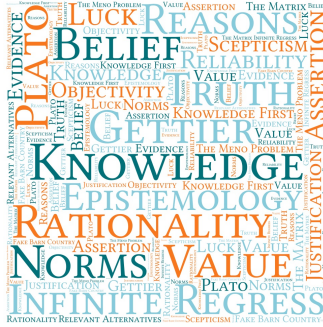




Knowledge, Individuals & Society

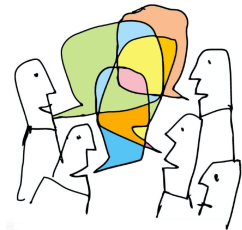
JAKE CHANDLER

Lecture 10 Wrap-up



Group discussion

In small groups (3-4) discuss the following questions (and then we'll have a whole class discussion):



This week

- Landemore's diversity-based argument for democracy
- Issues in defining "diversity" (Teachman's constraints, issue of similarity, possible ambiguity)
- Are larger groups more diverse? (lack of proof, lack of quantitative results)
- Are more diverse groups more reliable?
 - (i) Diversity and independence/negative correlation (sources of positive correlation, role of diverse heuristics)
 - (ii) Diversity and search

Group discussion (ctd)

- (1) Steel et al (see reading) argue that "diversity" is ambiguous. We discussed their "egalitarian" sense of the term. The other two senses, which are defined relative to a "reference population" (e.g. society as a whole) are allegedly the following:
 - (a) Representative diversity: A group G is representatively diverse with respect to variable X and reference population P iff the distributions of X in P and G are similar.
 - (b) Normic diversity: A group G is normically diverse with respect to variable X and reference population P iff there exists a "non-diverse" value of X in P (e.g. being Caucasian, being male, etc.) and this value occurs in low proportions in G . (note: a value can be non-diverse, according to them iff it is numerically dominant or associated with social power)

Briefly discuss whether or not these correspond to genuine different senses of "diversity"?

Group discussion (ctd)

- (2) One important alleged virtue of democratic life (that we haven't discussed) is democratic deliberation, which Landemore defines as an "inclusive and egalitarian" "pondering and weighing of reasons or...exchange of arguments for or against a given view". Is there perhaps a risk, however, that deliberation will decrease diversity and increase positive correlation between votes? More generally, how do you think that deliberation might affect the parameters that are relevant to the Condorcet Jury Theorem? Should we, as Rousseau once suggested, avoid deliberation in the run up to voting? (If you are stuck for inspiration, take a quick look at Ch 9 of Goodin & Spiekermann)

Next week

- Topic: Incentives and the social organisation of inquiry
- Required reading:
 - Strevens, M. 2003: The Role of the Priority Rule in Science. *The Journal of Philosophy* Vol. 100, No. 2, pp. 55-79.
- Recommended reading:
 - Kitcher, P. 1990: The Division of Cognitive Labor. *The Journal of Philosophy* Vol. 87, No. 1, pp. 5-22.
 - Romero, F. 2017: Novelty versus Replicability: Virtues and Vices in the Reward System of Science. *Philosophy of Science*, 84(5): 1031-1043.