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Meaning and Authority

This paper explores the role of arguments from authority in the process of argument over meaning of linguistic expressions in institutional settings such as policy-making or (different contexts of) legal decision-making. The key distinctions taken into account in the analysis are: the distinction between epistemic and deontic authority on the one hand and between intension and extension of expressions on the other hand. The paper investigates the structure of both types of arguments based on authority with regard to determination of the discussed aspects of meaning, focusing on the possible critical questions and providing insights into the problem of the continuum concerning the distinction of the factual and the normative.