Defining Knowledge.

Lecturer: John Stefanou

Attempts at defining knowledge usually focus on propositional knowledge, or knowledge-that. According to a classical definition, someone knows that p if and only if three conditions are met: they believe that p, it is true that p, and their belief that p is justified. About fifty years ago, E. Gettier showed that the definition is wrong because in some cases the three conditions are satisfied but we would intuitively deny that the subject has knowledge. We will see Gettier's counterexamples and various suggestions about how the problem might be overcome and the definition corrected. Among other things, we will discuss how knowledge is related to certainty, justification and counterfactual conditionals.