Contrastive Knowledge in Inquisitive Epistemic Logic

Michael Cohen

Epistemic contrastivism is the view according to which knowledge is not a binary relation between an agent and a proposition, rather a ternary relation between an agent, a proposition and a question determining contrast class. Thus, according to Jonathan Schaffer, to know is to know the answer to a question. I argue first that Schaffer style epistemic contrastivism can be semantically represented in inquisitive dynamic epistemic logic, a recent implementation of inquisitive semantics in the framework of dynamic epistemic logic; second, that within inquisitive dynamic epistemic logic, the contrastive ternary knowledge operator is reducible to the standard binary one. This shows, I argue, that knowledge is not essentially question sensitive, pace Schaffer.