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Post-truth Politics Responsible Irresponsibility and Ethics— Postmodernist Philosophers Revisited

Abstract

Post-truth politics implies dissemination of 'fake news' and claims that obviously false statements are 'alternative facts'. While postmodern theory is frequently blamed for legitimatising this, it may also be the most appropriate starting point for resistance. This essay proposes that politics generally is about campaigning for a different state of affairs using arguments stated as if they were true. This approach evokes the difficult question of how then to argue against what one believes is unacceptable. An ethical approach is suggested even though there is no simple formula to apply. The responsible subject is a key, and 'the call to justice'.