

ACEPS PRESENTS



TERRORISTS' COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXTREME BELIEFS

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19 FEBRUARY 2025 @ 11AM SAST (UTC+2)

Terrorist actors often hold epistemically problematic beliefs that may be rejected by society at large. While in many instances holding such beliefs is inconsequential, sometimes the actions taken on the basis of our beliefs are disastrous. To what extent can terrorist actors be seen as responsible for their extreme beliefs such as problematic views about the legitimacy of their actions (including the moral status of the victims of direct violence), their prospects of success or whether violence is the last resort? I will discuss epistemic bubbles and echo-chambers as examples of impoverished epistemic environments. I argue that individuals' abilities to address their epistemic shortcomings can be severely compromised in such impoverished epistemic environments. Responsibility for creating and sustaining healthy epistemic environments – where extreme beliefs are less likely to persist – is best understood as shared by epistemic agents.



Anne Schwenkenbecher is Associate Professor of Philosophy in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at Murdoch University, Western Australia. Prior to joining Murdoch, she held appointments at The University of Melbourne, the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics (CAPPE) at Australian National University, and the University of Vienna. Her PhD in Philosophy (2009) is from Humboldt University of Berlin, her hometown. She works across a broad range of themes at the intersection of ethics and social philosophy, as well as in social epistemology, political theory and philosophy of public policy. Her book *Getting Our Act Together: A Theory of Collective Moral Obligations* (2021, Routledge) won the North American Society for Social Philosophy's 2022 Book Award.

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