

Department of Philosophy Colloquium

Josh DiPaolo



11/8/2024



3 pm-5 pm



HIB 55



Unclaimed Domains: Expert Silence and the Encroachment of Lay Discourse

This talk examines the consequences and dynamics of social pressures that discourage experts from contributing to public discourse on certain apparently contentious or taboo topics. I argue that such pressures can create “unclaimed domains” where expert voices withdraw, leaving space for non-experts to dominate these conversations. While not all conversations require expert input, suppressing it can harm public knowledge, especially when the causes suppressing expert speech entice contrarians to fill the gap. The talk concludes by canvassing some possible solutions to these problems.

BIO

- Josh DiPaolo is Associate Professor in the Philosophy Department at Cal State University, Fullerton. He earned his PhD at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- He mostly researches extremism, evidence, and social epistemology. He mostly teaches epistemology, logic, ethics, philosophy of science, and extremism.
- He has published in Oxford Studies in Epistemology, Philosophical Studies, and Synthese, among other venues. He is a first-generation college graduate, committed to helping other first-generation students succeed. To that end, he created and continues to develop the "First-Generation CSUF Philosophy Student Workshop."