

DAVID J NEELY

Baruch College, CUNY
One Bernard Baruch Way, New York, NY 10010
david.neely@baruch.cuny.edu

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION: Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Psychology

AREAS OF COMPETENCE: Critical Thinking, Ethics of Information Technology, Metaphysics

EDUCATION

PHD IN PHILOSOPHY—SEPTEMBER 2022
The Graduate Center CUNY, New York NY.

B.A. IN PHILOSOPHY—MAY 2011
Vassar College, Poughkeepsie NY.

DISSERTATION: *Pervasive Nonarbitrariness; Meaning from Form in Natural Language*

Advisor: Eric Mandelbaum

Committee: Saul Kripke, Stephen Neale, Katherine Ritchie (UC Irvine), Jake Quilty-Dunn (Wash U)

My dissertation argues that, contrary to the theoretical orthodoxy, nonarbitrariness is a pervasive feature of natural language expressions. Numerous expressions function like pictures, even more function like analogies, and both classes are nonarbitrary. Furthermore, these nonarbitrary connections are relevant to various theoretical debates such as what language is for and what our intuitive truth-value judgements track.

To demonstrate these conclusions, I first show that there is an important notion of arbitrariness which concerns the relationship between what one perceives when a word is uttered and what that word means. Drawing on phonology, I then argue that to perceive an utterance of a word is to become aware of a string of mental symbols, i.e., phonemes, that play a key role in speech production and are constitutively linked to certain articulatory organs and movements. This means that to perceive the utterance of a word is to become aware of mental entities that are constitutively linked to articulatory positions with properties like size and shape. Next, I argue that certain psychological data can be explained in terms of a sensitivity to connections between a word's articulatory properties and its meaning. I show that there are, in fact, three types of these sound/meaning connections: iconic, analogical and associative. I conclude by showing that iconic and analogical expressions are genuinely nonarbitrary, while associative expressions are not. This is sufficient to render nonarbitrariness a pervasive and theoretically important feature of natural language.

EMPLOYMENT

ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR COLLEGE Baruch College, CUNY	BEGINNING AUGUST 2023
ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR COLLEGE Baruch College, CUNY	AUGUST 2020—MAY 2023
ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY	AUGUST 2020—DECEMBER 2022
GRADER (LOGIC; MAJOR ISSUES IN PHILOSOPHY) Baruch College, CUNY	FEBRUARY 2019—DECEMBER 2022
LOGIC CONSULTANT Baruch College, CUNY	JUNE 2022—PRESENT

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

ENHANCED CHANCELLOR'S FELLOWSHIP	2012—2017
BEST GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER, ROCKY MOUNTAIN PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE	2014
HARRY ORDAN MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN PHILOSOPHY	2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (ALL AS PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR)

BARUCH COLLEGE, CUNY

MIND & LANGUAGE CAPSTONE SEMINAR

Upper-level seminar for philosophy majors and minors that examined major debates in the cognitive scientific study of human language. — FALL 2022

PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY

Intermediate-level course examining foundational issues and contemporary debates within psychology and cognitive science. — FALL 2020, SPRING 2021, SPRING 2022

ETHICS AND CRITICAL THINKING

Introductory level course examining the principles of good argumentation and applying these to ethical issues. — FALL 2020 (2 sections), SPRING 2021, FALL 2021 (2 sections), SPRING 2022, FALL 2022

JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, CUNY

ETHICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Intermediate-level course introducing students to the unique, ethical challenges posed by digital technology and contemporary debates about these issues. — FALL 2017, SPRING 2018 (2 sections), FALL 2018 (2 sections), SPRING 2019 (2 sections), FALL 2019 (3 sections), SPRING 2020 (3 sections), FALL 2020, SPRING 2021, FALL 2021, SPRING 2022

BROOKLYN COLLEGE, CUNY

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

Introductory-level course familiarizing students with foundational issues and debates within epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics. — FALL 2013 (2 SECTIONS), SPRING 2014 (2 SECTIONS), FALL 2014, SPRING 2015, FALL 2015, SPRING 2016

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING & FELLOWSHIPS

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM FELLOW
Guttman Community College, CUNY

JULY 2016—JULY 2017

PAPERS

A paper on nonarbitrariness in language; currently under review.

TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

“PROBLEMS WITH REFERENTIALISM ABOUT NAMES”. CUNY Cognitive Science Symposium. The Graduate Center, CUNY — SEPTEMBER 2016.

“PROBLEMS WITH REFERENTIALISM ABOUT NAMES”. Philosophy of Linguistics and Language 2016. Interuniversity Center Dubrovnik — SEPTEMBER 2016.

“THE-PREDICATIVISM AND MODALITY”. Philosophy of Linguistics and Language 2015. Interuniversity Center Dubrovnik — SEPTEMBER 2015.

“THE-PREDICATIVISM AND MODALITY”. New York Philosophy of Language Workshop. NYU — FEBRUARY 2015.

COMMENTS. “TRUE COLOURS: PSYCHOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE SEMANTICS” by Jessie Munton. The 17th Annual Graduate Conference. The Graduate Center, CUNY—MARCH 2014.

“ACT-THEORETIC PROPOSITIONS AND FORCELESS PREDICATION”. Philosophy of Mind, Language and Cognitive Science 2014 Graduate Conference. University of Western Ontario — MAY 2014.

“ACT-THEORETIC PROPOSITIONS AND FORCELESS PREDICATION”. The 16th Annual Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference. University of Colorado Boulder — APRIL 2014.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee for <i>Synthese, Inquiry</i>	2021—Present
Referee for 2022 ESPP/SPP Joint Conference	2022
Teaching Mentor, Philosophy Department, CUNY Graduate Center	2015—2016
Co-Organizer, The 17 th Annual Graduate Conference, The Graduate Center, CUNY	2014

SELECTED GRADUATE COURSEWORK (* INDICATES COURSE WAS AUDITED)

THE PERCEPTION/COGNITION BORDER (Ned Block & Eric Mandelbaum—NYU & CUNY)

INTERPRETING ARTIFACTS (Stephen Neale)

LANGUAGE & METAPHYSICS (Stephen Neale)

MIND & LANGUAGE (Stephen Neale & Stephen Schiffer—NYU & CUNY)

NAMES (Delia Graff Fara—Princeton)

QUINE & SELLARS, THOUGHT & LANGUAGE (David Rosenthal)

LINGUISTIC PRAGMATISM (Michael Devitt)

REFERENCE (Michael Devitt)

SENSATION & PERCEPTION IN EARLY MODERN PHILOSOPHY (Catherine Wilson)

MORAL PSYCHOLOGY (Jesse Prinz)

NONCANONICAL COGNITION (Eric Mandelbaum)*

DYNAMIC SEMANTICS (Karen Lewis—Columbia)*

INTENTION & ACTS OF MEANING (Stephen Neale & Daniel Harris)*

DESCRIPTIONS (Delia Graff Fara—Princeton)*

SEMANTICS 1 (Sam Al Khatib—Linguistics Department)*

SEMANTICS 2 (Sam Al Khatib—Linguistics Department)*

REFERENCES

Eric Mandelbaum

Associate Professor of Philosophy
The Graduate Center &
Baruch College, CUNY
eric.mandelbaum@baruch.cuny.edu
+1 (646) 312-4379

Katherine Ritchie

Associate Professor of Philosophy
University of California, Irvine
kcritchie@gmail.com
+1 (949) 824-6525

Jake Quilty-Dunn

Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Washington University, St. Louis
quiltydunn@gmail.com
+1 (314) 935-6684

Teaching

Sandeep Sreekumar

Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Baruch College, CUNY
sandeep.sreekumar@baruch.cuny.edu
+1 (646) 312-4363

Michael Brownstein

Associate Professor of Philosophy
John Jay College, CUNY
mibrownstein@jjay.cuny.edu
+1 (917) 658-2684

Christine Vitrano

Associate Professor of Philosophy
Brooklyn College, CUNY
cvitrano@brooklyn.cuny.edu
+1 (718) 951-5000 x3232