

## PREFACE

---

This, the first issue of *EPISTEME*, is the culmination of three years of planning. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have offered their support to this project.

First, we would like to thank our highly distinguished Honorary Founding Editors for offering their support to the project at the very outset. Their academic standing has provided the Journal with the strongest of foundations. Second, we are indebted to those who agreed to comprise *EPISTEME*'s Executive Committee – again, a most distinguished group. Critical to any journal's success is the referee pool. We appreciate the support of all those who agreed to be the Journal's Consulting Editors: *EPISTEME* has a referee pool that is unrivalled in both breadth and depth. We would like to thank those who so graciously took up the invitation to offer articles for the first three issues. The reasoning behind having an invitational first volume was simple. It serves notice that *EPISTEME* seeks to become a major philosophy journal with the capacity to attract the most distinguished, the most influential and the most diverse group of writers. Last, but by no means least, careful nurturing from the team at Edinburgh University Press has seen this project to fruition.

Editorially, *EPISTEME* seeks to mediate a narrowly technocratic style on the one hand, and bombast and obscurity on the other. Not averse to a broadly analytical style of philosophy for which comprehensibility is paramount, we were in accord with Brian Leiter's observation that 'It is fair to say that "clarity" is, regrettably, becoming less and less a distinguishing feature of "analytic" philosophy.' By the same token, so-called recent "continental" philosophy has suffered from uncritical assimilation in quarters with no philosophical culture. *EPISTEME* is not averse to a style of philosophy that has a synoptic sweep. Indeed, the "social" in "social epistemology" self-evidently carries with it a broad remit. What makes the field of social epistemology so compelling is that traditional epistemological and metaphysical problems are reinvigorated, refracted through relatively new disciplines such as cognitive science. Furthermore, the long established branches of philosophy now ignore issues generated within social epistemology, at their peril. As the papers in this volume show, social epistemology cuts across political philosophy, ethics, the philosophy of science, philosophical jurisprudence, the philosophy of social science, the philosophy of economics, the philosophy of education, and the philosophy of technology. Appreciation of this has to be good for philosophy in both its theoretical and applied manifestations.

*EPISTEME* offers a forum to all factions of the social epistemology debate, an opportunity for vigorous but civil engagement.

Leslie Marsh & Christian J. Onof.  
Founding Editors

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.philosophicalgourmet.com/analytic.htm>