Article Ideas – Interdisciplinary Epistemology

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Here are my two (semi-)requirements for this project: Beyond these, pretty much anything goes.

• I think it is important that we stay connected with interdisciplinary epistemology (broadly construed) in the work we do here.

• I would also like the article to be aimed at a philosophy journal (e.g., *Episteme, Social Epistemology, Hypatia*).

Here are a few topic ideas. The actual topic would need to come from within the broader range carved out here.

• **Power and Interdisciplinary Research.** Reflect on the role that power differences play in collaborative, cross-disciplinary research, evaluating how the combination of different epistemic cultures enables and obstructs cross-disciplinary knowledge production. Need to tease apart (as possible) the power differences that are due to collaboration from those that are due to the combination of disciplines. Should involve thinking about disciplinary chauvinism and turfism, e.g., the lack of respect paid to the social sciences by certain biophysical scientists. Might need to think about how ID projects can be structured to manage power gradients that could get in the way of project success. Draw on epistemological literature that concerns power (e.g., epistemic oppression) as well as ID literature.

• **Framing an Interdisciplinary Epistemology.** This would involve putting together a sketch of the framing elements (or some of the more important) in a model of interdisciplinary epistemic processes. What concepts are important here? What is the difference between AN epistemology and epistemology? How do the central concepts relate to the concepts that traditionally figure into epistemology? What would the point of developing such a thing?

• **When Ignorance Isn’t Bliss: The Epistemology of Interdisciplinary Confusion.** What can we make out of the role that learning plays in an epistemology of interdisciplinary research? We bring different perspectives to the process, and the role that learning plays is paramount in enabling different people to work together toward a common product. This is more important in the case of more integrated efforts, but is not irrelevant even in the case of multidisciplinary research, since there should be some sensitivity to what the other disciplinary representatives are contributing to the process. There are a variety of different determinants of the confusion that learning aims to ameliorate, e.g., the different disciplines involved and just how different they are, the nature of the problem in question, the ability of the collaborators to educate one another.