

# William B. Starr

will.starr@cornell.edu

<http://www.williamstarr.net>

---

Sage School of Philosophy  
Cornell University  
218 Goldwin Smith Hall  
Ithaca, NY 14853

## Areas of Specialization

---

Philosophy of Language, Philosophical Logic, Cognitive Science

## Areas of Competence

---

Metaethics, Philosophy of Mind, Social Philosophy

## Employment

---

### **Cornell University**

Associate Professor, Philosophy 07.01.17 – current

Assistant Professor, Philosophy 07.01.11 – 06.30.17

### **New York University**

Bersoff Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow, Philosophy 09.01.10 – 05.17.11

## Education

---

### **Rutgers University**

Philosophy Ph.D., 2010

Cognitive Science Graduate Certificate, 2010

*Committee:* Ernest Lepore and Jason Stanley (Co-Chairs), Jeffrey King, Brian Weatherson, Matthew Stone

### **Amherst College**

Philosophy and Mathematics/Computer Science B.A., 2005

*Cum Laude*

## Articles

---

- “A Uniform Theory of Conditionals.” *Journal of Philosophical Logic* 43(6), December 2014. (45 pp.)
- “What If?” *Philosophers’ Imprint* 14(10), April 2014. (27 pp.)
- “Mood, Force and Truth”. *ProtoSociology* 31, 2014. (21 pp.)
- “Dynamic Expressivism about Deontic Modality.” In N. Charlow & M. Chrisman (eds.), *Deontic Modality*, 2016. New York: Oxford University Press. (39 pp.)
- “Expressing Permission”. *Proceedings from Semantics and Linguistic Theory 26*, 2016. Ithaca, NY: CLC Publications. (25 pp.)
- “Indicative Conditionals, Strictly.” Under Review. (35 pp.)
- “Counterfactuals”, *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. To appear. (61 pp.)
- “The Structure of Communicative Acts”, w/Sarah Murray. *Linguistics & Philosophy*, to appear. (33 pp.)
- “A Preference Semantics for Imperatives”. *Semantics & Pragmatics*, to appear. (53 pp.)
- “Conjoined Imperatives and Declaratives”, in *Proceedings from Sinn und Bedeutung 21*, 2017. Edinburgh: University of Edinburgh.
- “Force and Conversational States”, w/Sarah Murray. In D. Fogal, D. Harris and M. Moss (eds.), *New Work on Speech Acts*, 2018. New York: Oxford University Press. (37 pp.)
- “Pragmatics Socialized”, 2018 in G. Preyer (ed.), *Beyond Semantics and Pragmatics*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- “Conditional and Counterfactual Logic”, 2018 in M. Knauff & W. Spohn (eds.), *Handbook of Rationality*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

## Work in Progress

---

- “Unstructured Content, Structured Context” (w/Sarah Murray). In preparation for a volume edited by Andy Egan and Dirk Kinderman.

- *Imperative Dynamics*, MS and book proposal for OUP. In preparation.
- “Structured Possible Worlds.” Unpublished manuscript.
- “Minimal Intervention and Counterfactual Cognition.” Unpublished manuscript.
- “What is Communication?” Unpublished manuscript.

## Grants and Fellowships

---

Mellon Corridor Grant (w/Sarah Murray @ Cornell)	2016
Mellon Corridor Grant (w/Sarah Murray @ Cornell)	2015
Mellon Corridor Grant (w/Sarah Murray @ Cornell)	2014
Mellon Corridor Grant (w/Sarah Murray @ Cornell)	2013
Mellon Corridor Grant (w/Sarah Murray @ Cornell)	2012
Mellon Corridor Grant (w/Sarah Murray @ Cornell)	2011
Bersoff Postdoctoral Fellowship, NYU	2010-1

## Presentations

---

“Norms of Communication” Syracuse University Colloquium	04.27.18
Comments on David Boylan’s “What the Future <i>Might</i> Brings” Pacific APA, Seattle	04.12.17
“Dynamic Expressivism” <a href="#">DEX V</a> @ UC Davis	04.10.17
Comments on Jonathan Cohen & Andy Kehler’s “On Convention and Coherence” <a href="#">Philosophy Desert Workshop</a> , Moab UT	03.25.17
“Conjoined Imperatives and Declaratives” <a href="#">Sinn und Bedeutung 21</a> @ University of Edinburgh	09.06.16
“Minimal Intervention and Counterfactual Cognition” (Poster) <a href="#">Society for Philosophy &amp; Psychology 42</a> @ UT Austin	06.04.16
“Expressing Permission”	

