

# Conceptions of Information within Philosophy

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**Abstract:** The notion of information is associated with many central concerns of philosophy. Particular interest in information from within philosophy includes:

1. Investigation into its conceptual nature.
2. Applying conceptions of information to philosophical issues. For example, how can information play a role in accounts of knowledge (epistemology)?
3. Informational descriptions/interpretations of topics within areas of philosophy. For example, informational semantics for logic.
4. Information ethics.

Furthermore, conceptions of information within other disciplines such as biology and physics can and have been of interest within philosophy.

Notably with the advent of the modern 'Information Age', information has increasingly come to be seen as an important and useful notion within philosophy. This has reached a point where the philosophy of information has been staked.<sup>1</sup>

In this presentation I outline certain conceptions of information of particular interest to philosophers, so called semantic (non-natural) information and environmental (natural) information, which be seen as roughly correlating to the Gricean notions of non-natural and natural meaning respectively.

I briefly go over accounts of these conceptions of information and give an example or two of how they can be applied to traditional philosophical issues.

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.philosophyofinformation.net/publications/pdf/wipi.pdf> and <http://www.philosophyofinformation.net/publications/pdf/oppi.pdf> for more information.