Gettier Cases

Abstract: The Gettier Problem is the problem of revising the view that knowledge is justified true belief in a way that is immune to Gettier counter-examples. The "Gettier Problem problem," according to Lycan, is the problem of saying what is misguided about trying to solve the Gettier Problem. In this paper I take up the Gettier Problem problem. I distinguish giving conditions that are necessary and sufficient for knowledge from giving conditions that explain why one knows when one does know. I argue that the problem with the Gettier Problem is that it requires us to articulate conditions that suffice for knowledge even if those conditions are non-explanatory.

Everyone is familiar with the Gettier Problem. It is the problem of revising the view that knowledge is justified true belief in a way that is immune to Gettier counter-examples. William Lycan has recently introduced a new, related problem: "What I shall call the 'Gettier Problem problem' is that of explaining what is distinctively wrong with the Gettier project," i.e. the project of trying to solve the Gettier Problem.¹

One approach to the Gettier Problem problem is to attack the analytical ambition at the core of the Gettier Problem. The Gettier Problem has a solution only if there is an analysis of knowledge, but there is no analysis of knowledge, so there is no solution to the Gettier Problem. This approach is workable only if the sense in which there is no analysis of knowledge is the same sense in which a solution to the

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¹ (Lycan 2006), pg 150.

Gettier Problem demands an analysis of knowledge. Lycan gives some reason to doubt that this is so.²

Another approach to the Getiter Problem problem is to attack the intuitions that generate it. The idea is that while Gettier cases intuitively appear to be counterexamples to the view that knowledge is justified true belief, these intuitive appearances are misleading. The answer to the Gettier Problem problem, then, is that there is no Gettier Problem to try to solve.³

Lycan himself defends the view that on reflection there really isn't anything wrong with trying to solve the Gettier Problem. The proper response to the Gettier Problem problem is to reject it. Lycan's optimistic conclusion, however, depends on his rejection of at least some of the intuitions that have driven the Gettier literature. For example, Lycan rejects the intuition that people in fake barn cases fail to have knowledge.⁴

In this paper I develop an alternative to these three approaches. It has the following virtues: it both vindicates and illuminates the widespread sense that there is something wrong with the Gettier Problem; it does not require us to reject any of our intuitions about Gettier cases, including fake barn cases; and it does not depend on any controversial claims about analysis, and in particular the claim that the sense

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² Quineans attack the analytical ambition by attacking the notion of analytic truth; see (Quine 1951). As Lycan points out, an "analysis" of knowledge need not be analytic; see (Lycan 2006), pg 151. Williamson attacks the analytical ambition by attacking the view that the state of knowing is composed of other more basic states; see (Williamson 2002). As Lycan points out, an "analysis" of knowledge need not be a dissection of it into components; see (Lycan 2006), pg 161.

³ For an example of this strategy see (Weatherson 2003).

⁴ (Lycan 2006), pg 158, 161.

in which there might be no analysis of knowledge is the same sense in which a solution to the Gettier Problem demands an analysis of knowledge.

Here is a brief sketch of the main idea. A condition of success on a solution to the Gettier Problem is that it provide a sufficient condition for knowledge. But, I will argue, there are cases in which the set of conditions in virtue of which S knows that p, say, are not conditions sufficient for S to know that p. If we were to expand the set of conditions in virtue of which S knows that p into a set of conditions sufficient for S to know that p the result would be a set of conditions that does not explain why S knows that p. A solution to the Gettier Problem requires precisely such a non-explanatory set of sufficient conditions for knowledge, and so to that extent trying to develop such a solution is misguided.

I proceed as follows. In section 1, I discuss the "in virtue of" relation and distinguish between saying in virtue of what a fact obtains and giving necessary and sufficient conditions for that fact to obtain. I argue that Q can obtain in virtue of P even though P does not suffice for Q. In section 2, I discuss perceptual knowledge. I set out a simple view of what it is in virtue of which one can have perceptual knowledge. In section 3, I discuss fake barn cases. These show that the view of the grounds of perceptual knowledge explored in section 2 fails to identify sufficient conditions for perceptual knowledge. I explain why I do not think that this is a good reason to reject it, and so why embarking on the Gettier project of seeking sufficient conditions for perceptual knowledge is misguided. This explanation yields an approach to the general Gettier Problem problem.