<a href="#">Semantics &amp; Linguistic Theory 26</a> @ UT Austin	05.10.16
“Force and Conversational States” w/Sarah Murray	
D. Harris & S. Neale’s CUNY Seminar	05.04.16
“Structured Possible Worlds”	
Philosophy Desert Workshop	04.10.16
“Force and Conversational States” w/Sarah Murray	
UC Berkeley Meaning Sciences Club	03.11.16
“Force and Conversational States” w/Sarah Murray	
CMU Differentiating Contents Workshop	12.05.15
“Expressing Choices”	
University of Pittsburgh Colloquium	12.04.15
“Structured Possible Worlds”	
UNAM (Mexico City)	10.02.15
“What is Communication?”	
UCLA	05.11.15
“Imperative Dynamics”	
University of Texas at Austin	03.27.15
“What is Communication?”	
Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science	02.17.15
“The Structure of Communicative Acts” w/Sarah Murray	
Rutgers Semantics Group	02.17.15
“Structured Possible Worlds”	
University of St. Andrews	05.15.14
“Dynamic Expressivism about Deontic Modality”	
<a href="#">Eidyn Conference on Normativity and Modality</a> , Edinburgh	05.09.14
“Communication and Coordination”	
UCLA Semantics Workshop	01.17.14
“The Structure of Communicative Acts” w/Sarah Murray	
<a href="#">New Work on Speech Acts</a> , Columbia University	09.29.13
“The Structure of Communicative Acts”	
<a href="#">PhLip 2014</a>	10.10.13
One Week Graduate Course: “Speech Acts” w/Sarah Murray	

ESSLLI 2013, Heinrich Heine Universität Düsseldorf	08.05.13-
“Dynamic Expressivism about Deontic Modality” USC Deontic Modality Workshop	05.19.13
“Dynamic Expressivism about Deontic Modality” The New York Philosophy of Language Workshop	05.06.13
“Epistemic Modality and the Semantic Enterprise” Rutgers University, Andy Egan’s Grad Seminar	03.15.13
“A Uniform Theory of Conditionals” University of Michigan Philosophy & Linguistics Workshop	12.07.12
“The Structure of Speech Acts” Cornell University Linguistics & Philosophy Workshop	10.21.12
“Comments on Ninan” Rutgers University Semantics Workshop	09.29.12
“The Structure of Possible Worlds” UCLA	05.31.12
“A Preference Semantics for Imperatives” Chicago University	04.12.12
“Semantic Explanation and Abstraction” Washington University, St. Louis	04.05.12
“What <i>If</i> ?” Washington University, St. Louis	04.03.12
“Expressing <i>May</i> and <i>Must</i> ” (Invited) Eastern Division APA	12.27.12
“A Preference Semantics for Imperatives” Cornell University	03.29.11
“Conditionals, Questions & Meaning” University College London	02.19.10
University of Pittsburgh	02.03.10
Cornell University	01.26.10
University of Toronto	01.19.10
University of Western Ontario	01.18.10
University of Chicago	01.12.10

“Conditionals, Questions & Content”	
Rutgers University Center for Cognitive Science	09.10.09
“Conditional Content”	
University of Siena, Italy – Mind & Language Workshop	06.06.09

