

The basic purpose of this talk is to show how anthropological insights about the evolution of practical deliberation could be relevant with respect to the metaethical debate about practical reasons. In the metaethical debate about reasons, the two opposing camps are *source internalists* and *source externalists*. Source internalists anchor all practical reasons in our conative states or desires, while source externalists anchor at least some practical reasons somewhere else (or nowhere at all).

The topic of practical reasons is connected to the topic of practical deliberation because practical deliberation is, essentially, *the endeavor to orientate ourselves by practical reasons*. We look for guidance regarding what to do, and reasons provide us with such guidance by *favoring* action alternatives.

Source internalists and source externalists are committed to fundamentally different accounts of what an orientation by reasons *is*. Source externalists accept what I call *conative transcendence* – the idea that we can get a hold on external, normative orientation points («objective» reasons) *that favor* our conative states in deliberation. Source internalists reject conative transcendence.

My main argument is that an anthropologically informed perspective on the evolution of deliberation puts pressure on source externalism. This is so because there is no empirical evidence for conative transcendence to be found. It is hence reasonable to assume, from an anthropological perspective, that we never transcend the *conative web*. This, however, is incompatible with source externalism.

I discuss two source externalist replies. It could be argued that (1) conative transcendence is indispensable for practical deliberation. And it could be argued that (2) without conative transcendence we cannot account for the phenomenology of practical deliberation in a plausible way. I attempt to show that both replies can be rejected once we fully appreciate the resources of practical deliberation within the conative web in an anthropologically informed way.