1. "In Virtue Of"

Some facts obtain in virtue of other facts. For example, the fact that I am illegally parked might obtain in virtue of the fact that I am parked next to a fire hydrant, or the fact that this ball is red might obtain in virtue of the fact that it is vermilion. The "in virtue of" relation is a *sui generis*, non-causal, dependence relation.⁵

There are two widely recognized differences between saying "Q obtains in virtue of P" and saying "P is a necessary and sufficient condition for Q to obtain." First, P might be a necessary and sufficient condition for Q to obtain even though Q does not obtain in virtue of P. The fact that my car is illegally parked is a necessary and sufficient condition for the fact that my car is illegally parked to obtain, but the fact that my car is illegally parked does not obtain in virtue of the fact that my car is illegally parked. Second, Q might obtain in virtue of P even though P is not a necessary condition for Q to obtain. The fact that this ball is red might obtain in virtue of the fact that it is vermilion, but the fact that it is vermilion is not a necessary condition for the fact that it is red to obtain. In this section I argue that there is yet a third difference:

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⁵ For recent discussion of it see (Audi ms), (Fine ms), (Rosen 2010), (Shaffer 2009). The thrust of these discussions is that the "in virtue of" or "grounding" relation is as clear as any fundamental notion in philosophy and can play a role in structuring philosophical inquiry for which common alternatives such as entailment and supervenience are unsuited.

Q might obtain in virtue of P even though P is not a sufficient condition for Q to obtain.

This claim would be trivial if it meant that Q might obtain *partly* in virtue of P even though P is not a sufficient condition for Q to obtain. But what I mean by it is that Q might obtain *wholly* in virtue of P even though P is not a sufficient condition for Q to obtain.

Consider first a *prima facie* example illustrating this. Suppose you have a visual experience as of a red light ahead, and that it justifies you in believing that there is a red light ahead. An "in virtue of" claim follows: you are justified in believing that there is a red light ahead in virtue of having a visual experience as of a red light ahead. But it is not the case that having a visual experience as of a red light ahead suffices for you to be justified in believing there is a red light ahead. Suppose you have the visual experience and you know you have taken a pill that will make green things look red. In this case your visual experience does not justify you in believing that there is a red light ahead.

One might challenge the example. Perhaps in the initial setup you have your justification partly in virtue of having a visual experience and partly in virtue of *not* knowing that you have taken a pill that will make green things look red. This is a theoretical option we might pursue. But it is neither mandatory nor advisable. To

explain why I do not think it is advisable, I will consider some more general principles about the "in virtue of" relation.⁶

The first two are widely appreciated:

- 1. "In virtue of" is an explanatory relation. So, if Q obtains in virtue of P, then: P explains Q, or Q obtains because P obtains.
- 2. (a) "In virtue of", like other explanatory relations, is non-monotonic. So, suppose Q obtains in virtue of P; it doesn't follow that Q obtains in virtue of P and R.

Why is "in virtue of" non-monotonic? Consider an example that illustrates its non-monotony:

The ball is red in virtue of being vermilion, but it is not the case that the ball is red in virtue of being vermilion and such that Socrates is a philosopher.

The fact that the ball is red does not obtain in virtue of both the fact that the ball is vermilion and the fact that Socrates is a philosophy because the fact that Socrates is a philosopher is explanatorily irrelevant to the fact that the ball is red. Explanatory relations in general are non-monotonic because a relation of explanatory relevance

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⁶ I explain why, contrary to a line of argument suggested by some of the recent literature on the "in virtue of" related cited above, I do not think that it is mandatory in (Omitted Self-Reference).

restricts them. That is, in general, if P explains Q, or if Q obtains because P obtains, then P is explanatorily relevant to Q. And more specifically:

2. (b) If Q obtains in virtue of P, then P is explanatorily relevant to Q

In light of 2(b), the third point is trivial:

3. If there are P, Q, and C such that Q obtains in virtue of P only if C but C is not explanatorily relevant to Q, then Q obtains in virtue of P even though P is not a sufficient condition for Q to obtain.⁷

The fourth and final point is substantive:

4. There are P, Q, and C such that Q obtains in virtue of P only if C but C is not explanatorily relevant to Q.

What these considerations do is connect the question of whether Q might obtain in virtue of P even though P is not a sufficient condition for Q to obtain to questions about explanatory relevance. More specifically, they show that if there is good reason to believe (4), then there is good reason to think that Q might obtain virtue of P even though P is not a sufficient condition for Q to obtain.

