



STANISŁAW KAMIŃSKI MEMORIAL LECTURES

THE JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LUBLIN
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY
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“Epistemic Authority: An Investigation of Trust, Authority, and Autonomy in Belief”

30 hour-course, 1 hour credit, 2 ECTS points

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Summary:

The purpose of these lectures is to investigate the way the ideas of authority and autonomy apply to beliefs, in particular, to moral and religious beliefs. Since the Enlightenment, it is common to be suspicious of authority and to think that autonomy requires greater trust in one's own epistemic faculties than in the faculties of others. I will argue that starting from some simple observations about the need for epistemic self-trust, it can be shown that we are rationally committed to epistemic trust in others and to trust in epistemic authority. This includes moral authority and authority in religious communities. I will argue that epistemic authority is compatible with intellectual autonomy, but intellectual autonomy should be distinguished from the very different notion of epistemic self-reliance.

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