

Grounding Truth and Making True: How They Differ and How They Relate

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Abstract:

Truthmaking is similar to grounding in that they both give rise to some kinds of non-causal metaphysical explanation. If an entity makes a proposition true, the proposition is true in virtue of the existence of that entity; if an entity grounds another entity, the grounded entity exists or holds in virtue of what grounds it. Some philosophers therefore think that truthmaking is a species of grounding: when a proposition is made true by its truthmaker, the truth of that proposition is grounded by its truthmaker. I think this is a mistake. In this paper, I argue that (1) truthmaking is not a species of grounding and (2) the explanation based on truthmaking is nonetheless adequate in several different senses.