# Oppressive Speech, Societies & Norms

## Norms & Institutions: Game Theory
### 3-4 Dec 2020

José Luis Bermudez
Andrea Borghini
Justin Bruner
Francesco Guala
Christoph Hesse
Roland Mühlenbernd
Cailin O'Connor
Mihaela Popa-Wyatt
Kevin Zollman

## Norms & Practices: Speech Acts & Conversational Dynamics
### 25-26 March

Nicholas Asher
Stephen Barker
David Beaver
Claudia Bianchi
Elisabeth Camp
Laura Caponetto
Johnathan Ginsburg
Julie Hunter
Mary Kate McGowan
Mihaela Popa-Wyatt
Gillian Russell
Jason Stanley
Lynne Tirrell

Speech can be used to change societies in bad ways. It supports institutional oppression, establishes new oppressive norms, silences opponents, spreads disinformation and propagates feelings of hate. Online communities magnify the effects of individual speech acts. We'll look at social norms and institutions, silencing and free speech, social meaning, norm-shifting and disinformation. We'll seek answers to how oppressive speech works and how to defend against it.

Please **register** on eveeno

**Registration closes 3 days before each event**

Source project: The Marie Skłodowska-Curie action - How Language is Used to Oppress (HaLO)
More information on the ZAS-website

## Silencing, Speaking up & Free Speech.
### 28-29 Jan

Louise Antony
Saray Ayala-López
Elisabeth Camp
Bianca Cepollaro
Sanford Goldberg
Rae Langton
Ishani Maitra
Mihaela Popa-Wyatt
Robert Simpson
Alessandra Tanesini

## Social Meaning & Semantics/Pragmatics
### 18-19 Feb

Anton Benz
Michael Franke
Robin Jeshion
Justin Khoo
Elin McCready
Roland Mühlenbernd
David Pietraszewski
Uli Sauerland
Eric Swanson
Julia Zakkou

## Disinformation, Epistemic Vices & Online Harm
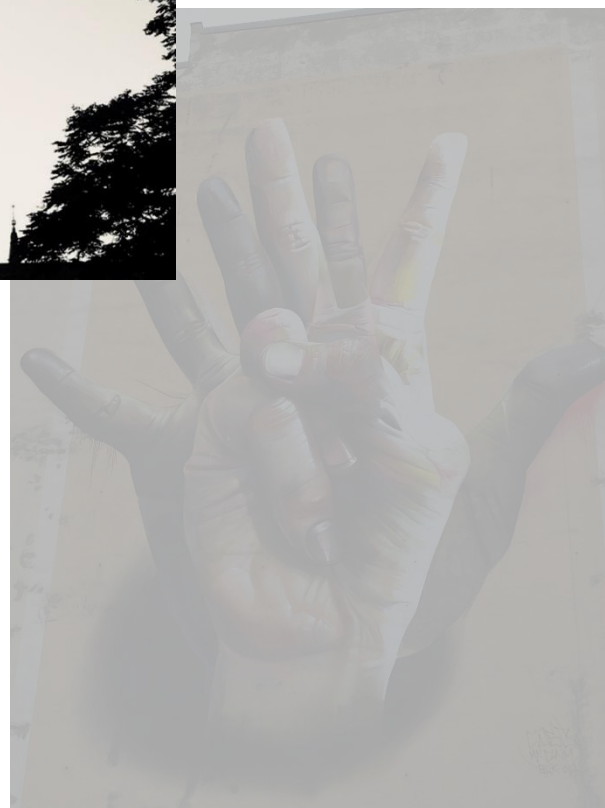### 6-7 May

Quassim Cassam
Raymond Drainville
Anastasia Kozyreva
Manfred Krifka
Stephan Lewandowsky
Michael Lynch
Cailin O'Connor
Mihaela Popa-Wyatt
Jennifer Saul
Tatjana Scheffler
Veronika Solopova
Alessandra Tanesini

