

## "Higher Order Evidence and the Perspective of Doubt"

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### Abstract

One of the things we humans do is subject currently held beliefs to doubt. When we doubt a belief, we examine how things look from a perspective in which that belief is set aside. Sometimes we care what that perspective recommends and, as a result, we abandon the belief we've been doubting. Other times we don't: we recognize that a perspective in which a certain belief is set aside recommends abandoning it, but we go on believing it anyway. Why is this? In this talk I'll consider some proposals concerning when we should defer to the perspective of doubt. I'll argue that ultimately this question is misguided: there are no constraints on when the perspective of doubt should be deferred to. I'll connect up these thoughts with evolutionary debunking arguments and explain why I think these debates are irresolvable.