

**CURRICULUM VITAE**

**Kenneth A. Taylor**

Professor and Chair

Department of Philosophy

Stanford University

**EDUCATIONAL HISTORY**

University of Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois

Ph.D. 12/84  
Philosophy

Dissertation: "Direct Reference and the Theory of Meaning"

Committee: Leonard Linsky (chair), Josef Stern, William Tait

University of Notre Dame  
Notre Dame, Indiana

A.B. 5/77  
Program of Liberal Studies

**GRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE ACADEMIC HONORS:**

1991-92	Lilly Foundation, Teaching Fellow
1990-91	Ford Foundation, Minority Postdoctoral Fellowship
1989	NEH Summer Seminar for College Teachers
1985-86	Carolina Minority Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
1982-83	Whiting Dissertation Fellowship
1982-83	Dorothy Danforth-Compton Fellowship
1977-81	Danforth Graduate Fellowship

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Institution and Location	Rank	Dates
Stanford University Department of		
Stanford University Department of Philosophy Stanford, CA	Assoc. Prof	7/95- 2004
Rutgers University Department of Philosophy New Brunswick, NJ	Assoc. Prof	7/92-6/95
University of Maryland Department of Philosophy College Park, MD	Asst Prof	8/89-6/92
Wesleyan University	Asst Prof	7/85-6/89

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Department of Philosophy  
Middletown, CT

U. of North Carolina Department of Philosophy Chapel Hill, NC	Postdoc	85-6/86
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Middlebury College Department of Philosophy Middlebury, Vermont	V. Asst Prof V. Instr.	7/84-6/85 9/83-6/84
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### **VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS**

Stanford University Department of Philosophy Stanford, CA		1/94- 6/94
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### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Books**

*Meaning and Truth: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Language.* London: Blackwell Publishers. 1998

*Reference and the Rational Mind,* Stanford: CSLI Publications, 2003

*Referring to the World: An Introduction to the Theory of Reference.* Oxford University Press (forthcoming)

#### **Articles**

"Davidson's Theory of Meaning: Some Questions" *Philosophical Studies* 48 (1985): 91-105

"Belief, Information and Semantic Content: A Naturalist's Lament" *Synthese* 71 (1987) 97-124

"We've Got You Coming and Going" *Linguistics and Philosophy* 11, 4 (1988): 493-513

"Narrow Content Functionalism and the Mind-Body Problem," *Nous* 23 (1989) 355-372

"Supervenience and Levels of Meaning," *Southern Journal of Philosophy* 27 (1989) 443-458

"The Pragmatics of Mode of Reference Selection," *Theories of Demonstratives and Indexicals*, a special issue of *Communication and Cognition*, 26 (1993), 97-126

"Simulation and Eliminative Materialism," *Proceedings of the 16th International Wittgenstein*

*Symposium*, Volume 16(1993): 519-524.

"How Not to Refute Eliminative Materialism," *Philosophical Psychology* Volume 7 (1994): 101-125

"Meaning, Reference, and Cognitive Significance," *Mind and Language*, Vol. 10, (1995): 129-180.

"Same Believers," *Philosophical Issues*, vol 8 (1997): pgs 357-369.

"The Psychology of Direct Reference," *The Maribor Papers in Naturalized Semantics*, pgs 225-242. ed. by Dunja Jutronic. Maribor: University of Maribor Press (1997)

"What in Nature is the Compulsion of Reason?" *Synthese* 122, #1/2 (2000): 209-244.

"Emptiness without Compromise: A Referentialist Semantics for Empty Names." In Hofweber and Everett (eds). *Empty Names, Fiction, and the Puzzles of Non-Existence*. CSLI Publications. 2000: 17-36

"On the Explanatory Limits of Behavioral Genetics," in *Genetic Research and Criminal Behavior: Conceptual, Political, and Ethical Issues*, edited by David Wasserman, et al Cambridge University Press. 2001: 117- 140.

"Sex, Breakfast and Descriptus Interruptus," *Synthese* Volume 128, #1/2, (July 2001): 45-61.

"De Re and De Dicto: Against the Conventional Wisdom." *Philosophical Perspectives*, a supplement to *Nous*, vol. 36, no. s16, (October 2002): 225-265.

"What's in a Name?" In *Reference and the Rational Mind*, CSLI Publications, 2003.

"Toward A Naturalistic theory of Rational Intentionality." In *Reference and the Rational Mind*.

"Singular Beliefs and their Ascriptions." In *Reference and the Rational Mind*.

"The Syntax and Pragmatics of the Naming Relation." In Bianchi (ed.) *The Pragmatics/Semantics Distinction: Proceedings of the Workshop on Context '02*. CSLI Publications, 2004.

