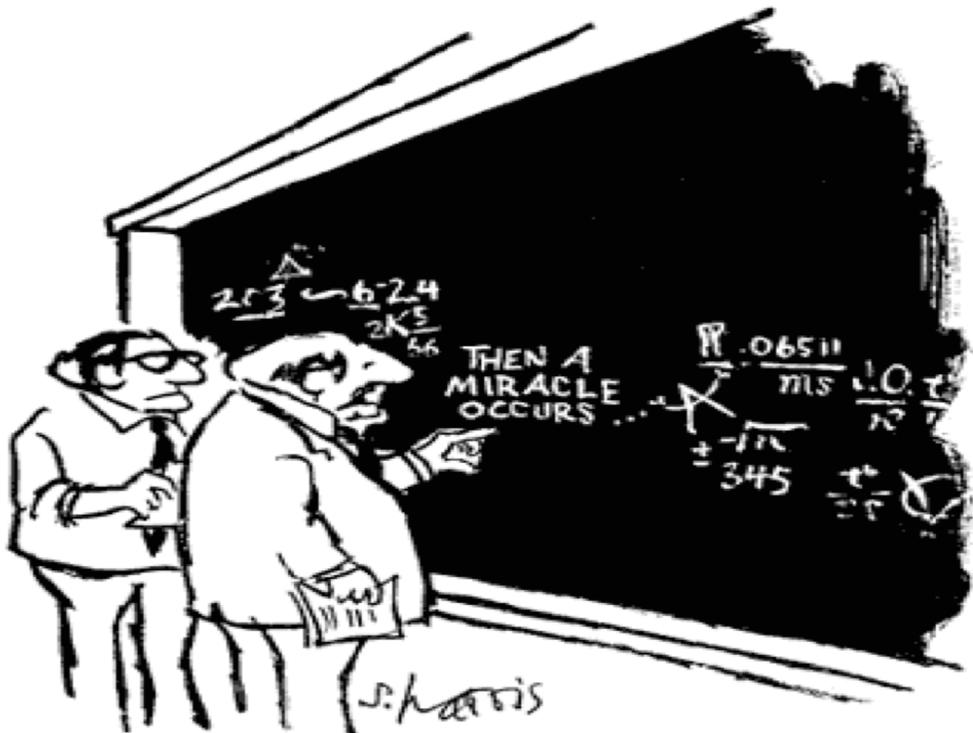


Joshua Schechter (Visiting Fellow)

UConn Humanities Institute Fellows' Public Talk
NOVEMBER 3, 2015 -- 4:00-5:30 PM
AUSTIN 301

“Small Steps and Great Leaps in Thought: The Epistemology of Basic Deductive Rules”



“I THINK YOU SHOULD BE MORE EXPLICIT HERE IN STEP TWO.”

In our reasoning, we are justified in relying on simple logical rules. For instance, we are justified in inferring from “It is raining outside” and “If it is raining outside then the streets will be wet” to “The streets will be wet.” By contrast, we are not justified in inferring from the relevant axioms of arithmetic to some difficult mathematical theorem in a single step. Such an inferential step is intuitively “too large” to count as justified. What accounts for this difference?

Joshua Schechter is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Brown University. He received an AB from Princeton University and a PhD from New York University. His research ranges from epistemology, to the philosophy of logic and mathematics, to metaethics. He is currently at work on a book on the justification of our most basic patterns of reasoning.