

Matteo Zicchetti (University of Bristol): “The epistemological status of reflection principles”

Are we entitled to accept proof-theoretic reflection principles for a given theory S that we accept without doing extra justificatory work? In my talk I will investigate this question and analyse the epistemological status of reflection principles over formal truth theories in the context of Crispin Wright’s epistemological theory of cognitive projects. I will spell out under which conditions one is entitled, in a cognitive project, to accept what Wright calls cornerstone propositions. I will argue that there are specific circumstances, under which reflection principles are cornerstone proposition. Moreover, I will show that one can be entitled to accept reflection principles without any further justificatory work. I will also highlight the difficulties and philosophical implications of this analysis.