

## PREFACE

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According to Liddell & Scott's *Greek-English Lexicon* the transliterated word *epistēmē* (ἐπιστήμη) can be taken to mean knowledge broadly conceived – understanding, skill, craft, experience and wisdom. It can also be taken to refer to scientific knowledge in particular. These manifold meanings are consonant with one of this journal's primary tenets – the taking of contributions that use particular methodological perspectives to address the central issues in epistemology. All senses of the word *epistēmē* have been invoked in this first volume.

It is also apposite that the topic, the so-called "science wars," brings this first volume to a close. Another motivation behind the setting up of EPISTEME was to provide a forum conducive to lowering the temperature of this often bitter debate. Thank you to the discussants for keeping the tenor at all times civil without diluting a spirited exchange. This topic is, however, but one tributary of many that flow into the social epistemology river and should not come to dominate this journal's concerns.

A stylistic, though no less important tenet, was to mediate the extremes of an overly technocratic philosophical style on the one hand, and obscurity and turgidity on the other hand. The liveliness and topicality of the discussion, avoiding parametric refinements of well-known ideas, has made the journal broadly accessible to philosophers, sociologists and the educated reader.

Once again we would like to thank the contributors to this invitational volume. A special thank you is also in order to those who provided the introductory essays to each issue.

It is gratifying to note that the response to the call for papers for EPISTEME's first refereed (and thematic) issue scheduled for publication in June 2005, has exceeded all expectation. This, as the editor Miriam Solomon has noted, speaks to the health of the field of social epistemology and to the promise of the journal.

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Founding Editors