# Day 1 Social Norms & Institutions: Game Theory

December 3, 2020

**Link to eveeno**

| | |
|---|---|
| 13:55 14:00 | Welcome |
| 14:00 15:00 | Andrea Borghini: Fat Shaming and Social Norms |
| | 10 min break |
| 15:10 16:10 | Roland Mühlenbernd: (UN)Fairness and Bargaining Games |
| | 10 min break |
| 16:20 17:20 | Mihaela Popa-Wyatt: Oppressive Speech Shifts Norms in Negotiation Games |
| | 10 min break |
| 17:30 18:30 | Justin Bruner: Social norms in Epistemology (9:30 am MST) |
| | 10 min break |
| 18:40 19:40 | Cailin O'Connor: Measuring Conventionality (9:40 am PST) |
| 19:40 20:40 | Optional round-table discussion |

**Fat Shaming and Social Norms**

**Speaker: Andrea Borghini (Università degli Studi di Milano)**
2:00 pm CET

In this talk I discuss how mechanisms of reinforcement and peer pressure can serve to foster fat shaming and hinder body positivity.

**(UN)Fairness and Bargaining Games**

**Speaker: Roland Mühlenbernd (ZAS Berlin)**
3:10 pm CET

Unfairness emerges in bargaining games under a variety of conditions. Two such conditions are: (i) the Red King effect produces advantage in favor of members of the larger group; (ii) the bargaining power effect produces advantage in favor of the group with more powerful individuals. We explore ways of mitigating unfairness by exploring the relationship between signals, power and the emergence of fair or unfair norms. We show how (i)-(ii) can be reduced when we allow relationships between unobservable and observable traits (or signals).

**Oppressive Speech Shifts Norms in Negotiation Games**

**Speaker: Mihaela Popa-Wyatt (ZAS Berlin)**
4:20 pm CET

Hate speech causes harm not just in a single conversation, but also in the wider social context. It does so by intimidating members of the target group other than the individual target and encouraging receptive audience members to imitate the speech and shift their attitudes. We see every day how hate spreads and attitudes change in communities, both online and in the real world. In this talk, I will show how the norm shifting effect of slurring utterances on a society can be modelled and simulated. I study a societal Nash demand game in which agents bid for resources. The results show that slurring causes norm shifting to happen much more quickly and to change the balance of resources between two groups.

**Social norms in Epistemology**

    **Speaker: Justin Bruner (University of Arizona)**
    5:30 pm CET | 9:30 am MST

David Henderson and Peter Graham have recently argued that theorizing in social epistemology can benefit from the social-scientific study of social norms.  In this talk we explore this claim with special focus on the case of assertions.

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**Measuring Conventionality**

    **Speaker: Cailin O'Connor (UC Irvine)**
    6:40 pm CET | 9:40 am PST

Standard accounts of convention include notions of arbitrariness. But many have conceived of conventionality as an all or nothing affair. In this paper, I develop a framework for thinking of conventions as coming in degrees of arbitrariness. In doing so, I introduce an information theoretic measure intended to capture the degree to which a solution to a certain social problem could have been otherwise.  As the paper argues, this framework can help improve explanation aimed at the cultural evolution of social traits. Good evolutionary explanations recognize that most functional traits are also conventional, at least to some degree, and vice versa.

# Day 2 Social Norms & Institutions: Game Theory

December 4, 2020

**Link to** eveeno

| | |
|---|---|
| 13:55 14:00 | Welcome |
| 14:00 15:00 | Francesco Guala: Are Institutions Conventions? The Case of Marriage |
| | 10 min break |
| 15:10 16:10 | Christoph Hesse: Gaslighting and dynamic update of bargaining power |
| | 10 min break |
| 16:20 17:20 | Kevin Zollman: Conformity, social networks, and the emergence of pluralistic ignorance (10:20 am EST) |
| | 10 min break |
| 17:30 18:30 | José Luis Bermudez: Framing in game theory: the "I"-frame VS "we"-frame (10:30 am CST) |
| 18:30 19:30 | Optional round-table discussion |

