

# VALUE-THEORETIC EPISTEMOLOGY

Workshop on *Epistemic Value*  
University of Stirling

## 1. Two Inter-Related Sub-Projects

Take our over-arching question to be: “What is the value of knowledge?” Two inter-connected sub-questions emerge:

- (1) *All* knowledge, or only certain types of knowledge?
- (2) Granted the value of (certain types of) knowledge, what *kind* of value does it have?

## 2. Sub-Project One: The Possibility of Epistemic Value Pluralism

### *Epistemic Value Pluralism*

Different types of knowledge are valuable in different, and philosophically interesting, ways (e.g., perhaps all knowledge is instrumentally valuable, but certain kinds of knowledge are in addition intrinsically valuable; or perhaps not all knowledge is valuable, but certain kinds of knowledge are instrumentally valuable).

### *Possible Ramifications*

- Implications for the focus, or foci, of epistemological theorising.
- Implications for specific epistemological debates (e.g., scepticism, externalism/internalism distinction etc.).

## 3. Sub-Project Two: Delineating Varieties of Epistemic Value

### *Some Possible Types of Extrinsic Epistemic Value*

- *Instrumental Value*—The value that something has because it is productive of, or is a means to, some further value (e.g., money).
- *Teleological Value*—The value that something has in virtue of being “aimed at” something else of value (e.g., when an act aims at some good, such as the relief of suffering).
- *Contributory Value*—The value that something has in virtue of being an essential part of something else that is valuable (e.g., the parts of a heart monitor).
- *Indicative Value*—The value that something has in virtue of being indicative of something valuable (e.g., the ‘good’ X-ray that indicates that I will live after all).
- *Functional Value*—The value that something has in virtue of performing a valuable function (e.g., the life-support machine).