Right, Knowledge, Truth

Comments on Lani Watson's, The Right to Know

Do We Need Epistemic (or Alethic) Rights?

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Abstract: The notion of epistemic rights (rights related to knowledge) faces a radical objection, advanced by anti democratic approaches in epistemology. They claim inequality in the distribution of knowledge is not wrong; rather, epistemic liberalism, i.e. the idea that 'epistemic goods' could and should be available to everyone, is the main cause of the current information crisis. I suggest this and similar objections rely on a misunderstanding about the role of truth in knowledge (and in social life), then I sketch the truth theory which grounds the idea of 'alethic rights' (rights related to truth) and can also support epistemic rights disproving this and similar objections.

Keywords: Epistemic rights, Alethic rights, Theories of truth.

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