



A linguistic road to epistemic deference

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Aberdeen 2007

Outline

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Outline

— [imperfect mastery

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[imperfect mastery

[semantic deference: deliberate, default

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[epistemic deference vs. semantic deference

Outline

— [imperfect mastery

— [semantic deference: deliberate, default

— [epistemic deference vs. semantic deference

— [some applications: judicial deference, children & trust

Imperfect mastery

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Imperfect mastery

Putnam & Burge

Imperfect mastery

Putnam & Burge

meanings just ain't in the head

Imperfect mastery

Putnam & Burge

meanings just ain't in the head

“I've got arthritis in the thigh”

— [some methodological restrictions

— [some methodological restrictions

direct reference

— [some methodological restrictions

direct reference

minimal contextualism

— [some methodological restrictions

direct reference

minimal contextualism

speakers' intuitions

— [some methodological restrictions

direct reference

minimal contextualism

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ethnoscience

— [some methodological restrictions

direct reference

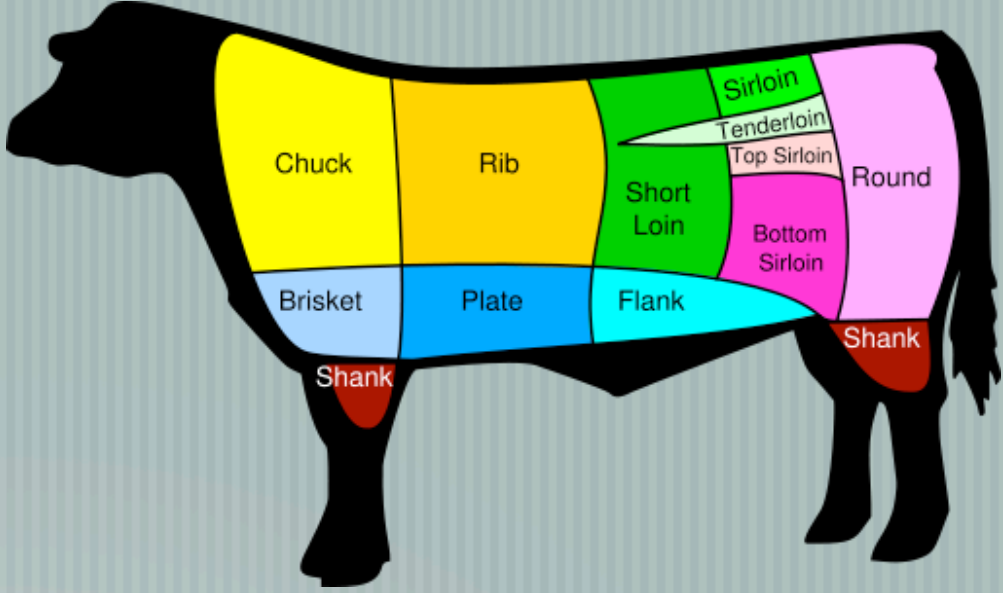
minimal contextualism

speakers' intuitions

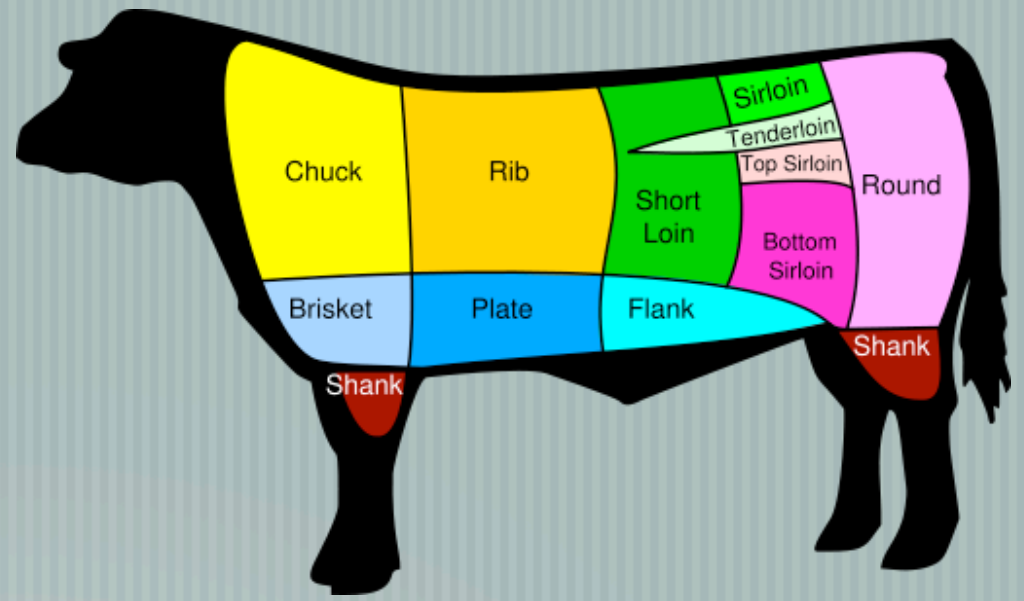
ethnoscience

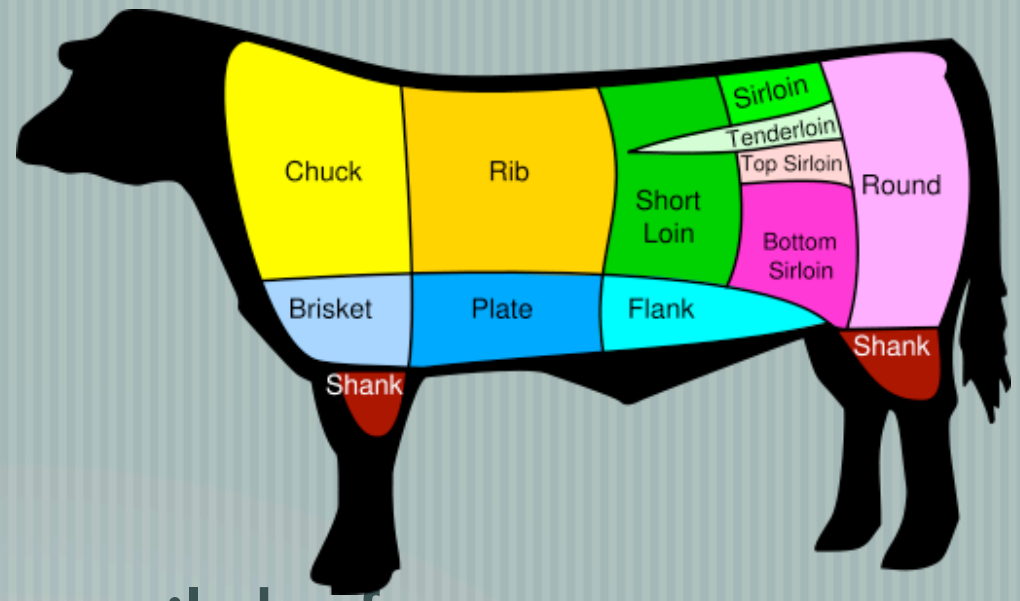
contextualism vs. revisionism

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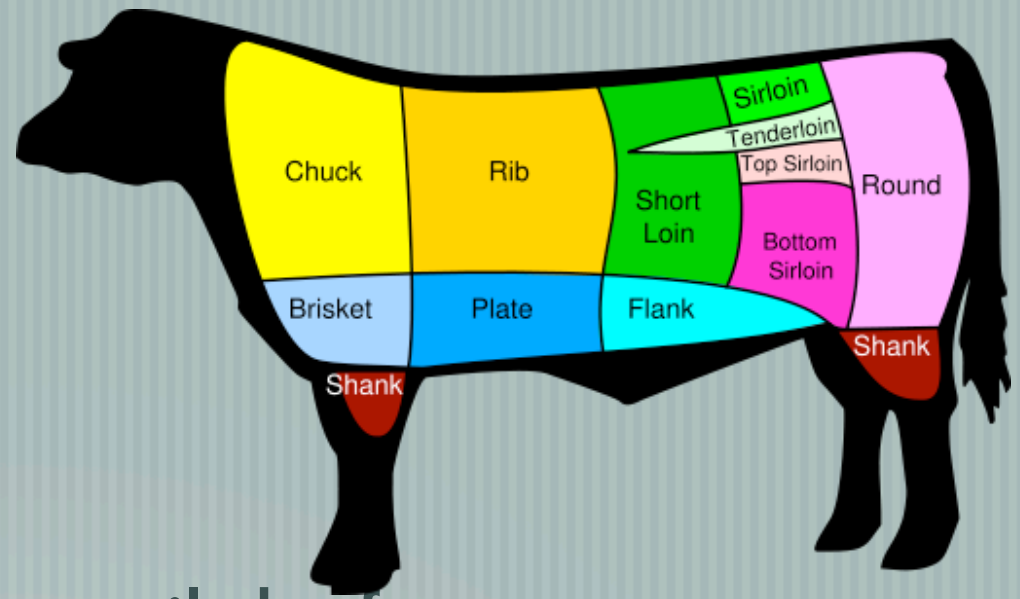
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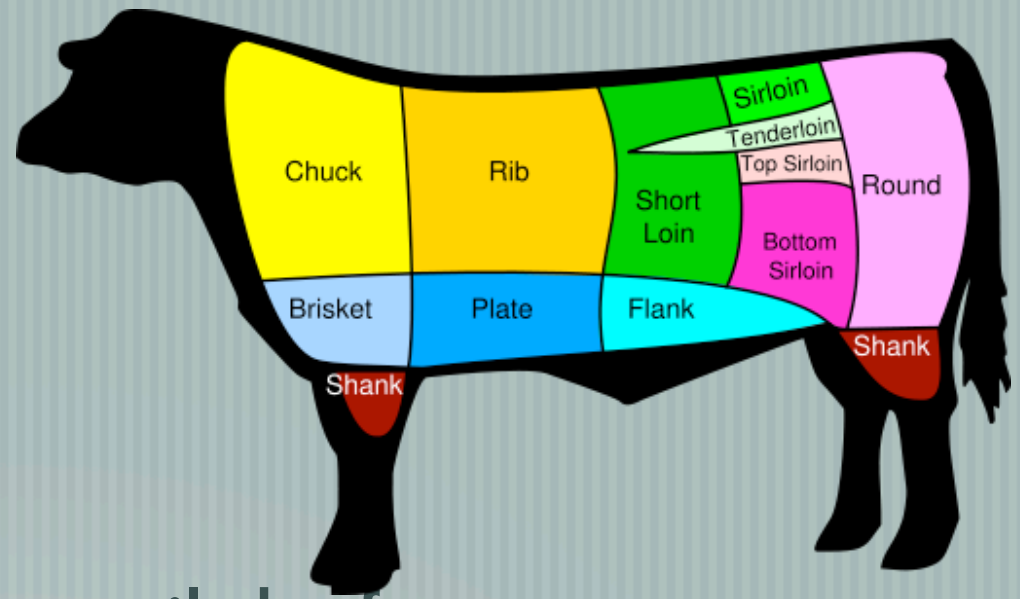
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in fact, it can be meat from many other animals

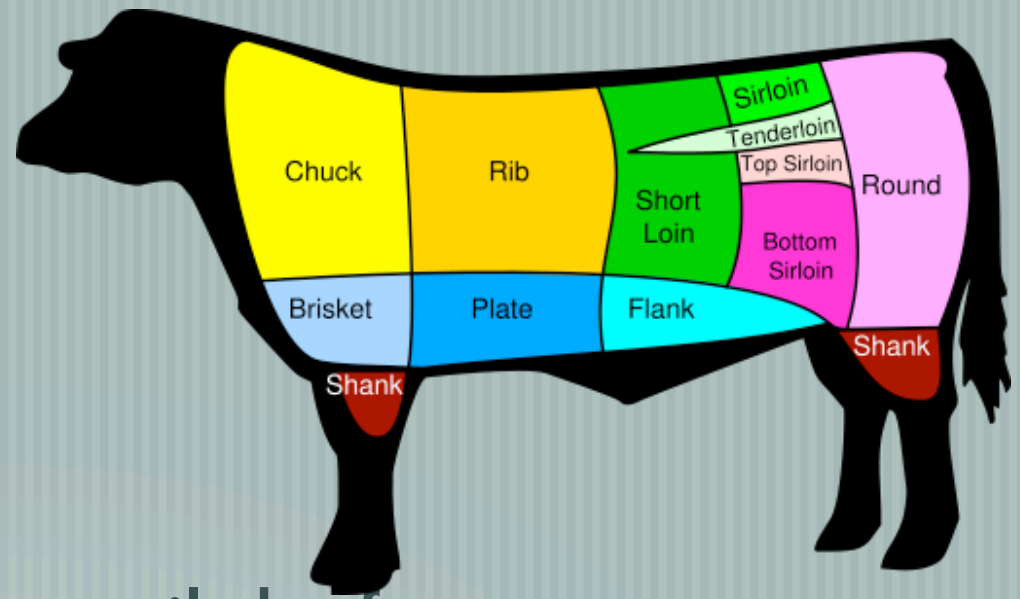


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Sharon vs. the linguistic community