⁷ C might be called an enabling condition. See (Dancy 2006) for further sympathetic discussion of the distinction between explanatory and enabling conditions.

To appreciate the motivation for (4), consider a general point James Woodward makes about explanatory relevance:

To say that certain information is "part" of an explanation or contributes to its explanatory import is to say that this information contributes to the understanding provided by the explanation. This in turn imposes an epistemic constraint on what information can be part of an explanation and can contribute to its explanatory import: such information must be epistemically accessible to those who use the explanation.⁸

Woodward argues from the claim that parts of an explanation—i.e. explanatorily relevant conditions—must contribute to our understanding of our explanandum to the claim that there are epistemic accessibility constraints on explanatory relevance. Perhaps this is correct. But I want to consider two constraints on explanatory relevance that are more modest than epistemic accessibility constraints.

These are non-vacuity and naturalness constraints:

C is explanatorily relevant to Q only if C is not vacuous in a way that renders it unable to contribute to understanding why Q obtains.

The Cs are explanatorily relevant to Q only if the set of the Cs is not unnatural in a way that renders it unable to contribute to understanding why Q obtains.

⁸ (Woodward 2003), pg 179.

Neither vacuity nor naturalness admits of simple definition. But there are clear examples of both, and we seem largely to agree on how to apply the notions. *Virtus dormitiva* explanations illustrate vacuity. The explanation for why opium puts you to sleep should not contain the condition that it has the capacity to put you to sleep. Why? Precisely because this condition is vacuous given to our explanandum. There are physical conditions that determine the fluctuations in the stock market. But they do not compose an explanation of the fluctuations in the stock market. Why? Precisely because they are so wildly heterogeneous that the set of them is too unnatural to provide us with any understanding of why the stock market behaves as it does.⁹

I've illustrated vacuity and unnaturalness using examples drawn from the domain of causal explanation. But they have application in the domain of "in virtue of" explanation as well. Consider the example discussed above. You are justified in believing that there is a red light ahead in virtue of having a visual experience as of a red light ahead. Suppose we supplement the condition that you have the visual experience so that the result is a complex condition that suffices for your having the justification. What would this complex condition look like? I propose that either it will be unnatural or contain a vacuous condition.

We might start by adding the condition that you not know that you have taken a pill that makes green things look red. But if we go down that path, then we

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⁹ For more on naturalness see (Lewis 1983). (Weatherson 2003) discusses the notion further and makes different use of it in developing his own approach to the Gettier Problem problem.

also have to add conditions such as the condition that you not think the lighting conditions are off, that you not think that you are hallucinating, that you not think that there is an invisible color inverting film between you and the light, etc. The set of conditions will be wildly heterogeneous.

Alternatively, we might note that though having a visual experience as of a red light ahead does not suffice for having justification for believing there is a red light ahead it does suffice for having *prima facie* justification for believing that there is a red light ahead. If this *prima facie* justification is undefeated, then you do have justification for believing that there is a red light ahead. Suppose, then, we just add to the condition that you have the visual experience that the *prima facie* justification for which it suffices is undefeated. This gives us a complex condition that suffices for your having the justification. But, it seems to me, it suffers from vacuity. All it tells us is that your visual experience justifies you in believing that there is a red light ahead unless for some reason or other it doesn't, without providing us with any illuminating conception of the range of defeaters.

The foregoing gives us some reason to think that (4) is true. But if (4) is true, then it is possible for Q to obtain in virtue of P even though P is not a sufficient condition for Q to obtain. This is what I set out to show in this section.

2. Perceptual Knowledge

By a piece of perceptual knowledge I mean a belief that amounts to knowledge because it is based on a perception. Suppose you see that there is a red

light ahead. Suppose you take your visual perception at face value, and so believe that there is a red light ahead. And suppose, finally, that your belief that there is a red light ahead amounts to knowledge because it is based on your visual perception that there is a red light ahead. Then this belief is a piece of perceptual knowledge.

I will assume that we have some perceptual knowledge. It is not my aim here to address skeptical challenges to this claim. My aim is to take up an explanatory question. If a perception makes a belief based on it amount to knowledge, then there must be something about it in virtue of which it does so. The explanatory question I want to address is this:

In virtue of what does a perception make a belief based on it amount to knowledge, when it does so?