**Are Institutions Conventions? The Case of Marriage**

> **Speaker: Francesco Guala (Università degli Studi di Milano)**
> 2:00 pm CET

Debates on gay marriage have brought to the fore interesting issues of social ontology. The view that institutions are entrenched conventions or practices, for example, has been used by conservative scholars to argue against the extension of the term 'marriage' to non-heterosexual unions. I argue that such arguments are based on an equivocation between institution-types and -tokens. While institution-tokens are conventional solutions to coordination problems, institution-types are not. This, in turn, makes it legitimate to consider non-heterosexual unions as instances of marriage.

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**Gaslighting and dynamic update of bargaining power**

> **Speaker: Christoph Hesse (ZAS Berlin)**
> 3:10 pm CET

Gaslighting is the deliberate manipulation of the beliefs of others about their own epistemic state of mind in order to cause a change in the victim's behavior. It is a form of psychological manipulation. Among other things, gaslighting can be used to force the perpetrator's own views on their victim by way of the victim's engaging in self-censorship. Gaslighting avoids open confrontation and as such subverts the societal visibility of ideological, cultural, religious, intellectual or other belief disagreements. Language is the primary tool of the gaslighter in manipulating their victim's belief states. In this talk I discuss gaslighting as one aspect of oppressive speech and systemic oppression. I present multi-agent Nash demand simulations building on the work by Bruner (2019) and O'Connor (2019), but extend them by gaslighting, i.e. dynamic updates of agents' beliefs about their bargaining power on every interaction with other agents. The simulations explore several factors driving gaslighting and systemic oppression, e.g., two societal groups competing for resources in the Nash demand game, agents being able to pass out rewards or punishments to other agents by way of altering their bargaining power, not all agents following the same cultural norms, and interactive belief updates. Simulation results suggest that precisely because gaslighting is a socially less visible form of oppression, checks and balances imposed to counteract or prevent oppression fail because victimized agents start behaving submissively

seemingly of their own accord. Even when societal groups start with the same bargaining power, if gaslighting is left unchecked, it can lead to one group being more disadvantaged than the other, similar to overt oppression.

Bruner, J. (2019). Minority (dis) advantage in population games. Synthese, 196(1), 413–427.
O'Connor, C., Bright, L. K., & Bruner, J. P. (2019). The emergence of intersectional disadvantage. Social Epistemology, 33(1), 23–41.

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**Conformity, social networks, and the emergence of pluralistic ignorance**

**Speaker: Kevin Zollman (Carnegie Mellon University)**
4:20 pm CET | 10:20 am EST

Occasionally, people refuse to publicly state their beliefs because they think others disagree. Others do in fact share their belief, but are also afraid to speak out for similar reasons. No one is speaking out and as a result, the false group belief persists; each member thinks they believe differently from one another. This phenomenon, known as pluralistic ignorance, is puzzling for many reasons. In this talk, I will use a new computer simulation model for the emergence of pluralistic ignorance to discover under what situations we might expect it to arise. Ultimately, I conclude that pluralistic ignorance requires relatively special conditions to arise. In particular, I argue that pluralistic ignorance will only arise in conditions where individual's beliefs are shifting for other reasons.

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**Framing in game theory: the "I"-frame VS "we"-frame**

**Speaker: José Luis Bermudez (Texas A&M University)**
5:30 pm CET | 10:30 am CST

This talk explores two different perspectives for framing the costs and benefits of social interactions, showing how they can be modeled within game theory.

