

Abstract and Author Bio

Abstract

Communication and Content presents a comprehensive and foundational account of meaning based on new versions of situation theory and game theory. The literal and implied meanings of an utterance are derived from first principles assuming little more than the partial rationality of interacting agents. New analyses of a number of diverse phenomena—a wide notion of ambiguity encompassing phonetics, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and beyond, vagueness, convention and conventional meaning, Frege’s puzzle of informative identities, semantic change, translation, and definitions of communication, speaker meaning, and reference—are developed. Frege’s context and compositional principles are generalized and reconciled in a fixed point principle and a detailed critique of Grice and some aspects of the Romantic conception of meaning are offered.

The book will be of interest to scholars in philosophy, linguistics, artificial intelligence, and cognitive science. It should also interest readers in related fields like literary and art criticism and those involved in applications of game theory to other fields.

Author Bio

Prashant Parikh was a Senior Research Scholar at Stanford University and the University of Pennsylvania. Now an independent scholar, he is a pioneer in the application of game theory to communication and meaning, and the author of two influential books on philosophical semantics and a co-authored prize-winning book on architecture and choice theory. He studied at MIT and Stanford University in the 1970s and 1980s.

Please note: This bio will most likely need to be updated as I am likely to be affiliated with Stanford University in Fall 2019.