

# Epistemology

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Epistemology studies the nature of knowledge, justification, and the rationality of belief. Much of the debate in epistemology centers on four areas: (1) the [philosophical analysis](#) of the nature of knowledge and how it relates to such concepts as

[truth](#)

, [belief](#)

, and

[justification](#)

,  
[\[2\]](#)

[\[3\]](#)

(2) various problems of

[skepticism](#)

, (3) the sources and scope of knowledge and justified belief, and (4) the criteria for knowledge and justification.

The term 'Epistemology' was first used by Scottish philosopher [James Frederick Ferrier](#) in 1854.

[\[a\]](#)

However, according to Brett Warren,

[King James VI of Scotland](#)

had previously personified this philosophical concept as the character

**Epistemon**

in 1591.

[\[5\]](#)

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