

Our interpersonal epistemic achievements are many and varied (= *pluralism*). But a significant one resists capture by extant approaches. I defend an alternative account that joins Reason with Passion.

§1 “*Getting Another Person*” — a substantive and selective interpersonal epistemic relation paradigmatically borne to intimates; existence-entailing; non-symmetric; hyperintensional; etc.

§§2-3 *Knowledge/Understanding* (-who, -why, -how, -NP) and *Empathy* — extant approaches to interpersonal epist.

<i>Case</i>	<i>Candidate(s)?</i>	<i>Get another?</i>
An expert on Gandhi (or Hitler, etc.) insofar as they uptake his Uberautobiography.	Know-that/why Understand-that/why	No
Dorothy gazing at the Scarecrow hanging lifelessly.	Acquaintance	No
You engage a neighbor respectfully.	Know-NP 2 nd personal address	No
A savvy, disarming late night host insofar as they’re able to smoothly conduct a revealing interview.	Know-how Understand-how	No
A villain skilled at manipulation insofar as they grasp how to interact with their victims.	Know-how Understand-how	No
A humble peasant who grasps the source and extent of Don Corleone’s power.	Understand-who	No
A cunning, seasoned autocrat insofar as they’re poised to handle an egomaniacal aspiring autocrat.	Understand-who	No
You grasp the point of view or “hermeneutic structures” of an enthusiastic conspiracy theorist.	Understand-NP	No
A good therapist insofar as they recognize their clients as persons with intelligible emotions.	Empathy-sourced recognition	No

§4 *Role Playing*

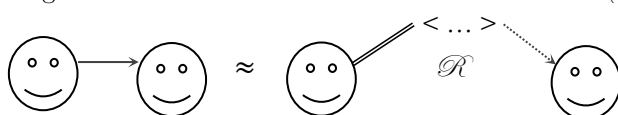
State-Content
Theory

S gets $(\rightarrow) P \approx S$ has a mental state of kind $K(\//)$ with content of type $T(<T>)$ about $(\searrow) P$



Role-Based
Theory

S gets $P \approx S$ has a mental state with some content $(<...>)$ about P that plays role $\mathcal{R}$ for S



What is $\mathcal{R}$? An individual-specific capacity for trust and affirmation.

§5 *The Right Mixture*

Assumption: To love a particular person is, at least in part, to possess a state that plays $\mathcal{R}$.

Hypothesis: There is a species of love that involves a form of understanding.

- *Illustrations*: Alcibiades, Michele, Pietro
- *Contrasts re: epistemology of love*: perceptual model, zetetic model, Nussbaum’s practicalism

§6 *The Intuitive Argument*

Claim 1: There is a type of love that can be diminished by confusion, and its repair proceeds through improved understanding.

Claim 2: This evidences an intimate relation of the sort advanced by the hypothesis.

§7 The U-Profile Argument

Premise 1: x is a state of understanding if and only if x satisfies the U-profile:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| i. a standing state | iv. intelligent | vii. orderly |
| ii. psychological | v. robust | viii. multiply gradable |
| iii. objective | vi. coherent | ix. a praiseworthy good |

Premise 2: In some cases, a lover's love for the beloved satisfies the U-profile.

- Cases: Alcibiades, Michele, Pietro

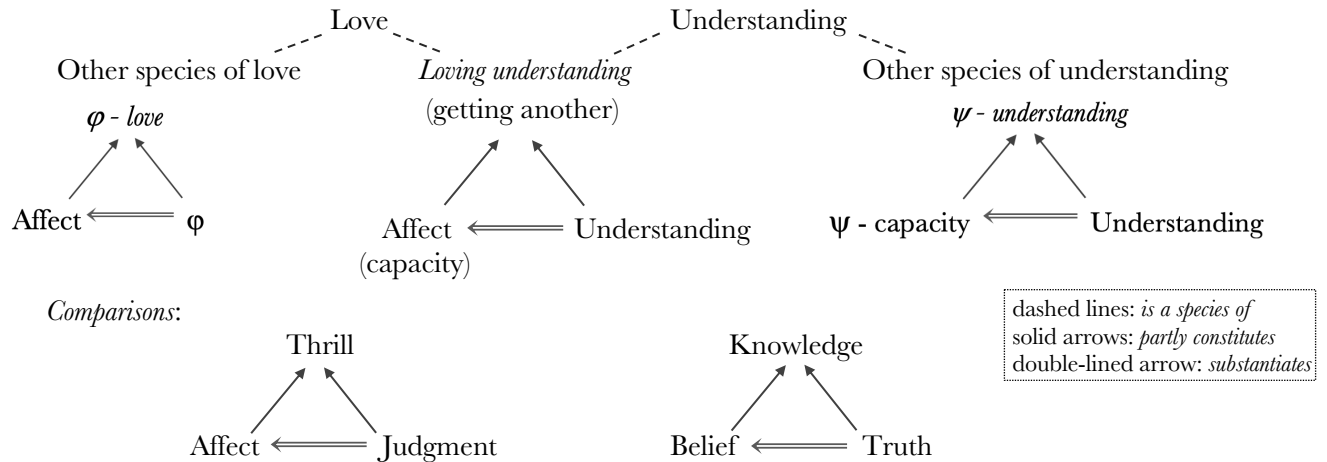
§8 Involvement — IBE Argument for Premise 2

The best explanation of relevant data—*entangled phenomenology*, *constitution-like counterfactuals*, *constitution-like explanations*, and *key features*—invokes an intimate metaphysical relation (e.g., constitution).

☆ The Proposal

S gets $P \approx S$ lovingly understands P

S lovingly understands $P =_{\text{def}} S$ is in a state about P that satisfies the U-profile and substantiates S 's being poised for individual-specific trust and affirmation of P



§9 Extensional Adequacy and Explanatory Power

- The proposal issues the correct verdict about each of the cases (in §§2-3 and §5).
- The proposal explains key features of getting another: *epistemic*, *substantive* and *selective*, etc.

Going Further — drawing on the theory of understanding in my “The Unity of Understanding”

S gets $P \approx S$ lovingly understands $P \approx S$ has a noetic conception about P that plays role $\mathcal{R}$ for S

S has a noetic conception about ... $=_{\text{def}}$ S has a conception of ... that is correct, complete, internally and externally coalescent, and mastered

- This increases the account's explanatory power. For example, it makes sense of various possibilities:
 - Getting one person better in some ways, but another person better in others
 - Getting the same person in different ways or along disparate dimensions
 - Getting two people in the same way or along the same dimension
 - Getting another enhancing the other's mysteriousness