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African Centre for Epistemology and Philosophy of Science (ACEPS)

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UJ on Empire 11th-Floor



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On Danger

Abstract: The notion of danger is ubiquitous in our everyday practical judgments. Yet, discussions of danger and its normative relevance are relatively rare in contemporary philosophy. One possible explanation for the marginality of danger in the philosophical literature is that this notion is often conflated with that of risk. It is tempting to identify danger with risk, as both notions have been characterized in terms of the potential for negative outcomes. However, danger and risk are not the same thing. This talk has two goals. First, I aim to clarify what danger is and how it differs from risk. The upshot is a list of features and constraints possessed by this property, which also helps to clarify the differences between danger and risk. Second, I aim to clarify the normative dimension of danger and show how it differs from that of risk. I provide a partial justification for accepting norms of danger alongside norms to avoid risk. Avoiding dangers ensures a unique kind of protection from negative outcomes, one that risk norms alone cannot provide.

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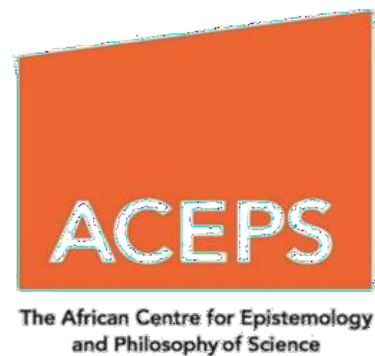


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Bio: Davide Fassio is an Associate Professor at the School of Philosophy of Zhejiang University (China) and Research Associate at the African Centre of Epistemology and Philosophy of Science (ACEPS) of the University of Johannesburg (South Africa). Before that, he has been post-doctoral researcher at the University of Geneva and Visiting Scholar at the University of Southampton and King's College London. He earned his PhD in philosophy at the University of Geneva. His research focuses on issues at the intersection of epistemology, ethics and theory of rationality. His published works cover a wide range of topics, including the aims and norms of belief, epistemic norms of action and assertion, the relation between knowledge and practical rationality, shifty epistemology, epistemic paradoxes, the role of the epistemic perspective in moral evaluation, and the nature of risk and danger. His work has been published in reputable academic journals, including *Ethics*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophical Quarterly* and *Synthese*.

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