Editorial

We proudly present the fourth Special Issue of ABSTRACTA which is dedicated to The Possibility of Knowledge (Clarendon Press 2007) by Quassim Cassam from Warwick University.

In The Possibility of Knowledge, Quassim Cassam is considering so-called how-possible questions in epistemology, how such questions arise and how they should be answered. Moreover, he “suggest[s] that epistemological how-possible questions are obstacle-dependent and that a satisfactory response to such questions must therefore be, at least in part, an obstacle-removing response. We ask how knowledge of kind K is possible when we are inclined to think that knowledge of this kind is possible but encounter apparent obstacles to its existence or acquisition. So the question is: how is knowledge of kind K possible given the factors that make it look impossible?” (p 2 of this issue)

The present issue is a result of a remarkably stimulating Kant Workshop, organized by Tobias Rosefeldt (Konstanz University ) in 2008. The authors had the opportunity to discuss their questions and criticism with Quassim Cassam in order then to anticipate his replies and comments in their papers. And although some of the now presented papers are quite critical, all authors were fascinated by the density of Cassam’s arguments, his lucidity in writing as well as all the subtle and hitherto overlooked distinctions.

I would like to thank, first of all, Quassim Cassam for the inspiring time we all had during the Kant Workshop at Konstanz University as well as his patience and time throughout the process of editing this volume. I am also thankful to all the other authors who made the symposium possible: Denis Bühler, Daniel Dohrn, David Lüthi, Bernhard Ritter and Simon Sauter. They did a great job.

Vanessa Morlock,
Associate Editor
June, 2009.