Your visual perception that there is a red light ahead, for example, makes your belief that there is a red light ahead amount to knowledge. This is the sort of fact that I want to explain.

Elements of the account of perceptual knowledge that I will explore here can be found in other views developed in the recent literature. Consider the following:

[McDowell] Suppose someone is presented with an appearance that it is raining. It seems unproblematic that if his experience is in a suitable way the upshot of the fact that it is raining, then the fact itself can make it the case that he knows that it is raining. But that seems unproblematic precisely

because the content of the appearance is the content of the knowledge. And it is arguable that we find that match in content intelligible only because we do not conceive the objects of such experiences as in general falling short of the meteorological facts.¹⁰

[Fumerton] The suggestion, again, is that one has noninferential justification for believing P when one has the thought that P and when one is acquainted with the correspondence between the thought that P and the fact that P. The idea is that when one has immediately before consciousness both the truth bearer and the truth maker one has all one needs, all on could ever want, by way of justification.¹¹

[Johnston] Sensory awareness discloses the truthmakers of our immediate perceptual judgments. Those truthmakers are external spatio-temporal particulars, which sensory awareness makes available for immediate demonstration. The structural elements (objects, stuff, their qualities, and the relations in which they stand) in those truthmakers are then recombined in immediate judgment...if I am seeing a spoon on the table, and judge accordingly, then I typically know that there is a spoon on the table....I typically know these things because the judgments in question are reliably

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 $^{^{10}}$ (McDowell 1982), reprinted with modifications in (Dancy 1988). The passage quoted occurs on pages 213 – 214 of the reprint.

¹¹ (Fumerton 2006), page 65.

formed from their respective truthmakers, which awareness makes ${\rm manifest.}^{12}$

There are significant differences among the views presented in these passages. McDowell thinks that experiences both have propositional contents and make us aware of truth-makers. Johnston seems to think that experiences just make us aware of truth-makers, and that it is only our judgments that have propositional contents. Further, McDowell and Fumerton think the truth-makers we are aware of are facts, and Johnston thinks that they are items, such as objects, stuffs, states, and events. While McDowell and Johnston focus on knowledge, Fumerton presents his view as an account of noninferential justification.

Though there are these differences, I expect that the family resemblances among the three views are apparent. The view that I will explore also bears family resemblances to them. I will call it the Simple View, since it is a simple answer to our explanatory question:

Simple View: If a perceptual experience makes a belief that p based on it amount to knowledge, it does so in virtue of 1) being an experience in which it perceptually appears to you that p, and 2) being an experience in which you are aware of something x, such that 3) x makes p true.

¹² (Johnston 2006), pages 282 and 289.

Some brief remarks intended to clarify the aims and components of the Simple view follow.

First, it is an account of knowledge, not justification. I doubt that you need to be aware of a truth-maker for p, say, in order to acquire perceptual justification for believing p. You might acquire perceptual justification for believing p from a convincing hallucination that p, in which you are not aware of a truth-maker for p. Maybe you need to *seem* to be aware of a truth-maker for p. This is an issue best dealt with elsewhere. ¹³ My focus in this paper is on perceptual knowledge and the veridical, non-hallucinatory, perceptual experiences that give us this knowledge.

Second, it is an account of knowledge that is wholly, not just partly perceptual. Suppose you perceive that Jack is at the party and receive reliable testimony that if Jack is there, then Jill is too. You might thereby come to know that Jill is at the party, without, let us stipulate, being aware of a truth-maker for the proposition that Jill is at the party. In this case you have knowledge that p that is partly perceptual, though you have not experienced a truth-maker for p. This is not a counter-example to the Simple View, though, since again, your knowledge is only partly, not wholly perceptual.

