

Chang Liu

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Affiliations	Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Department of Philosophy
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Website	www.DrLiuChang.com
Areas of Specialization	Philosophy of Language
Areas of Competence	Philosophy of Language, Social and Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor	2022-present
Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Department of Philosophy	
Boya Postdoctoral Fellow	2020-2022
Peking University, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies	
Supervisor: Linhe Han	

EDUCATION

University of Western Ontario	London, ON, Canada
Ph.D., Philosophy	2015-2019
Title: Derogatory Words and Speech Acts: An Illocutionary Force Indicator Theory of Slurs	
Committee: Robert Stainton (Supervisor), Carolyn McLeod, David Bourget	
M.A., Philosophy	2014-2015
Title: Saving Descriptivism from Kripke	
Supervisor: Robert Stainton	
University of Massachusetts Amherst	Amherst, MA, USA
Visiting Student	2014

Supervisor: Louise Antony

Sun Yat-sen University

Guangzhou, China

M.A., Philosophy

2012-2014

Title: Can Bennett's Compatibilism Save Non-Reductive Physicalism?

Supervisor: Min Huang

B.B.A., Electronic Commerce

2008-2012

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

- 2021. "Toward a Theory of Offense: Should You Feel Offended?" *Philosophy*. 96(4), 625-649.
- 2021. "The Derogatory Force and the Offensiveness of Slurs". *Organon F*. 28 (3), 626-649.
- 2021. "Slurs as Illocutionary Force Indicators." *Philosophia*. 49(3), 1051-65.
- 2020. "Slurs and Register: A Case Study in Meaning Pluralism". *Mind and Language*. 35(2), 156-182. Co-authored with Justina Diaz-Legaspe & Robert J. Stainton.
- 2019. "Slurs and the Type-Token Distinction of Their Derogatory Force". *Rivista Italiana di Filosofia del Linguaggio*. 13(2), 63-72.

Other Publications

- 2020. "Philosophy of Language" (语言哲学), in *Chinese Philosophical Almanac* (中国哲学年鉴), edited by Shan Jigang, 285-286. Beijing: Philosophical Researches

Works in Progress

- "That's Not What I Meant: Toward an Ethics of Interpretation" (under review)
- "Saving Descriptivism from Kripke" (under review)
- "A Psycholinguistic Account of Politically Loaded Words" (in preparation)
- "Two Arguments against Hybrid Theories" (in preparation)

RESEARCH GRANTS

China Postdoctoral Science Foundation, Research Grant	2021
“How Language Expresses Values” (2021M700265)	¥50,000

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

“Toward an Ethics of Interpretation” Songwu Forum, Xi’an Jiaotong University	2022 Mar 25
“A Speech Act Theory of Slurs” Workshops for Young Philosophers, Nanjing University	2021 Dec 8
“Toward an Ethics of Interpretation” “Knowledge, Goodness, and Normativity” Roundtable, Jilin University	2021 Dec 4
“A Speech Act Theory of Slurs” Early Career Academic Salon, East China Normal University	2021 Sept 28
“A Speech Act Theory of Slurs” 6th Workshop on Contemporary Issues in Analytic Philosophy, Shandong University	2021 June 28
“Slurs as Illocutionary Force Indicators” Online International Conference on Wittgenstein, Logic, Philosophy, Peking University	2021 June 26

Conferences

“That’s Not What I Meant: Toward an Ethics of Interpretation” 2022 APA Eastern Division Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland	2022 Jan 14
“That’s Not What I Meant: Toward an Ethics of Interpretation” The 7th International Conference on Philosophy of Language and Linguistics (PhiLang 2021), University of Lodz	2021 May 15
“The Significance, the Questions, and the Three Varieties of Theories of Slurs” 5th Jingshi Analytic Philosophy Conference, Beijing Normal University	2019 Nov 30
“Slurs as Illocutionary Force Indicators” 2019 APA Central Division Meeting, Denver, Colorado	2019 Feb 20
“Slurs and the Type-Token Distinction of Their Derogatory Force” 24th World Congress of Philosophy, Beijing, China	2018 Aug 16

- “Slurs as Illocutionary Force Indicators”
 Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, 2018 June 4
 Université du Québec à Montréal
- “Slurs and the Type-Token Distinction of Their Derogatory Force”
 Syracuse University Philosophy Graduate Conference, 2018 Apr 13
 Syracuse University
- “Slurs as Illocutionary Force Indicators”
 25th Annual Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, 2018 Mar 9
 University of Waterloo
- “The Type-Token Distinction of the Derogatory Force of Slurs”
 11th Annual Western Michigan University Graduate Student 2017 Dec 8
 Philosophy Conference

Departmental Talks

- “Toward an Ethics of Interpretation”
 Philosophy Symposium, Peking University 2021 Apr 28
- “The Illocutionary Force Indicator Account of Slurs”
 PGSA Colloquium Series, University of Western Ontario 2018 Jan 23
- “Hybrid Theories and Quantified Moral Statements”
 PGSA Colloquium Series, University of Western Ontario 2017 Nov 21
- “A Speech Act Theory of Slurs”
 PGSA Colloquium Series, University of Western Ontario 2017 Jan 31
- “Saving Descriptivism from Kripke”
 PGSA Colloquium Series, University of Western Ontario 2015 Aug 19

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Peking University

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| 02310030: Philosophy of Language | Instructor | Fall 2021 |
| 02333390: Philosophy of Language | Guest Lecturer | Fall 2020 |

