

## Editorial

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From September 10 to 13, 2007 we held a conference on “First Person Authority: Its Nature, Source, Limits, and Use” at the University of Duisburg-Essen. In planning this conference we decided not to focus on the question of whether self-knowledge and externalism are compatible. This problem has been widely discussed during the last 30 years. Instead, we intended for the conference to shed some light on topics in the vicinity of the phenomenon of first person authority which to our minds have been unjustly neglected, especially: (1) a precise description of the nature of first person authority, (2) the attempt to explain its sources, (3) the relevance and function that first person authority has for human persons, and (4) the relation between first person authority and other psychological phenomena.

Of the 13 papers originally presented at that conference eight have been collected in this volume. Each of the four topics just mentioned is dealt with in two articles: the contributions by Quassim Cassam and Frank Hofmann concern (1), Sydney Shoemaker’s and Dorit Bar-On’s papers are devoted to (2), Thomas Spitzley and Thomas Grundmann examine (3), and Sven Bernecker and Christoph Jäger deal with (4). We would like to thank all the participants and speakers who made the conference a success, but our special thanks are due to the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, whose financial support made the conference possible in the first place.

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