

The New Evil Demon and the Devil in the Details

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The debates over epistemic norms of action and assertion have recently been connected to the infamous New Evil Demon thought experiments. The purpose of my paper is to reconsider this connection. I begin by contrasting the knowledge norms of action and assertion with my alternatives: The Warrant-Action norm (henceforth: WA) and the Warrant-Assertive Speech Act norm (henceforth: WASA). I address some recent arguments contra WA due to Boyd and Logins. On this basis, I return to the NED scenario and argue that it is paradigm to distinguish between various specifications of the NED problem. I develop a framework of the structure of norms borrowing from Thompson and Burge and argue that given this framework and WA, we may address the various NED cases. If time permits, I'll add some remarks about excuses. I conclude that insofar as there is a factive turn in epistemology, we need a U-turn.