Trust is perhaps the primary social “glue” that holds communities together. Epistemologists are interested in trust because trust is also implicated in the social diffusion of knowledge. Unfortunately, trust is also a key ingredient in the manipulation and exploitation of the overly-credulous. Thus, a subject who trusts no one but herself is a subject who will lose many opportunities to acquire worldly knowledge; and a subject who exhibits too much trust in others is one who runs a variety of obvious risks (including the epistemic risk of acquiring false beliefs). While the phenomenon of trust has been explored from a variety of different perspectives, it is rare to bring these multi-disciplinary perspectives into sustained discussion and analysis, as this conference aims to do. The fundamental question we will address concerns the rationality of trust, but we will do so from the perspectives not only of epistemology but also of psychology, (social) network theory, ethics, science studies, and history.

Our confirmed speakers:

May 1st

Harris Hall, 108

Melissa Koenig
University of Minnesota
“Children’s Testimonial Learning: Protective Mechanisms”

Karen Frost-Arnold
Hobart & William Smith Colleges
“Trust and the Epistemology of Trolling”

Sibel Adali
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
“Trust in Socio-Technological Networks: Why Context Matters”

Daniel Singer
University of Pennsylvania
“Votes, Talk, and Groups: Modeling Epistemic Democracy and Polarization”

May 2nd

Harris Hall, 108

Ted Porter
UCLA
“Reproducibility: Depending on Numbers”

Steven Shapin
Harvard University
“Personal Experience and Expert Authority in the Modern Wine-World”

Ted Hinchman
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
“The Risks and Rewards of Resting Assured: An Assurance Theory of Trust”

(FREE!) Registration Required
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