"Bullshit and the Foibles of the Human Mind: What the Masters of the Dark Arts Know." In Hardcastle and Reisch (eds.) *Bullshit and Philosophy*. Open Court. 2006.

"Misplaced Subjects and the Illusion of Opacity," in O'Rourke and Washington (eds.) *Situating Semantics: Essays on the Philosophy of John Perry*, MIT Press, 2007.

"Without the Net of Providence: Atheism and the Human Adventure" in *Philosophers without*

*Gods: An Anthology of Original Essays*, Oxford University Press, 2007.

“A Little Sensitivity goes a Long Way.” In Preyer and Peter (eds.), *Content and Context: Essays on Semantics and Pragmatics*, Oxford University Press. 2007.

“Come essere un relativista.” (“How to be a Relativist”) (In Italian). In G. Marchetti (ed.) *La contingenza dei fatti e l'oggettività dei valori* (The Contingency of Facts and the Objectivity of Values)

“Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign!” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (in press)

“Empty Names in Non-Veridical Language Games.” In A. Everett and H. Deutsch (ed.) *Essays on Empty Names*. Oxford University Press. (forthcoming).

“On the Form and Content on Singular Thought.” In Robin Jeshion. (ed.) *Essays on Singular Thought*. Oxford University Press. (forthcoming)

### **Reviews, Critical Notices and Encyclopedia Articles**

"Booknote of Forbes' *The Metaphysics of Modality*" *Ethics* (July 86)

"Review of Devitt and Sterelny, *Language and Reality*," *Philosophical Review* 99, #2 (1990)

"Critical Review of Fodor's *Psychosemantics*," *Nous* v. 24, #1 (1990) 181-84.

"Accommodationist Neo-Russellianism: A Critical Notice of Francois Recanati's *Direct Reference: From Language to Thought*" *Nous* : vol 31: #4 (1997): pg 538-556.

The Philosophy of Language, in the *Online Encyclopedia of Cognitive Science*, MacMillian Publishing. (2002)

"Propositional Attitude Statements," in *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Routledge (1998).

“Critical Notice of Michael Dummett’s *Thought and Reality*” Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews. (forthcoming)

### **RECENT PRESENTATIONS**

"Meaning, Reference, and Cognitive Significance"

University of Cincinnati, Conference on Language and Thought 3/90

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Stanford University 4/91  
Rutgers University 10/91  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor 10/93

"How not to Refute Eliminative Materialism"

Oberlin College 2/90  
Central Michigan University 4/90  
UMBC-Hopkins-UMCP Three College Colloquium 5/90  
San Jose State University 4/91  
Dartmouth College 5/91  
Wesleyan University 4/92  
East Carolina University, 11/93

"What is the Systematicity Argument in Fodor and Pylyshyn?"

American Philosophical Association  
Eastern Division Meeting, 12/90

"Why Semantics Needs Concepts even if Linguistics Doesn't"

- Donald Williams Memorial Conference, 4/93  
University of Maryland, College Park, MD

"Simulation and Eliminative Materialism,"

- 16th Annual Wittgenstein Symposium,  
Kirchberg am Wechsel, Austria 8/93

"Must Intentional Systems Be Rational?"

- East Carolina University, 11/93  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 11/93  
Stanford University, 2/94  
- Conference on Complex Representations: The place of Indicator Semantics in  
Cognitive Science, Virginia Technical University, 3/94  
The Graduate Center, CUNY 10/94  
Temple University. 10/94

"Wittgenstein Meets the Cognitive Science of Common Sense"

- University of Connecticut, Storrs 12/94

"On the Explanatory Limits of Behavioral Genetics,"

Conference on the Genetic Basis of Criminal Behavior, Wye Woods, Maryland 9/95  
University of Maryland, Department of Philosophy, 11/95

"The Psychology of Direct Reference"

Conference on the Methodology of Naturalistic Semantics, Maribor, Slovenia, 6/96

"Same Believers"

9th annual Sofia Conference on Truth, Mexico 6/96

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“Emptiness without Compromise: A Referentialist Semantics for Empty Names”

CSLI Conference on Empty Names, Stanford California, 5/97.

UC Santa Cruz, 10/97.

University of Southern California. 10/99

“ Sex, Breakfast, and Descriptus Interruptus”

Invited Symposium, Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association  
5/99.

"What In Nature is the Compulsion of Reason?"

University of California, San Diego 6/99

“Toward a Naturalistic Theory of Rational Intentionality”

University of New Mexico, 10/2000

UC, Santa Cruz, 4/2003

“What’s in a Name?”

University of California, Irvine 10/2001

10<sup>th</sup> Annual LLC Workshop, Stanford CA 5/01

“De Re and De Dicto: Against the Conventional Wisdom.”