Third, it makes two assumptions about three notions—perceptual content, perceptual awareness, and truth-making. The first assumption is that these notions are sound enough to be put to useful theoretical work. The second assumption is that in at least some cases the sorts of things of which we can be perceptually aware are the sorts of things that can be truth-makers for the sorts of propositions that we

 $^{^{13}}$ I discuss perceptual justification and seeming awareness of truth-makers in (Omitted Self-Reference).

perceptually represent. The assumptions generate a theoretical burden: the accounts of perceptual content, perceptual awareness, and truth-making that underwrite the first assumption should also underwrite the second. I cannot discharge this theoretical burden here, but developments in the literatures addressing the three notions make me hopeful about the prospects of doing so.¹⁴

Fourth, it allows flexibility about the scope of perceptual knowledge. We have perceptual knowledge about the sensible properties of items in our immediate environment. But perceptual knowledge might extend beyond this. Suppose, for example, you can "see" that your friend is angry, say because of the angry expression on his face. This case poses a challenge: you seem to have perceptual knowledge that your friend is angry without being aware of a truth-maker for the proposition that your friend is angry. One response to the challenge is to argue that your knowledge is only partly, not wholly perceptual, since it depends on background skills in or knowledge about reading facial expressions. Another response to the challenge is to argue that as a mature adult the reach of your perceptual awareness has extended beyond the merely sensible to include mental states of others. Both responses seem to me workable, and both are compatible with the Simple View.

So that is the Simple View of perceptual knowledge. It is *prima facie* plausible. ¹⁵ In addressing the Gettier Problem problem in the balance of this paper, I

¹⁴ (Mulligan, Simons, and Smith 1984), and (Johnston 2006) argue for views of truth-making and the objects of perceptual awareness that partially support my two assumptions.

¹⁵ I discuss what more can be said in its favor in section 4. [section omitted in this version of the paper.]

will argue that further reflection on the Simple View does not undermine it. It has a good chance to be the correct view of perceptual knowledge.

3. Fake Barns¹⁶

Goldman introduced fake barn cases into the Gettier literature in "Discrimination and Perceptual Knowledge." 17 Driving in the country-side with his son, Henry identifies various items that come into view: "That's a tractor," "That's a cow," and eventually, "That's a barn." The barn is clearly visible; Henry has good eyesight; etc. On the face of it, Henry knows that what he's spotted is a barn. But, Goldman explains, Henry has unknowingly entered fake barn county, where the locals erect papier-mâché barn facsimiles, which invariably fool travelers. Though Henry in fact spots a barn, had he seen a barn facsimile, he would have mistaken it for a barn. In this case, we are strongly inclined to think Henry does not know that what he's spotted is a barn.

The facts of the situation seem to be this. Henry believes that *that's a barn* on the basis of a perceptual experience in which it perceptually appears to him that *that's a barn*, and in which he is aware of an item, say a barn-hood trope, that is a truth-maker for the proposition that *that's a barn*, but still his belief does not amount to knowledge that *that's a barn*. So the situation is one in which the

¹⁶ Though I cannot discuss them here, I believe that the points I make in this section carry over to Gettier cases that exploit social aspects of knowledge, such as those Harman discuses in (Harman 1973).

¹⁷ (Goldman 1976). Carl Ginet created fake barn cases; Goldman's paper is the first published discussion of them.

conditions that the Simple View identifies as those in virtue of which Henry might know that *that's a barn* obtain, but in which Henry does not know that *that's a barn*.

If Q obtains in virtue of P only if P is a sufficient condition for Q to obtain, then we have two options: we can give up the Simple View, or we can give up our intuition that Henry does not know. But, if what I argued in the section 1 is correct, then we have more options. We should distinguish between the following:

- A. The claim that the Simple View identifies a sufficient condition for perceptual knowledge.
- B. The claim that the Simple View identifies those conditions in virtue of which one has perceptual knowledge, when one does so.

If what I argued in section 1 is correct, then we can accept (B) without (A), and, further, though we cannot accept both (A) and our intuition that Henry does not know, we can accept both (B) and our intuition that Henry does not know. This is the response to the fake barn cases that seems to me the most reasonable. The Simple View is attractive; our intuition that Henry does not know is strong; and the view that Q might obtain in virtue of P even though P does not suffice for Q to obtain is defensible.

Two questions remain. First, even though in some cases Q might obtain in virtue of P even though P does not suffice for Q to obtain, why think that this is one of those cases? Second, even if we give up (A) and accept (B), why stop here; that is, why not think that even though the Simple View identifies those conditions in virtue

of which one has perceptual knowledge when one does so, we should still take up the Gettier project and look for an illuminating account of those conditions that suffice for one to have perceptual knowledge?

