

Expertise in the Time of COVID
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How do you know who to listen to when information conflicts? What do you look for when deciding who to trust? How do you determine who counts as an authority?

The author argues that if expertise exists, then it demands something from us – when experts speak they deserve some degree of trust. Do you agree? Do experts deserve our attention and confidence? Which ones? When should we go along with the recommendations of experts? When might it be permissible to refuse?

The author concludes by suggesting that thinking about expertise might help us form more responsible beliefs. How would you describe what “responsible belief” looks like? Why might we have an obligation to make sure that the beliefs we hold are responsible? Who might we owe that duty to? Why?