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Stream C: Innovating for Adaptation

Title: Metaethical Incommensurability and the Role of Evolutionary Explanation

Abstract: Metaethics has become a highly contextual discussion consisting of what I believe are three orthogonal questions. The first is the question of truth-aptness, the second is of mind-independence, and the third is of the role of reason in belief formation or justification. Given the nature of these questions, answering any of them does not provide commensurable information which can be carried into the answers of the others. I believe that, in the face of evolutionary debunking arguments, this poses a significant challenge for metaethicists attempting to understand genealogy of morality. I understand this problem as one which lends credence to the realist perspective as I explore the confusions which have arisen from debunking literature which consists of attempts to justify the answers to these orthogonal questions in terms of each other. I conclude that the only method for adequately defending an answer to each question requires the disregard of at least one alternative question. I offer a demonstrative consideration of literature and its role in the development of a moral imagination as an incommensurable problem for naturalists and non-cognitivists.

Bio: I am a PhD candidate at Bond University on the Gold Coast. I am writing in this field.