I think both questions have the same answer: the conditions that one would have to add to those that the Simple View identifies in order to generate a set of conditions that suffices for perceptual knowledge are not explanatorily conditions. The reason why is that the extra conditions we might add are either vacuous or unnatural. For example, we might add the condition that you are not in a Gettier case. But this is surely vacuous since it does not provide us with any understanding of what makes a case into a Gettier case. Alternatively, we might start on constructing a set of sufficient conditions by adding the condition that you are not in fake barn county and proceeding from there. But there is reason to think that this is the beginning of an unnatural set of conditions since at this level of specificity the sorts of situations we would have to rule out are just too heterogeneous. Finally, we might start on constructing a set of conditions at a higher level of abstraction than one that mentions fake barn county, but which is not vacuous. But there is reason to think that no such set of conditions exists. I do not have an argument from first principles that there is no such set of conditions. But the history of the Gettier literature provides good inductive evidence that there is none. If there is none, then we only have recourse to conditions that are not explanatory because they are either vacuous or unnatural.

If this is so, then it answers both questions. Recall: if there are P, Q, and C such that Q obtains in virtue of P only if C but C is not explanatorily relevant to Q,

then Q obtains in virtue of P even though P is not a sufficient condition for Q to obtain. But if the only conditions C that can be added to those identified by the Simple View in order to arrive at conditions sufficient for perceptual knowledge are either vacuous or unnatural, then these conditions C are precisely such that one has perceptual knowledge in virtue of the conditions that the Simple View identifies only if C but C is not explanatorily relevant to one's having perceptual knowledge. And that means we do have a case in which Q (= having perceptual knowledge) obtains in virtue of P (= the conditions identified by the Simple View) even though P does not suffice for Q to obtain.

Now for the second question. I assume that the following maxims are plausible. First, given that we want to understand Q, we are interested in conditions that explain Q. Second, given that we want to understand Q, we need not be interested in conditions that suffice for Q. That is, just because a condition suffices for Q doesn't make it interesting to those who want to understand Q; there are lots of boring sufficient conditions for Q. These two maxims suggest that if the conditions that explain Q are sufficient for Q then we are indeed interested in some sufficient conditions for Q, but because they are explanatory, not because they are sufficient. If it turns out that the conditions that explain Q are insufficient for Q, then, it seems, there is no reason for us to be interested in some expanded, non-explanatory set of conditions that suffices for Q. But seeking such an expanded set of conditions is precisely what the Gettier project involves. And to that extent it is misguided. Of course, to see this we first have to see that the explanatory conditions are insufficient. And to see this we first have to think through various Gettier cases.

So it is not as if the Gettier literature has not furthered our understanding. It has—
not by providing conditions that explain why we have knowledge we when do,
however, but by showing that those conditions that explain why we have knowledge
when we do are not sufficient conditions for knowledge.

The foregoing observations constitute a reason to reject the task of supplementing the conditions identified by the Simple View so as to arrive at a set of conditions sufficient for perceptual knowledge. And to that extent they constitute an approach to the Gettier Problem problem restricted to perceptual knowledge. Since knowledge in general includes perceptual knowledge, however, if it is a mistake to look for Gettier-proof conditions for perceptual knowledge, then it is a mistake to look for Gettier-proof conditions for knowledge in general. So the approach to the Gettier Problem problem restricted to perceptual knowledge also addresses the general Gettier Problem problem.

Still, we might wonder about other specific types of knowledge, such as inferential knowledge, introspective knowledge, and knowledge by testimony.

Perhaps there are Gettier-proof conditions for inferential knowledge, introspective knowledge, or knowledge by testimony.

It seems to me that the best way to proceed here is to examine each of these types of knowledge in turn. That is, we should ask, "In virtue of what does one have inferential knowledge, when one does?" or "In virtue of what does an inference make a belief based on it amount to knowledge, when it does so?" and similar questions about introspective knowledge, knowledge by testimony, and whatever other types of knowledge there are. Once we have articulated an attractive theory

that answers the "in virtue of" question for knowledge of type X, say, then we can go on to see whether it also identifies conditions that suffice for knowledge of type X. If it does not, and it really is an attractive explanatory theory, then we have reason to forego searching for Gettier-proof conditions for knowledge of type X. This piecemeal exploration of the various restricted Gettier Problem problems is suggested by but well beyond the scope of my present inquiry.

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