Keynote address, Central Valley Philosophy Association

Fresno State University 4/02

“Syntax and Pragmatics of the Naming Relation”

Workshop on context, University of Genoa, Genoa Italy 10/02

“Singular Beliefs and their Ascriptions.”

Jean Nicod Institute, Paris, France 10/02

“De Re Thinkability and the One-Sideness of Mental Representations: Comments on Kaplan”

Pacific Division of the APA, San Francisco, CA 3/03

“Where Norms Come From: A Naturalistic Approach”

University of British Columbia, April 2004

University of Arizona, Tuscon, AZ. October 2004

Washington University of St. Louis, April 2005

Australian National University, August 2005

Auckland Univeristy, Auckland NZ, August 2005

Wellington University, Wellington NZ, August 2005

“A Little Sensitivity Goes A Long Way”

American Philosophical Association, March 2005.

“Pragmatics Everywhere!”

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Australasian Association of Philosophy. Sydney Australia, July 2005  
Washington University of St. Louis, Conference on Semantics: Empirical and  
Psychological Evidence, April 2005.  
Rutgers University, March 2007

“How to be a Relativist”  
New York University, March 2007

### **DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIPS**

Washington University, St. Louis. Distinguished Visiting Lectureship, October, 2005  
Centenary College, Shreveport Louisiana, Attaway Fellow in Civic Culture, Fall 2007.

### **Professional, University and Departmental Service**

#### **Professional**

Occasional Referee, *Nous*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*,  
*Dialogue*, *Cognitive Science*, *Mind and Language*, *Journal of Pragmatics*, Oxford University  
Press, University of Delaware Press.

Member, American Philosophical Association

Member, APA Committee on Blacks in Philosophy, 1989-92

Member, Society for Philosophy and Psychology

Member, Executive Committee of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 1991-94

Organizer, Conference on "Mind, Meaning, and Nature", Wesleyan University Spring 1989

Co-Chair, Programming Committee, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 1993 Annual  
Meeting

Local Arrangements Coordinator for the 25th Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and  
Psychology held at Stanford University, June '99.

Member, Program Committee, Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association,  
2000- 2002

Member, APA Committee on Lectures, Publications and Research, 2001-2004

#### **University Committees:**

Deans Curriculum Advisory Committee 1996/97- 98/99, 03/04.

Committee for Cognitive Science at CSLI 95/96, Chair 96/97 - 99/00

Committee on Libraries, 96/97 - 98/99

Humanities Center Fellow Selection Committee, 97/98 and 01/02

Advisory Committee for the Selection of Presidential Endowed Chairs, 97/98.

Faculty Advisory Committee to CSLI, 99/00.

Member, Diversity Action Council, subcommittee on faculty diversity. 2001 – 2002  
Member, Humanities Center, Advisory Board, 2003 – 2006.  
Member, H & S Policy, Planning, Advisory Committee, 2005-2006  
Member, H & S Appointments and Promotions Committee, 2006-2007

**Departmental Service and Committees:**

Member, Search Committee, Philosophy of Science 95/96  
Chair, Search Committee, History of Modern Philosophy, 96/97  
Chair, Search Committee, History of Modern Philosophy, 97/98  
Member, M&E Search Committee 97/98-98-99  
Member, Placement Committee, 96/97, 97/98, 98/99  
Liason to Symbolic Systems Program 97/98 -99/00  
Steering Committee, Symbolic Systems 98/99, 00/01  
Graduate Committee, 97/98, 98/99  
Director of Undergraduate Studies, 99/00  
Department Chair, 2001 – present (on leave 2004-2005)



Truth is one of the central subjects in philosophy. It is also one of the largest. Truth has been a topic of discussion in its own right for thousands of years. Moreover, a huge variety of issues in philosophy relate to truth, either by relying on theses about truth, or implying theses about truth. 6.5 The coherence theory and meaning. 6.6 Truth and assertion. Bibliography. According to the correspondence theory as sketched here, what is key to truth is a relation between propositions and the world, which obtains when the world contains a fact that is structurally similar to the proposition. Though this is not the theory Moore and Russell held, it weaves together ideas of theirs with a more modern take on (structured) propositions. Reference and the Rational Mind (Lecture Notes). Kenneth A. Taylor. Hardcover. \$75.00. Meaning Diminished: Toward Metaphysically Modest Semantics. Kenneth A. Taylor. Hardcover. \$45.54. "This is a first-rate introduction to the topics and philosophers it covers, from Frege through theories of truth to intentional semantics, the metaphysics of modality, translation, language in action, speech acts, and more. The book is well-written, clear, accessible, and thorough. Many students will be stimulated to explore the issues further, and will have a solid base from which to do so." John F. Post, Vanderbilt University. Read more. From the Back Cover. This lucid and wide-ranging volume constitutes a self-contained introduction to the elements and key issues of the philosoph...