

Il paradigma dell'osservatore responsabile

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The Paradigm of the Responsible Observer

Abstract: According to a well-established view, the stance of the observer is the paradigm of objectivity insofar as observers are not directly involved in action. How to construe the epistemic privilege of the observer stance in contrast to the stance of agency is a matter of philosophical contention, and there are several theoretical options available. This article offers a critique of this model of objectivity as applied to the case of the independent observers and their role in the reconstruction of historical facts. In contrast to the objectivist model of a distant, dispassionate and disinterested observer, it is argued that observers have context-specific epistemic, testimonial, and ethical responsibilities, which require an appropriate personal engagement and adequate moral sensibility.

Keywords: Independent observer, Ideal observer theory, Objectivity, Responsibility, Retributive emotions.

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