

Modality and Inquiry

by

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Submitted to the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy
on August 26th in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy

Abstract

The possibilities we consider or eliminate in inquiry are *epistemic possibilities*. This dissertation is mainly about what it is to say or believe that something is possible in this sense. Chapter 1 ('Epistemic Contradictions') describes a new puzzle about epistemic modals and uses it to explore their logic and semantics. Chapter 2 ('Nonfactualism about Epistemic Modality') situates the work of chapter 1 into a larger picture of content and communication, developing a broadly expressivist account of the language of epistemic modality. Chapter 3 ('Content and Modal Resolution') argues that states of belief should be understood as relativized to an inquiry, understood formally as a certain way of dividing up logical space.

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