University of Western Ontario

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|---|----------------|-------------|
| Phil 3410G: Philosophy of Mind | Guest Lecturer | Winter 2019 |
| Phil 2400F: Introduction to Philosophy
of Mind | Instructor | Fall 2018 |

Phil 1020: Introduction to Philosophy	Teaching Assistant	Winter 2018 Fall 2017
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RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Assistant Editor at PhilPapers	Centre for Digital Philosophy	2014-2017
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SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Graduate Research Scholarship	2019
Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Western Ontario	\$6,574
Dean's Entrance Scholarship	2014, 2015
Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Western Ontario	\$2,000, \$2,000
Chair's Entrance Scholarship	2014, 2015
Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Western Ontario	\$1,000, \$1,000
Best Paper Award	2013
Philosophy Summer School in China, Oxford University	£3,000
Awarded Scholarship to visit UMass Amherst	

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

Philosophy Symposium	
Peking University, Beijing, China	
Organizer	Since August, 2021
Online Philosophy Workshop Series	
Peking University, Beijing, China	
Organizer	Since July, 2020
Annual Graduate Conference in Philosophy of Mind, Language, and Cognitive Science	
University of Western Ontario, London, ON, Canada	
Organization Committee	June 15-17, 2017
Philosophy Graduate Student Association Colloquium Series	
University of Western Ontario, London, ON, Canada	
Organization Committee	Jan-Apr, 2016

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE AND SERVICE

Philosophy Graduate Student Association SOGS Councillor	2014-2015
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PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE AND SERVICE

Journal Referee

Synthese	Philosophy	Chinese Philosophical Review
Disputatio	Grazer Philosophische Studien	

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING TRAINING

Teaching Support Centre, University of Western Ontario

Western Certificate in University Teaching and Learning	Feb 2019
Teaching Mentor Program	Dec 2017
Teaching Assistant Training Program	Sept 2017

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

University of Western Ontario

Philosophy of Language Survey	Pro-Seminar
Kripke	Egalitarianism
Theories of Global Justice	Property & Political Philosophy
Toleration	Content and Consciousness
Consciousness	Mental Representation
John Locke's Theory of Ideas	Aristotle's De Anima

Sun Yat-sen University

Philosophy of Language	Epistemology
Metaphysics	Analytical Philosophy
Philosophy of Science	Philosophy of Psychology
Ancient Western Philosophy	Modern Western Philosophy
Basic Problems of Western Philosophy	History of Western Philosophy

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Philosophical Association	Since 2017
Canadian Philosophical Association	2018-19
Minorities and Philosophy (MAP)	2018-19
Rotman Institute of Philosophy	2016-19

LANGUAGES

Chinese (native), English (fluent)

REFERENCES

Robert Stainton

Distinguished Professor
University of Western Ontario
rstainto@uwo.ca

Linhe Han

Professor
Peking University
hanlinhe@pku.edu.cn

Genoveva Martí

ICREA Research Professor
University of Barcelona
genoveva.marti@gmail.com

Christopher Viger

(teaching reference)
Associate Professor
University of Western Ontario
cviger@uwo.ca

DISSERTATION SUMMARY

DEROGATORY WORDS AND SPEECH ACTS: AN ILLOCUTIONARY FORCE INDICATOR THEORY OF SLURS

Slurs are derogatory words. They express contempt and hatred toward marginalized groups. They are used to insult and derogate their victims and contribute to oppressive institutions. Moreover, slurs have many puzzling features for theories of slurs to explain, e.g., *derogatory force* (Why is “ch**k” a derogatory word?), *truth-conditional contribution* (Is “ch**k” co-referential with “Chinese?”), *appropriation* (How can a slur like “queer” cease to be derogatory?), etc. Many theories share the same picture that slurs *communicate* derogatory contents. However, none of them pay attention to the speech acts slurs are used to *do*.

In my dissertation, I argue that slurs are illocutionary force indicators (e.g., “I promise” is a force indicator for making a promise). The slur “ch**k” is derogatory because of its use to derogate the Chinese. Derogation is an illocutionary act (i.e., acts of doing something in saying something) to express negative evaluative attitudes. Moreover, a slur like “ch**k” has the same referent as its neutral counterpart, e.g., “Chinese.” This force indicator account does a great job of explaining the features of slurs. Take *non-derogatory use* for instance. Certain utterances of “ch**k” (e.g., by Chinese comedians or between Chinese friends) can be non-derogatory because they are misfired or infelicitous illocutionary acts (e.g., a non-Catholic’s saying “I hereby excommunicate you” is infelicitous).

To illustrate the advantage of my theory, my dissertation introduces other theories of slurs (e.g., prohibitionism, inferentialism, etc.) and how they fail because of their opposite positions. “Chang is a ch**k,” despite being derogatory, is true, according to my theory. By contrast, Mark Richard’s theory takes utterances of slurs to have no truth values. This position gives rise to problems for Richard. I argue that if “Chang is a ch**k” had no truth value, one could not lie with it. However, it is certainly possible to tell lies with slurs.

My dissertation defends the force indicator account from many objections. For instance, it might be argued that the so-called “derogation” is not a distinct class of illocutionary acts because it can happen in other illocutionary acts like promises (e.g., “I promise to bring you ch**ks”), assertions, commands, etc. I argue that multiple illocutionary acts, including derogation, can be performed within a single utterance, e.g., making an apology and an assertion with “I am sorry that the flight has been delayed.”

This dissertation contributes to the debate on slurs by offering a new perspective from speech act theory. Moreover, it provides support for the use theory of meaning with a case study of the meaning of slurs. It also enables a framework for philosophy of race and gender to study the harm of slurs by analyzing how speech acts produce oppression.