

Curriculum Vitae

Mayank Bora

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PRIMARY AREA OF RESEARCH: Philosophy of Language, Philosophical Logic

SECONDARY AREA OF RESEARCH: Normative Ethics

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

EMPLOYMENT

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

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 (Main Advisor), Enakshi Mitra, 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 2020

COURSES TAUGHT

Postgraduate

Even Semester 2019, 2020 *Philosophical Methodology*, MPhil/PhD Coursework, NBU

Even Semester 2019, 2020 *Contemporary Analytic Metaphysics*, 4th Sem, NBU

Even Semester 2019, 2020 *Indian Epistemology*, 2nd Sem, NBU

Odd Semester 2019 *Advanced Logic I*, 3rd Sem, NBU

Odd Semester 2019 *Indian Logic*, 2nd Sem, NBU

Undergraduate

Odd Semester 2018 *Analytic Philosophy*, LSR College, University of Delhi

Odd Semester 2018 *Philosophy of Mind*, Ramanujan College, University of Delhi

Even Semester 2018 *Texts of Western Philosophy*, LSR College, University of Delhi

Even Semester 2018 *Ethics*, Ramanujan College, University of Delhi

Fall 2014 - Fall 2016 *Philosophy and Social Ethics*, UConn, Multiple Campuses and Sections

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2013 *Introduction to Logic*, UConn, Storrs Campus, 4 sections

Fall 2012 *Introduction to Philosophy*, UConn, Storrs Campus, 4 sections

Spring 2012 *Introduction to Philosophy*, UConn, Storrs Campus, 4 sections

Fall 2011 *Introduction to Philosophy*, UConn, Storrs Campus, 4 sections

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Published/Accepted

“Mental Files and Naïve Semantic Accounts of Substitution Failure”, *Acta Analytica*, 34.3, 301-25, 2019.

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

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

“Justice and Responsibility in a Care Ethical Framework”, accepted for publication in the *Proceedings of the CRVP Conference on Justice and Responsibility*. (with Anumita Shukla)

Submitted

2020

“Multiple Origin Frege Cases: A Problem for Originalism”, under review at *Inquiry*

“Epistemic Relationism and Samesaying”, under review at the *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*

2019

“On Davidson against Language as Conventional” under review at the *Journal of Indian Council of Philosophical Research*

“Alethic Relativism and Faultless Disagreement”, under review at *Philosophical Papers: Journal of the Department of Philosophy, NBU* (with Anumita Shukla)

“Scope and Substitution”, invited for an anthology volume, (ed.) Kantilal Das, NBU Press

Under Preparation

“Fregean Identity without Fregean Contents” [may be divided into multiple articles]

“From Pretense to Truth”

“Multiple Conclusion LP and Classical Recapture”

“Mental Files and Singular Thought”

“Mental Files and the Dilemma of Indexical Representation”

“Is Recanati’s Account of Mental Files Compatible with his Account of Substitution Failure?”

REFERENCES

William Lycan
Distinguished Visiting Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of Connecticut
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Samuel Wheeler
Professor (Emeritus)
Department of Philosophy
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Nirmalangshu Mukherji
Professor (retired)
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Nilanjan Bhowmick
Assistant Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of Delhi
nilanjan.bhowmick72@gmail.com