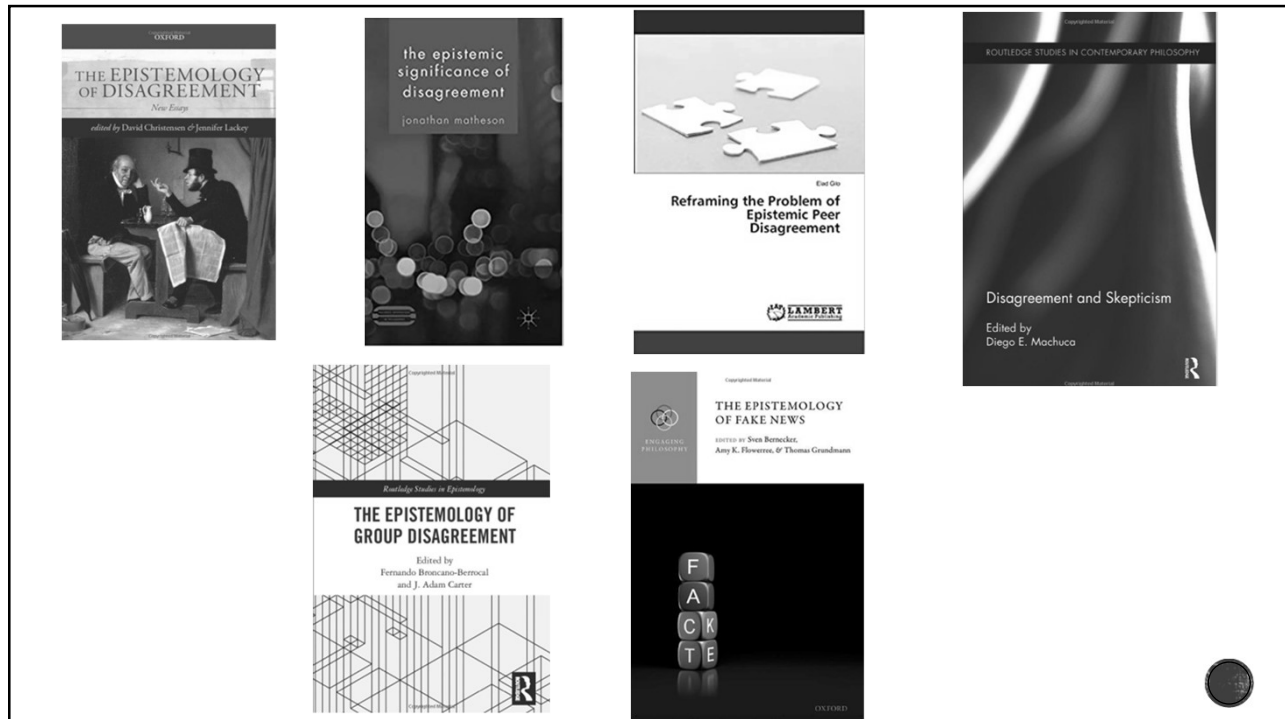
1

THE PROBLEM OF PEER DISAGREEMENT

- The problem stated



2



3

THE PROBLEM OF PEER DISAGREEMENT

- “Peer” Disagreement: Disagreement among those who share all of the known, relevant information and experience as well as equal intellectual ability to process and analyze that information—no one has an “edge up” in information, intelligence or processing ability.
- The Equal Weight View: In cases of peer disagreement, one should give equal weight to the opinion of a peer and to one’s own opinion.
- The problematic implication of the Equal Weight View

4

THE RATIONALITY PROBLEM

- Rationality—binary implications with given evidence or a spectrum owing to individual reasoning?



5

THE SKEPTICAL PROBLEM

- Evaluative Agnosticism—A Two-Step Response
- Step 1: Distinguishing between two very different claims
 - Claim 1: “One should adopt agnosticism in cases of genuine, peer disagreement.”
 - Claim 2: “One should adopt agnosticism *if they have good reason to believe they are disagreeing with a genuine peer(s).*”
 - The initially difficult pillow to swallow: accepting claim 2.
- Step 2: Why we don’t usually have good reasons to believe we have genuine, peer disagreement on our hands *in real life.*
 - Clear cases of superiority
 - Clear cases of inferiority
 - Clear cases of peers?
 - **Simply not knowing comparative epistemic status** (agnosticism)

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SUMMARY AND APPLICATION

1. One should, in most instances, adopt agnosticism *if they have good reason to believe they are disagreeing with a genuine peer.*
 2. Rarely do individuals have good reason to believe they are disagreeing with a genuine peer because of all the potentially relevant and influential unknowns that are often not considered, in addition to cases where it is clear that people are clearly not peers.
 3. In the absence of being able to determine if someone is an epistemic peer, I am usually justified in sticking to my guns until someone can present me with reasons that demonstrate what I believe to be either false or unjustified, at which point I should adopt either agnosticism or adopt their position.
- **Application**
1. Believe humbly—we are too confident of a people
 2. Read/listen widely and carefully
 3. Assume you have blindspots
 4. Remember that being wrong or corrected is a growth opportunity
 5. Don't be intimidated by sharp, witty, quick-thinking, well-educated people with letters next to their name.