

Easy Foreknowledge

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How does one's location in time affect one's mental states? According to some views of temporally indexical thought (Frege, Perry), as I move through time, the contents of my thoughts systematically vary as a function of the time at which they are held. And according to some views in formal epistemology, moving through time can affect what it is rational for an agent to believe even without obviously affecting the agent's evidence (e.g. Sleeping Beauty). My talk will consider yet another way in which moving through time can affect one's mental states. In particular, I will discuss some linguistic evidence that suggests that knowledge that something *will* happen appears to be easier to obtain than (later) knowledge that the event in question *did* happen. In these cases, it seems that we can lose knowledge simply by moving through time, despite not losing or gaining any relevant evidence. I will defend this interpretation of the examples, and then speculate about what this tells us about the nature of knowledge.