## Teaching

---

### Cornell

Parental Leave	Spring 2018
Sabbatical	Fall 2017
Introduction to Deductive Logic (Phil 2310)	Spring 2017
Minds & Machines (Phil 2612)	Spring 2017
Ethics of Eating (Phil 1440) w/Andrew Chignell	Fall 2016
Topics in Philosophy of Language: Speech Acts (Phil 4710/6710 and Ling 4712/6634) w/Sarah Murray	Fall 2016
Minds & Machines (Phil 2612)	Spring 2016
Philosophy of Language (Phil 3710/Ling 3332)	Spring 2016
Pro-seminar in Philosophy (Phil 6100) w/Kate Manne	Fall 2015
Topics in Philosophy of Language: Signalling Games, Language and Society (Phil 4710/6710 and Ling 4712/6634)	Fall 2015
Ethics of Eating <a href="#">edX MOOC</a> w/Andrew Chignell	April-May 2015
Estimated enrollment: 10,000 students	
Ethics of Eating (Phil 1440) (University Course) w/A. Chignell	Spring 2015
Minds & Machines (Phil 2612)	Spring 2015
Ethics of Eating (Phil 1440) (University Course) w/A. Chignell	Spring 2014
Philosophy of Language (Phil 3710/Ling 3332)	Spring 2014
Topics in Philosophy of Language: Counterfactuals (Phil 4710/6710 and Ling 4712/6634)	Fall 2013
Pro-seminar (Phil 6100)	Fall 2013
Ethics of Eating (Phil 2411) (Created course, University Course) w/Andrew Chignell	Spring 2013
Minds & Machines (Phil 2612)	Spring 2013

Pro-seminar (Phil 6100)	Fall 2012
Topics in Philosophy of Language: Speech Acts (Phil 4710/6710 and Ling 4712/6634)	Fall 2012
Modality (Phil 6710 / Ling 6634)	Spring 2012
Minds & Machines (Phil 2612) (Created course)	Fall 2011
Introduction to Logic (Phil 2310)	Fall 2011
<b>NYU</b>	
Minds & Machines	Spring 2011
Topics in Mind & Language	Fall 2010

## Institutional Service

---

Graduate Admissions Committee	2018
Graduate Admissions Committee	2017
Cognitive Science Program Steering Committee	2016 –
Discussion Club Organizer	2013 – 2017
Graduate Admissions Committee	2015
Director of Undergraduate Studies	Fall 2014
<i>Logos</i> Advisor	Fall 2014
Standing Committee for Faculty Recruitment	Fall 2013 –
Co-organizer of Cornell Linguistics & Philosophy Workshop	Fall 2011 –
Faculty Co-advisor for Cornell Semantics Group	Fall 2013 –
Department Minutes-Taker	Spring 2013
<i>Philosophical Review</i> Book Review Committee	Spring 2013
<i>Philosophical Review</i> Book Review Committee	Fall 2012
Department Minutes-Taker	Fall 2012
Departmental (Weekly) Workshop Organizer	Fall 2012
Organizing Committee Member of SULA 7 Conference (SULA: Semantics of Underrepresented Languages)	Spring 2012
Departmental eLibrary Coordinator	2011-12
Departmental (Weekly) Workshop Organizer	Spring 2012
<i>Philosophical Review</i> Book Review Committee	Fall 2011

## Committees @ Cornell

---

Bianka Takaoka (Dissertation Co-chair)	2018–
David Fielding (Dissertation Chair)	2013–
Lucia Munguia (Dissertation Chair)	2012–
Yuna Won (Dissertation Chair)	2011–
Eve Galvani	2016–
Elizabeth Southgate	2016–
Frances Fairbairn	2014–
Vivek Matthew	2014–
Thomas Foerster	2013–
Brandon Conley	2013–
Todd Snider	2014-7
Eric Epstein	2012-7
Lu Teng	2013-2016
<i>Assistant Prof. NYU Shanghai</i>	
Amin Nikbin (Philosophy Honors Thesis Chair)	2015-16
<i>Ph.D. Student at UCLA Philosophy</i>	
Nathaniel Baron-Cohen (2nd Reader, Honors Thesis)	2013
<i>Ph.D. Student at MIT Philosophy</i>	
Sadev Parikh (Univ. Scholars Honors Thesis Chair)	2013-14
Jenna Paulson (Philosophy Honors Thesis Co-Chair)	2011-12

## Service to Discipline

---

- Philosophy Desert Workshop Co-organizer (2017-8)
- Referee Work: *Ergo, Linguistics & Philosophy*, *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, Oxford University Press, *Semantics & Pragmatics* (Editorial Board Member), *Philosophical Review* (Editorial Board Member), *Mind*, *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, *Synthese*, *Journal of Semantics*, Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 23-8, Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB) 2, Canadian Philosophical Association '14