

Guest editorial

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Received: 14 March 2011 / Accepted: 14 March 2011 / Published online: 30 March 2011
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Conferences abound, but some are special. Versions of most of the papers in this issue of *Synthese* were presented at a June 2010 conference in Porto Alegre, Brazil. (A few of the papers were intended for the conference, but factors, mainly medical, intervened.) Entitled *Epistemology: The Third Brazil Conference*, this was organised by Claudio de Almeida (PUCRS, in Porto Alegre) and Stephen Hetherington (UNSW, in Sydney). There was an outstanding gathering of philosophers, and fine papers were the result. There was focus, energy, friendliness, and, of course, a high philosophical standard. In short, it was a model conference from an academic point of view, and one that was backed by generous funding from two Brazilian ministries, through their agencies CAPES and CNPq. We are honoured to include in this issue some papers representative of that significant epistemological event.

Collectively, the papers in this issue discuss many of the central topics in contemporary epistemology: tracking theories of knowledge, the Gettier problem, pragmatic encroachment, knowledge-closure, justification-closure, epistemic circularity, higher-order knowledge, Sosa's epistemology, Alston's epistemology, the Ramsey Test and the rationality of conditional beliefs, doxastic voluntarism, fallibilism, permissivism, contextualism, Cartesian skepticism, epistemic principles and defeasibility, the epistemological significance of Moore's Paradox. To all of these topics, and more, worthy contributions are made in this collection of essays.

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