Abstract

In this paper, I present a case for the existence of illusory hermeneutical resources through examining the words gaslighting and mansplaining. Through this case study, I define illusory hermeneutical resources as words or other hermeneutical resources that exist but are inadequate to help people make meaning of the experiences they represent. I argue that the epistemic injustice faced by women, in this case, leaves them weakened as epistemic agents in a way that makes it difficult for them to combat illusory hermeneutical resources. I conclude by presenting two possible responses to the problem of illusory hermeneutical resources as a catalyst for further discussion on the issue.