

Department of Philosophy: Graduate Seminar Series

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“Lack of Value Speech
Represented”

Speech acts are the actions we perform in saying. I will call speech acts that show appreciation, gratitude, and praise value speech. Thanking and congratulating are two of the most common ways of performing value speech. The focus of this paper will be the cases in which value speech is missing because of underlying oppressive, unjust, and discriminatory norms and stereotypes. I will take such occurrences as the cases of lack of value speech and argue that lack of value speech has a degrading effect on the non-receiver's social location by undermining their agency, work, effort, or the importance of the events that happened to them. Such degradation of social location affects conversational dynamics and our social, linguistic, and epistemic practices. To be able to provide an account of value speech and the lack of it, I will argue that value speech and the lack of value speech can change the discourse context, specifically the conversational score.

December 6
4-6pm
HIB 55