

Reading Questions for November 21

These questions cover excerpts of an article by Ian Hacking called “The Logic of Pascal’s Wager.” The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to do the reading more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

In this passage, Hacking offers some criticisms of the arguments from Pascal that we read for last class.

*Questions:*

1. On page 188 Hacking states one of Pascal’s arguments. He then offers a criticism of this argument in the first full paragraph of page 189. What is the criticism? Is this a good criticism?
2. On page 189, Hacking considers two criticisms of Pascal’s argument in the paragraph starting “One premiss ...” What are the two criticisms? Are they good criticisms?
3. On pages 189-90 Hacking gives two more arguments, the argument from expectation and the argument from dominating expectation. What are these two arguments? Which one is a better argument?