

CONTEXTS IN THE THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE

by

Nicla Vassallo

Dipartimento di Filosofia, via Balbi 4, I-16126 Genova, e-mail: nicla@nous.unige.it

It is relatively recent the idea that epistemology must consider contexts in order to provide a good analysis of knowledge, justification and skepticism. This idea is at the basis of contextualist epistemologies and of some feminist epistemologies. Moreover it can be found, though implicitly, in traditional epistemologies. The aim of my paper will be that of proving how many roles contexts can play in the different kinds of epistemology. There are of course objections to the necessity of appealing to contexts in epistemology. However I will show that this necessity is so widespread and well supported that it is difficult to easily dismiss it.

Basic references

- Annis D.B. (1978), A Contextualist Theory of Epistemic Justification , *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 15, pp. 213-129. Ora in Moser P.K. (1996) (ed.), *Empirical Knowledge. Readings in Contemporary Epistemology*, Rowman & Littlefield, Lanham, Maryland, pp. 205, 217.
- Cohen S. (1986), Knowledge and Context , *The Journal of Philosophy*, LXXXIII, pp. 574-583.
- Cohen S. (1987), Knowledge, Context, and Social Standards , *Synthese*, 73, pp. 3-26.
- Cohen S. (1988), How to be a Fallibilist , *Philosophical Perspectives*, 2, pp. 91-123
- Cohen S.(1998), Contextualist Solutions to Epistemological Problems: Scepticism, Gettier, and the Lottery , *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* , 76, pp. 289-306.
- DeRose K. (1992), Contextualism and Knowledge Attributions , *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, LII, pp. 913-929.
- DeRose K. (1995), Solving the Skeptical Problem , *The Philosophical Review*, 104, pp. 1-52.
- DeRose K. (1999), Contextualism: An Explanation and Defence , in Greco J. e Sosa E. (eds.), *Epistemology*, Blackwell, Oxford, pp. 187-205.