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Conversations in Philosophy: Knowledge and Freedom

F. Ochieng'-Odhiambo, Roxanne Burton, Ed Brandon

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The collection of essays in this anthology is divided into three categories, namely social epistemology, epistemology, and freedom, respectively. The first category addresses questions related to the social dimensions of knowledge. Various issues are interrogated, including the lack of attention to testimony in much standard philosophizing, the need for advocacy, and the role of history-making in social reconstruction. The second category deals more directly with some of the concepts that generally crop up in the theory of knowledge, provoking questions such as: How much do we really know about each other? What is the content of the knowledge we think we have, and how far does it depend upon our social being? What is the relationship between knowledge and truth? Essays in the third category deal with the concept of freedom both at a personal and a social level and discuss dilemmas such as: To what extent are some of the arguments put forward in favour of genetic determinism flawed or sensible? Does the idea of genetic influence pose a threat to freedom? What is the area within which the subject is, or should be left to do, or be, without interference from other persons? In this era of globalization, is cosmopolitanism or communitarianism by itself sufficient for promoting freedom? Conversations in Philosophy: Knowledge and Freedom is the second book in a series, based on a selection of papers presented at the annual Cave Hill Philosophy Symposium. The first book, Conversations in Philosophy: Crossing the Boundaries (published in 2008, also by Cambridge Scholars Publishing) consisted of essays that revolved around the question of the nature and meaning of philosophy. This second volume of Conversations in Philosophy offers a careful and balanced examination of many issues that recur in discussions on knowledge and freedom. The essays are thoughtful, provocative, and challenging.

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