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BIOGRAPHY


BLACK EPISTEMOLOGY AND THE DERELICTICAL CRISIS OF AFRICANA PHILOSOPHY

From its inception in the early 70s, formalized discourse in Africana philosophical scholarship in the United States has been plagued by a derelictical crisis—a crisis of knowledge. The first dimension of this crisis stems from the systems of knowledge generated within philosophical scholarship that does not primarily center the ideas and thought systems produced by black thinkers as the groundwork for representing blackness or cataloguing the black experience. The second concerns the tendency to project negative epistemic ascriptions to black subjects in current scholarship in social epistemology. This work engages with this problematic by imagining a new sub-disciplinary focus within Africana philosophy, namely “Black Epistemology,” which offers a positive view of blackness in relation to the discourse on knowledge. The black epistemological perspective discussed in this work explores the connections between ascriptions of agency and epistemic power in relation to how the knowing subject is characterized as the ground for shaping reality, truth and the world as we know it.

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