



Going Underground

Karen Bennett (Professor of Philosophy, Rutgers University)

ABSTRACT

What grounds the grounding facts? To see the question, suppose that the fact that my shirt is blue grounds the fact that my shirt is colored. So what grounds that? That is, what grounds the fact that [the fact that my shirt is blue grounds the fact that my shirt is colored]? In previous work, I have defended the view that the answer is simply the fact that my shirt is blue—more generally, that the grounds of a grounding fact are identical to the grounds of the grounded fact involved. This view has been criticized by people like Shamik Dasgupta and Gideon Rosen. In this talk, I will get rid of some confusions, clarify what the dispute is actually about, and (hopefully) make headway on resolving it. Central will be questions about the role of general connections or principles in grounding, and whether the answer is the same in all cases.

Karen Bennett is Professor and Chair of the Department of Philosophy at Rutgers University. She works in metaphysics and philosophy of mind. Her book, *Making Things Up* (Oxford University Press, 2017), develops a theory of “building relations”—such as grounding, composition, and causation—in which one phenomenon depends on another.



DATE AND TIME

21/22 APRIL 2021

9 AM 22 Apr MELBOURNE
12 AM 22 Apr LONDON
7 PM 21 Apr NEW YORK

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