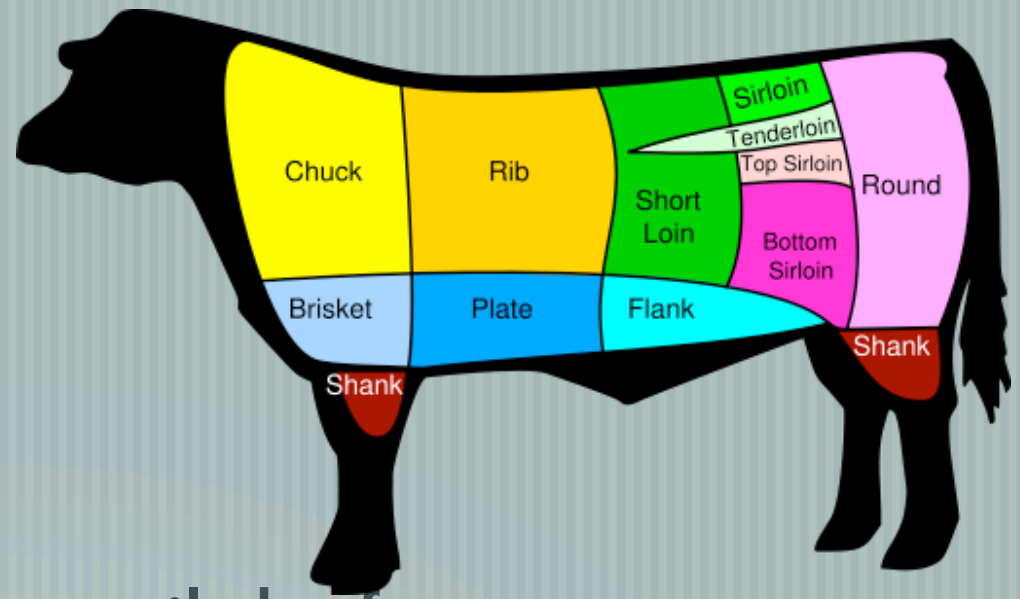
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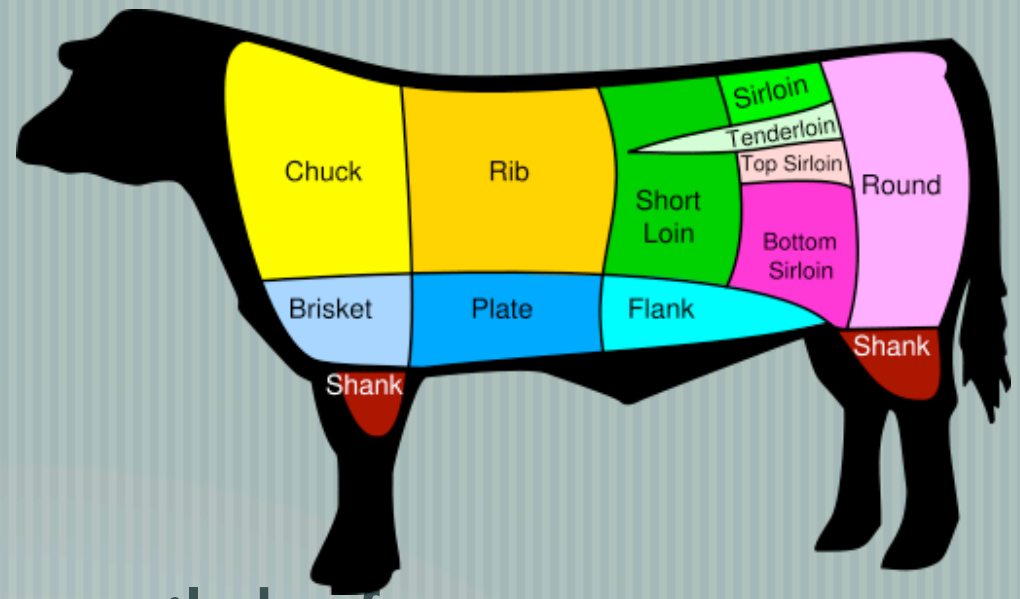
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VS.



