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NEGOTIATING IGNORANCES IN RESPONSIBLE EPISTEMIC PRACTICES

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Ignorance is often viewed as the antithesis of knowledge. Furthermore, existing ignorance can often block our ability to gain more knowledge. Yet the epistemic roles of ignorance are complex given that it also plays many important positive roles in our epistemic lives. Maintaining ignorance in some areas allows us to focus our cognitive attention on others, and some forms of ignorance serve as a cornerstone of trust relationships that can be crucial to our relationships and our epistemic pursuits. I examine the relationship between the maintenance of certain kinds of ignorance, its role in trust relationships that are necessary for a rich and successful epistemic life, and our responsibilities to ensure that our ignorances do not contribute to a social epistemic landscape that makes it harder for other epistemic agents to know.



Heidi Grasswick is the George Nye & Anne Walker Boardman Professor of Mental and Moral Science in the Philosophy Department at Middlebury College, Vermont. She holds a PhD from the University of Minnesota and an MA from Dalhousie University, Canada, both in Philosophy. Her research interests include feminist understandings of the social production of knowledge, the relationship between individuals and communities in responsible inquiry, and epistemic trust and expertise. In addition to numerous journal articles and book chapters in the fields of feminist and social epistemology, she is the editor of *Feminist Epistemology and Philosophy of Science: Power in Knowledge* (Springer 2011) and co-editor with Nancy McHugh of *Making the Case: Feminist and Critical Race Philosophers Engage Case Studies* (SUNY 2021). She has served as an Associate Editor Board Coordinator of *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy* (2010-2014), President of the Canadian Society for Women in Philosophy (2008-9), and currently serves on the Editorial Board of the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.

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