# Theme 1: Social Norms & Institutions: Game Theory

## Thursday, 3 December

| 13:55-14:00 | Welcome |
|---|---|
| 14:00-15:00 | Andrea Borghini: Fat Shaming and Social Norms |
| | 10 min break |
| 15:10-16:10 | Roland Mühlenbernd: (UN)Fairness and Bargaining Games |
| | 10 min break |
| 16:20-17:20 | Mihaela Popa-Wyatt: Oppressive Speech Shifts Norms in Negotiation Games |
| | 10 min break |
| 17:30-18:30 | Justin Bruner: Social Norms in Epistemology (9:30 am MST) |
| | 10 min break |
| 18:40-19:40 | Cailin O'Connor: Measuring Conventionality (9:40 am PST) |
| 19:40-20:40 | Optional round-table discussion |

## Friday, 4 December

| 13:55-14:00 | Welcome |
|---|---|
| 14:00-15:00 | Francesco Guala: Are Institutions Conventions? The Case of Marriage |
| | 10 min break |
| 15:10-16:10 | Christoph Hesse: Gaslighting and dynamic update of bargaining power |
| | 10 min break |
| 16:20-17:20 | Kevin Zollman: "Conformity, social networks, and the emergence of pluralistic ignorance" (10:20 am EST) |
| | 10 min break |
| 17:30-18:30 | José Luis Bermudez: Framing in game theory: "I"-frame VS "we"-frame (10:30 am CST) |
| 18:30-19:30 | Optional round-table discussion |

# Theme 2: Silencing, Speaking up & Free Speech

## Thursday, 28 January

| 13:55-14:00 | Welcome |
|---|---|
| 14:00-15:00 | Bianca Cepollaro: Remedies to discriminatory contents: on and offline counterspeech |
|  | 10 min break |
| 15:10-16:10 | Alessandra Tanesini (2:10 pm GMT) |
|  | 10 min break |
| 16:20-17:20 | Elisabeth Camp: Just Kidding: Sarcasm, Jokes and Willful Deniability in Speech (10:20 am EST) |
|  | 10 min break |
| 17:30-18:30 | Sanford Goldberg: How Silence Sometimes "Speaks" (10:20 am CST) |
|  | 10 min break |
| 18:40-19:40 | Saray Ayala-López: Contestation and Resistance (9:30 am PST) |
| 19:40-20:40 | Optional round-table discussion |

## Friday, 29 January

| 13:55-14:00 | Welcome |
|---|---|
| 14:00-15:00 | Robert Simpson: Heckling, Free Speech, and Free Association (1:00 pm GMT) |
|  | 10 min break |
| 15:10-16:10 | Rea Langton (2:10 am GMT) |
|  | 10 min break |
| 16:20-17:20 | Mihaela Popa-Wyatt: On Resistance and Social Change |
|  | 10 min break |
| 17:30-18:30 | Ishani Maitra: tbd (11:30 am EST) |
|  | 10 min break |
| 18:40-19:40 | Louise Antony: Free Speech: It's Not Just for Liberals Anymore (12:40 am EST) |
| 19:40-20:40 | Optional round-table discussion |

# Theme 3: Social Meaning & Semantics/Pragmatics of Harmful Speech

## Thursday, 18 February

| 13:55-14:00 | Welcome |
|---|---|
| 14:00-15:00 | Elin McCready: Invoking Gender (11:00 pm JST) |
| | 10 min break |
| 15:10-16:10 | Julia Zakkou: "Real" and "True" |
| | 10 min break |
| 16:20-17:20 | David Pietraszewski: Understanding oppressive speech through the lens of humans' evolved coalitional psychology |
| | 10 min break |
| 17:30-18:30 | Eric Swanson: If You See Something, Say Something: On the Dynamics of Deniable Possibility Raising.   (8:30 am PST) |
| | 10 min break |
| 18:40-19:40 | Robin Jeshion: What's Wrong with Slurs (9:40 am PST) |
| 19:40-20:40 | Optional round-table discussion |