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Sharon vs. the linguistic community

this is not <meat from the breast of a beef>, it’s pork

VS.

this is not <meat from the breast of some animals including pigs>, it’s pork

imperfect mastery is widespread

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imperfect mastery is widespread

saying true things in spite of imperfect mastery

imperfect mastery is widespread

saying true things in spite of imperfect mastery

saying false things due to imperfect mastery

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these utterances are meaningful because they are deferential

Deliberate semantic deference

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Deliberate semantic deference

Context 1: James confuses W. V. O. Quine with T. McPherson

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“‘Quine’ wants to talk to us”

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""Quine' wants to talk to us"

<McPherson, wants to talk to us>

the deferential operator (F. Recanati)

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— [the deferential operator (F. Recanati)

unarticulated constituent

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R_x (expression)

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the deferential operator affects the character of the
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deliberate semantic deference 2

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deliberate semantic deference 2

context: Sharon, a young lawyer, gets a day's training in a hospital

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"He's probably got spinocellular carcinoma, to use one of those fancy words"

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deference to the linguistic community

Deliberate semantic deference

— [**Deliberate semantic deference**

— [**Criterion**

Deliberate semantic deference

Criterion S performs an act of deliberate semantic deference if and only if:

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“‘Quine’ wants to talk to us”

— [**monitored** cases of deliberate semantic deference vs.
unmonitored cases of deliberate semantic deference

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Monitored

monitored cases of deliberate semantic deference vs.
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Monitored

Quine/McPherson

monitored cases of deliberate semantic deference vs.
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Monitored

Quine/McPherson

putative target language

monitored cases of deliberate semantic deference vs.
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no cases of falsity due to
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monitored cases of deliberate semantic deference vs.
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Monitored

Quine/McPherson

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the speaker thinks she knows at least
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monitored cases of deliberate semantic deference vs.
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Quine/McPherson

putative target language

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misunderstanding

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Unmonitored

carcinoma

actual target language

cases of falsity due to
misunderstanding

the speaker thinks she knows less
than the deferee

Epistemic deference

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Epistemic deference

[a case: weather report

Epistemic deference

[a case: weather report

[criterion

Epistemic deference

[a case: weather report

[criterion

[recap of varieties

Epistemic deference

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[epistemic deference and semantic deference

epistemic deference: weather report

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Context 1: Sharon & Robbie

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Context 2:

epistemic deference: weather report

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Context 2: “A large high-pressure system moving eastward across Southern Canada kept skies relatively clear across the Northeast on Monday afternoon. This ridge of high pressure was accompanied by a cool and dry polar air mass”

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Sharon defers epistemically to the meteorologist

epistemic deference

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Deference

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epistemic deference

Deference

epistemic deference



Deference

epistemic deference

linguistic deference



Deference

epistemic deference

linguistic deference

semantic deference

Deference

epistemic deference

linguistic deference

semantic deference

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Deference

epistemic deference

linguistic deference

semantic deference

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Deference

epistemic deference

linguistic deference

semantic deference

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default deference

Deference

epistemic deference

linguistic deference

semantic deference

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deliberate deference

default deference

Deference

epistemic deference

linguistic deference

semantic deference

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deliberate deference

default deference

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default deference

unmonitored deference

monitored deference

Deference

epistemic deference

linguistic deference

semantic deference

?

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deliberate deference

default deference

unmonitored deference

monitored deference

knowledge asymmetry & deference

semantic and epistemic deference

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— [semantic and epistemic deference

unmonitored semantic deference

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monitored semantic deference

semantic and epistemic deference

unmonitored semantic deference



less

at least as much

monitored semantic deference

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semantic and epistemic deference

unmonitored semantic deference



less

at least as much



knowledge asymmetry

monitored semantic deference

semantic and epistemic deference

unmonitored semantic deference

epistemic deference to the 'expert'

less

knowledge asymmetry

at least as much

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knowledge asymmetry

chance of deferring

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BUT! case of the bold ignorant

Back to Sharon

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epistemic deference

Back to Sharon

“The high-pressure ridge came with a polar air mass. So the weather report says”

