



# Philosophy/KTS COLLOQUIUM

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05/02/2025



3 pm-5 pm



HIB 55

### Skepticism and two perspectives of self-reflection

Reflective human beings have the capacity to reflect on their own mental states from two distinct perspectives, from an ordinary 1st-person-perspective and from a 3rd-person-perspective by taking a detached point of view towards their own mental states that mimics reflection about mental states of others. Such 3rd-person-perspective is, for example, involved in methods of mindfulness and cognitive defusion in psychotherapy. In this paper, I investigate a particular instance of this capacity, namely reflecting on the truth of one's own beliefs from two perspectives. As I will argue, these different perspectives can reveal different judgments about the truth of one's own beliefs. Ordinary self-reflection from a 1st-person-perspective rather automatically leads to higher-level beliefs in the background that one's own beliefs are true. Self-reflection from a 3rd-person-perspective, in contrast, can also lead to judgments that one's own beliefs are false or to judgment suspension about the truth of one's own beliefs. Each perspective has its merits and weaknesses. As I will argue, one version of the skeptical problem arises from two perspectives of self-reflection. While ordinary self-reflection from a 1st-person-perspective leads to common-sense anti-skepticism that our external world beliefs are true, self-reflection from a 3rd-person perspective supports a skeptical stance of judgement suspension about their truth.

### BIO

- Guido Melchior is the Docent and Assistant Professor for Philosophy at the University of Graz. He is also the PI of the FWF stand-alone project 'Knowing, Checking, and Other Epistemic Standings.' He received his PhD with distinction at the University of Graz with a dissertation on self-knowledge.
- His AoS is epistemology. His AoC are philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, and philosophy of science.
- His book titled *Knowing and Checking: Epistemological Investigation* is published at Routledge. He has done research projects on skepticism and self-knowledge and skeptical perspective. He has also published works in *Acta Analytica*, *Metzler/Springer*, and *Philosophia*.

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