

COMMUNICATION, SIMILARITY, AND RECALCITRANT UNDERDETERMINATION (co-authored with Valen Simpson)

Abstract: It is increasingly acknowledged that, in a wide range of cases, speakers of a language cannot determine the proposition expressed by the utterance of a sentence in a particular context. Underdetermination has been invoked to cast doubt on a standard picture of communication and testimonial knowledge. While there are epistemic and metaphysical versions of the problem, in this paper, we argue that the most pressing challenge is to show how communication actually often succeeds despite its recalcitrant character. Against a dominant convergentist strategy, we develop the suggestion that communication succeeds in the face of recalcitrant underdetermination when determinable propositional types bring together divergent but similar determinate propositions.