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co-occurrent semantic and epistemic deference need not be to the same deferee

Some applications

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Some applications

— [deference and cognitive development

Some applications

— [deference and cognitive development

— [judicial deference

deference and cognitive development

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deference and cognitive development

children as naïve scientists

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deference and cognitive development

children as naïve scientists

the role of testimony

deference and cognitive development

children as naïve scientists

the role of testimony

science, religion, etc.

deference and cognitive development

children as naïve scientists

the role of testimony

science, religion, etc.

selective trust

testing selective trust

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testing selective trust

Familiarization Objects	Object names (true and false)	Test objects	Test names
ball	"That's a ball" "That's a shoe"	Colourful, pointed, bamboo object	"That's a toma" "That's a mido"
cup	"That's a cup" "That's a dog"	White, bulbous, rubber object	"That's a wug" "That's a dax"
book	"That's a book" "That's a chair"	Red, textured, paper object	"That's a blicket" "That's a dawnoo"

Koenig et al. 2004

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Harris vs. Spelke & Sperber

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Harris vs. Spelke & Sperber
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group affinity

language acquisition

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Harris vs. Spelke & Sperber

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language acquisition

trust & epistemic deference

judicial deference

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— [judicial deference

deference and review

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judicial deference

deference and review

administrative matters and the war on terror

judicial deference

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administrative matters and the war on terror

deference to the executive branch

judicial deference

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administrative matters and the war on terror

deference to the executive branch

epistemic vs. linguistic judicial deference

Hamdi' vs. Rumsfeld'

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Hamdi' vs. Rumsfeld'

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applications

Hamdi' vs. Rumsfeld'



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applications

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Hamdi' vs. Rumsfeld'



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applications

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Hamdi' vs. Rumsfeld'



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applications

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Hamdi' vs. Rumsfeld'



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applications

Hamdi' vs. Rumsfeld'



1st court: defender



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applications

Hamdi' vs. Rumsfeld'



1st court: defender
2nd court



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applications

Hamdi' vs. Rumsfeld'



1st court: defender
2nd court

1st court: evidence and revision



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Hamdi' vs. Rumsfeld'



1st court: defender
2nd court

1st court: evidence and revision
2nd court



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Hamdi' vs. Rumsfeld'



1st court: defender

2nd court

1st court: evidence and revision

2nd court

3rd court: "enemy combatant"

Hamdi' vs. Rumsfeld'



1st court: defender

2nd court

1st court: evidence and revision

2nd court

3rd court: "enemy combatant"

semantic deference

Hamdi' vs. Rumsfeld'



1st court: defender

2nd court

1st court: evidence and revision

2nd court

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semantic deference

epistemic deference

Hamdi' vs. Rumsfeld'



1st court: defender

2nd court

1st court: evidence and revision

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semantic deference

epistemic deference

semantic deference

Conclusion

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Conclusion

[different types of deference

Conclusion

[different types of deference

[examples + criteria

Conclusion

— [different types of deference

— [examples + criteria

— [connection between some of these types

CALVIN and HOBBS

YOU KNOW WHAT WE NEED, HOBBS? WE NEED AN ATTITUDE.



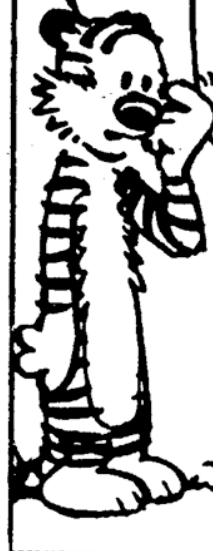
AN ATTITUDE?



YEAH. YOU CAN'T BE COOL IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN ATTITUDE.



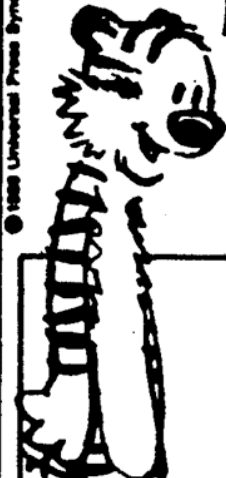
REALLY?



SURE. THEY'RE ALL THE RAGE. NOW WHAT KIND OF ATTITUDE COULD WE HAVE?



WE COULD BE COURTEOUSLY DEFERENTIAL.



OH, GOOD. THAT'S REAL COOL.



thanks for your attention