



DO YOU
REALLY HAVE
A RIGHT TO
YOUR



Opinion

"it is wrong always,
everywhere, and for
anyone, to believe
anything upon insufficient
evidence"
W.K. Clifford (1845 - 1879)

evidence:

experiences and reasoning that bear on the
truth of a belief



If correct, it may be morally wrong to hold a
belief if you lack sufficient evidence...

Shipping Truth & Evidence

Imagine a shipowner who has evidence that his ship needs
extensive AND expensive repairs. But the owner does not
want to pay up! Through wishful thinking, the ship owner
convinces himself of what he wants to believe, i.e., on the next
journey everything will



Is the shipowner "entitled" to his belief?

Is there "blame" here as the belief formed was
contrary to the evidence present?

By extension, are we all obliged to believe only
upon evidence?



Beliefs as Public Resources

Clifford asserted that our beliefs "are not for ourselves but for
humanity"

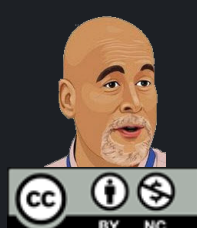


Since we share knowledge and
beliefs through the so-called
epistemic commons, false and
unjustified beliefs are a kind of
pollution.



Dumping false and unjustified beliefs into our collective beliefs,
argued Clifford, is as immoral as dumping toxic waste and
polluting in general...

Reference: <https://1000wordphilosophy.com/2022/01/28/ethics-of-belief/>



Professor Stuke