

Epistemic Friction

*An Essay on Knowledge, Truth,
and Logic*

Gila Sher

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Contents

Acknowledgments xvii

Part I. Epistemic Friction

1. Epistemic Friction and Freedom 3
 - 1.1 Epistemic Friction and its Roots in Kant, Wittgenstein, and McDowell 4
 - 1.2 The Present Conception of Epistemic Friction 8
 - 1.3 Epistemic Freedom 12
 - 1.4 Between Friction and Freedom 16
2. A Sustainable Epistemic Methodology 17
 - 2.1 Epistemic Friction and the Illusion of Foundationalism 17
 - 2.2 From Foundationalism to *Foundational Holism* 20

Part II. A Dynamic Model of Knowledge

3. Quine's Model of Knowledge: An Inner Tension 39
 - 3.1 The Initial Promise of Quine's Model 39
 - 3.2 An Inner Problem in Quine's Model 40
 - 3.3 Objections and Responses 43
 - 3.4 Dummett's Solution to the Inner Problem 48
 - 3.5 A New Solution 56
4. Dynamic Model—Two Dimensions of Change 62
 - 4.1 Contextual Dynamic 62
 - 4.2 Temporal-Developmental Dynamic 68
5. Reality, Intellect, Realism 73
 - 5.1 The Basic Epistemic Situation 75
 - 5.2 Reality: Beyond Platonism and Nominalism 77
 - 5.3 Intellect: Beyond Apriorism and Empiricism 84
 - 5.4 Robust yet Non-Rigid Realism 91
6. Differences with Quine 100
 - 6.1 Contrasts with Quine's Model 100
 - 6.2 Immunity to Criticisms of Quine's Model 112

Part III. The Structure of Truth

7. A Substantivist Theory of Truth 131
 - 7.1 A Substantivist (as Opposed to Deflationist) Methodology 131
 - 7.2 The Unity and Disunity of Truth: Challenges and Strategies 134

8. Basic Principles of Truth	162
8.1 The Fundamental Principle of Truth	162
8.2 Ramifications for Skepticism	175
8.3 The “Manifold” Correspondence Principle	186
8.4 Application to Mathematics (A New Theory of Mathematical Truth)	192
8.5 The Logicality Principle (Tarski’s Theory of Truth in Perspective)	218
Part IV. An Outline of a Foundation for Logic	
9. The Foundational Problem of Logic	239
9.1 The Foundational Problem of Logic as a Methodological Problem	239
9.2 Analysis of the Problem and Alleged Remedies	243
9.3 Solution: The Foundational-Holistic Methodology	250
10. An Outline of a Foundation for Logic	253
10.1 What is Logic’s Task in our System of Knowledge?	254
10.2 Is Logic Grounded in the Mind or in the World?	255
10.3 Why does Logic Require a Grounding in the World?	260
10.4 What Specific Features of the World is Logic Grounded in?—The Formality Thesis	271
10.5 From Formality to Generality, Necessity, Topic Neutrality, Strong Normativity, Quasi-Apriority, and More	288
10.6 Source of the Normativity of Logic, Tarski’s Problem, Truth and Logical Truth, and Other Issues	294
10.7 Questions and Objections: Logical Constants, Invariance, Generality, and Necessity	302
10.8 Logic and Mathematics: An Alternative to Logicism	320
10.9 On the Possibility of Error and Revision in Logic	327
10.10 The Scope of Logic	331
Conclusion: Toward Freedom	339
<i>References</i>	343
<i>Index</i>	359