

THE INNOVATION GROUP FOR THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

# Center for Ethics and Human Values

Presents



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## "Epistemic Teleology and the Separateness of Propositions"

**Abstract:** When it comes to epistemic normativity, should we take the good to be prior to the right? That is, should we ground facts about what we ought and ought not believe on a given occasion in facts about the value of being in certain cognitive states (such as, for example, the value of having true beliefs)? The overwhelming answer among contemporary epistemologists is: "Yes, we should." In this paper I argue to the contrary. Just as taking the good to be prior to the right in ethics often leads one to sanction implausible trade-offs when determining what an agent should do, so too, I argue, taking the good to be prior to the right in epistemology leads one to sanction implausible trade-offs when determining what a subject should believe. Epistemic value -- and, by extension, epistemic goals -- are not the explanatory foundation upon which all other normative notions in epistemology rest.

Friday, September 21, 2012

347 University Hall, 3:30 p.m.