## Friday, 19 February

| 13:55-14:00 | Welcome |
|---|---|
| 14:00-15:00 | Anton Benz: Precision and Vagueness: Social meaning in Bayesian games |
| | 10 min break |
| 15:10-16:10 | Uli Sauerland: The division of socio-emotive and logical meaning from the meaning first perspective |
| | 10 min break |
| 16:20-17:20 | Michael Franke: Modeling manipulative language use |
| | 10 min break |
| 17:30-18:30 | Roland Mühlenbernd: Politeness and Reputation |
| | 10 min break |
| 18:40-19:40 | Justin Khoo: Speaker meaning, social meaning, and textual interpretation (12:40 pm EST) |
| 19:40-20:40 | Optional round-table discussion |

# Theme 4: Practices & Norms: Speech Acts, Conversational Dynamics

## Thursday, March 25

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|---|---|
| 13:55-14:00 | Welcome |
| 14:00-15:00 | Laura Caponetto: Accommodated Authority: Flipping Langton's Picture |
| | 10 min break |
| 15:10-16:10 | Jonathan Ginsburg & Mihaela Popa-Wyatt: Conversational Spillover Dynamics |
| | 10 min break |
| 16:20-17:20 | Stephen Barker: Slurs and Conventional Implicature: The Power of Presupposition (3:20 pm GMT) |
| | 10 min break |
| 17:30-18:30 | Mary Kate McGowan: Oppressive Speech and Accommodation: On the Role of Interlocutors (12:30 pm EDT) |
| | 10 min break |
| 18:40-19:40 | Gillian Russell: Social Spheres (1:40 pm EDT) |
| 19:40-20:40 | Optional round-table discussion |

## Friday, March 26

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|---|---|
| 12:45-12:50 | Welcome |
| 12:50-13:50 | Manfred Krifka: The marking and effects of assertoric strength |
| | 10 min break |
| 14:00-15:00 | Nicholas Asher & Julie Hunter: tba |
| | 10 min break |
| 15:10-16:10 | Claudia Bianchi: Dangerous Liaisons: The Pragmatics of Sexual Negotiation |
| | 10 min break |
| 16:20-17:20 | Elisabeth Camp: Framing and Looping; Solidarity and Resistance (11:20 pm EDT) |
| | 10 min break |
| 17:30-18:30 | Lynne Tirrell: Discursive Epidemiology (12:30 am EDT) |
| | 10 min break |
| 18:40-19:40 | David Beaver & Jason Stanley: Oppressive Resonance (12:40 pm CDT, 1:40 pm EDT) |
| 19:40-20:40 | Optional round-table discussion |

# Theme 5: Disinformation, Epistemic Vices & Online Harm

## Thursday, May 6

| 14:55-15:00 | Welcome |
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| 15:00-16:00 | Alessandra Tanesini: Arrogance and Anger on Social Networking Sites (2:00 pm BST) |
|  | 10 min break |
| 16:10-17:10 | Quassim Cassam: Disinformation, Narratives and Radicalization (3:10 pm BST) |
|  | 10 min break |
| 17:20-18:20 | Anastasia Kozyreva & Ralph Hertwig: Psychology of disinformation and cognitive tools against online manipulation |
|  | 10 min break |
| 18:30-19:30 | Cailin O'Connor: Retraction in Scientific Networks (9:30 am PDT) |
| 19:30-20:30 | Optional round-table discussion |

## Friday, May 7

| 13:55-14:00 | Welcome |
| --- | --- |
| 14:00-15:00 | Stephan Lewandrosky: The Knowledge Dementors (1:00 pm BST) |
|  | 10 min break |
| 15:10-16:10 | Mihaela Popa-Wyatt, Tatjana Scheffler, Veronika Solopova: Online Harm |
|  | 10 min break |
| 16:20-17:20 | Ray Drainville & Jennifer Saul: Visual and Linguistic Dogwhistles (3:20 pm BST) |
|  | 10 min break |
| 17:30-18:30 | Michael Lynch: Social Media, Conspiracy and Bald-Faced Lies (11:30 am EDT) |
| 18:30-19:30 | Optional round-table discussion |