

Login Create Account

Search & Browse

Simple Search Advanced Search Browse by Subject Browse by Year Browse by

Conferences/Volumes

Information

Home About the Archive Archive Policy History Help FAQ Journal Eprint Policies Register

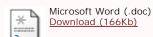
News

Contact Us

Guide to new PhilSci-Archive features.

" The Context Distinction: controversies over feminist philosophy of science"

Aufrecht, Monica (2009) " The Context Distinction: controversies over feminist philosophy of science". In: [2009] SPSP 2009: Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice (Minnesota, June 18-20, 2009).



Abstract

The " context of discovery" and " context of justification" distinction has been used by Noretta Koertge, Elizabeth Anderson, Richmond Campbell, and Lynn Hankinson Nelson in debates over the legitimacy of feminist approaches to philosophy of science. Koertge uses the context distinction to argue against the possibility of gender, race, class and other social factors being epistemically relevant to knowledge formation. She contends that social factors belong in only the " context of discovery," where research questions are chosen and pursued. She argues that such factors should be excluded from the " context of justification," in which evidence for scientific claims is evaluated, to ensure against bias and political distortion. Since the basic assumptions of feminist epistemology violate this context distinction, Koertge argues that the approach of feminist epistemology is misguided. Elisabeth Anderson and Lynn Hankinson Nelson, among others, defend feminist epistemology against these charges. In this paper, I evaluate their defenses and show that in these debates the use of the context distinction is deeply ambiguous and so masks underlying disagreements about when and why philosophers should look to scientific practice and about the aims of philosophy of science more generally. Traditionally, distinctions have been used to dissolve puzzles by showing how the puzzles reduce to shared assumptions, or they have been used to open up a debate to allow for further possibilities. However, in this case, Koertge uses the context distinction to close down the conversation by barring certain approaches, thereby obscuring points of true disagreement about the nature of justification. Nonetheless, Koertge raises important questions that have been too quickly set aside by Anderson and Nelson. I argue that the use of the context distinction masks underlying debates about naturalism and the nature of justification. These issues about what constitutes justification are not essentially feminist, nor do they necessarily turn on views of values and ideology, or Koertge' s worries about biased inquiry. Rather, they depend on determining what method we should use to develop an account of justification: Establish a priori meta-principles, or look in part to scientific practice? The distinction also masks underlying disagreement about the nature of justification: Will we find one universal account of justification (such as falsificationism), or will different episodes in science require unique accounts of how evidence supports a scientific claim? Examining these debates can be fruitful for feminist epistemologists; a disentangling of these ambiguities highlights important concerns that need to be met as those in science studies strive to map how social factors get legitimately incorporated into the evaluation of knowledge claims.

Export/Citation: <u>EndNote</u> | <u>BibTeX</u> | <u>Dublin Core</u> | <u>ASCII (Chicago style)</u> | <u>HTML Citation</u> | <u>OpenURL</u> Social Networking: <u>Share</u> |

I tem Type:	Conference or Workshop Item (UNSPECIFIED)		
Keywords:	context of discovery, context of justification, context distinction		
Subjects:	<u>General Issues > History of Philosophy of Science</u> <u>General Issues > Philosophers of Science</u> <u>General Issues > Feminist Approaches</u> <u>General Issues > Values In Science</u>		
	[2009] SPSP 2009: Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice (Minnesota, June 18-20, 2009)		
Depositing User:	Monica Aufrecht		
Date Deposited:	31 Jul 2009		
Last Modified:	07 Oct 2010 11:18		
Item ID:	4801		
URI:	http://philsci-archive.pitt.edu/id/eprint/4801		

Actions (login required)



Document Downloads

This site is hosted by the <u>University of Electronics and Computer</u> <u>Science</u> at the University of Southampton. More information	ULS D-Scribe	E-Prints	Share	Feeds
This site is hosted by the University 3 which is developed by the School Image: Constant of the University of Science at the University of Southampton. More information 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 1/1/2 <	ULS Description	eìprints		Atom RSS 1.0
		<u>3</u> which is developed by the <u>School</u> of <u>Electronics</u> and <u>Computer</u> <u>Science</u> at the University of Southampton. <u>More information</u>		R SS 2.0