

Curriculum Vitae

Mayank Bora

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PRIMARY AREAS OF RESEARCH: Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mind,
Philosophical Logic

SECONDARY AREA OF RESEARCH: Normative Ethics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE: Philosophy of Logic, Metaphysics, History of Analytic
Philosophy

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of North Bengal, Sep 2018 – till
date

Assistant Professor (Guest), Department of Philosophy, Lady Shri Ram College for Women,
University of Delhi, Jan 2018 – Sep 2018

EDUCATION

Ph.D. (Philosophy) – University of Connecticut, May 2017

Graduate Studies (Logic) – Institute of Logic, Language, and Computation (ILLC),
University of Amsterdam, 2009 – 2011

M.Phil. (Philosophy) – University of Delhi, 2009

M.A. (Philosophy) – Hindu College, University of Delhi, 2007

B.I.T. (Bachelor of Information Technology) – Hindu College, University of Delhi, 2003

THESES

M. Phil.

Title: **Semantics and Scepticism**

Committee: Nirmalangshu Mukherji (Co-Advisor), Enakshi Mitra (Co-Advisor), and Bijoy
Boruah (External Examiner)

I argue that the reductive program in conceptual semantics which looks to capture semantic phenomena by understanding the lexical concepts to be complexes composed of simpler concepts is wrongheaded. While definitional semantics, one kind of reductive semantics, seems to capture a properly semantic notion it does not have the unambiguous support of data that it needs. On the other hand, probabilistic theories seem to have the proper backing of data but they simply do not seem to amount to a theoretical grasp of *meaning*.

Ph.D.

Title: Believing About Individuals

Committee: William Lycan (Chair), Samuel Wheeler, and Marcus Rossberg

Naïve semantics is the idea that referring expressions like names contribute their referents to propositions. This theory though attractive runs against Frege's puzzle – the twin problems of informativeness of identity and failure of substitution of coreferents to preserve truth in belief reports. Philosophers maintain naive semantics in face of these problems by arguing that presence of different names either causes sentences to express or implicate different propositions as evaluated in the same context. I argue that the key to understanding Frege's puzzle is to admit object representations which perform both the functions of representing an object's properties and ontological matters such as their being and identity. Once we accept object representations most extant accounts are simply found to be redundant.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Letter of Notice for Teaching Excellence, University of Connecticut, January 2016

EMECW15 Scholarship, European Union, September 2009

PROJECTS

Project Title: Fregean Identity without Fregean Content, Agency: University of North Bengal, Amount: Rs. 1 lac, Duration: April 1st 2019 – March 31st 2021

COURSES TAUGHT

Postgraduate

Philosophy of Wittgenstein, NBU

Advanced Logic I, NBU

Indian Logic, NBU

Contemporary Analytic Metaphysics, NBU

Indian Epistemology, NBU

Philosophical Methodology (MPhil/PhD Coursework) NBU

Undergraduate

Analytic Philosophy, Lady Sshri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi
Philosophy of Mind, Ramanujan College, University of Delhi

Texts of Western Philosophy, Lady Sshri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi

Ethics, Ramanujan College, University of Delhi

Philosophy and Social Ethics, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Avery Point, and Hartford Campuses

Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Logic, University of Connecticut, Storrs Campus

Introduction to Philosophy, University of Connecticut, Storrs Campus

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Published

“Intentionality, Understanding, and Symbol Grounding”, *Philosophical Papers: Journal of the Department of Philosophy, NBU*, 16, p 151-164, 2020

“Mental Files and Naïve Semantic Accounts of Substitution Failure”, *Acta Analytica*, 34.3, 301-325, 2019.

“On the Singularity of Descriptive Files”, *Journal of Indian Council of Philosophical Research*, 36.1, p71-95, 2019.

“Alethic Relativism and Faultless Disagreement”, *Philosophical Papers: Journal of the Department of Philosophy, NBU*, 14, p 105-121, 2018. (with Anumita Shukla)

“On Motive Accounts of Care”, *Journal of Indian Council of Philosophical Research*, 35.1, p175-192, 2018. (with Anumita Shukla)

Accepted

“Scope and Substitution”, accepted for publication in the forthcoming volume *Language, Meaning, and Interpretation: East and West*, (eds.) K. L. Das and J. C. Basak, Northern Book Centre.

“Justice and Responsibility in a Care Ethical Framework”, accepted for publication in the forthcoming volume *Justice and Responsibility: Relearning to be Human, South Asian Philosophical Studies, Volume 17*, (eds) B. Devarakonda and S. Velassery, CRVP publications. (with Anumita Shukla)

INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

“Epistemic Transparency and Fregean Identity”, 10th February 2022, Ashoka University

“Is there an Epistemic Condition to Samesaying”, 20th January 2021, IISER Pune

“Fregean Identity Without Fregean Contents”, 28th September 2020, IISER Mohali

“Fregean Identity Without Fregean Contents”, 24th June 2020, IIT Delhi