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*Getting help from the social environment*

ABSTRACT: A well-known set of Gettier examples seek to show that a person can fail to have knowledge because of facts about the environment even when the person in question is unaware of such facts. This is the case in the barn façade thought experiment. Barney is in a field looking at a barn, however, unbeknownst to him, he is in barn façade county – where most of the things that look like barns are in fact fake barns. Despite the fact that Barney is looking at a real barn it has been thought by many that Barney lacks knowledge. I will outline a similar example, except where the person is able to know because the social environment makes up for the problem in the rest of the environment. I will then consider what is required of the social environment for it to be able to play this role. Following this I will show how this can be used to shed light on two potentially problematic areas: testimonial knowledge in young children, and religious knowledge.