

Philosophy of the Social Sciences at Birmingham

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Justin Cruickshank (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/staff/profiles.aspx?ReferenceId=4462>) had an article on Popper and Rorty published early / online for the prestigious journal *Social Epistemology* in May. Earlier in the year he was invited to become a 'Contributing Editor' by Oxford University Press, for their online Annotated Bibliography in Sociology. His 12,000 word peer reviewed article on 'epistemology' was accepted by OUP for publication later in the year.

Cruickshank, J. 2014. Anti-Authority: Comparing Popper And Rorty On The Dialogic Development Of Beliefs And Practices', *Social Epistemology: A Journal Of Knowledge, Culture And Policy*. First published online in April 2013. DOI:10.1080/02691728.2013.782589.

Popper and Rorty were both controversial figures and, as such, their work is often known more for what it isn't than what it is. This work contributed to the renaissance in Popper studies and to the assessment of Rorty's oeuvre, by challenging the view that Popper advocated a positivist or 'scientific' philosophy and that Rorty was an irresponsible postmodern relativist. The centrality of problem-solving in epistemology and socio-political reformism was foregrounded. Rorty's attempt to transcend traditional philosophy was shown to fail because he remained committed to seeking out justifications for beliefs in contrast to Popper's fallibilist and critical epistemology.