

# INSTITUT FÜR PHILOSOPHIE HUMBOLDT-KOLLOQUIUM



I received my PhD from the University of Chicago and I am now an Assistant Professor at the National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow. My research interests focus on the history of analytic philosophy and its relevance for contemporary philosophy of language, thought, and logic. I also have an active interest in ethics.

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### PROPOSITIONAL COMPLEXITY AND THE FREGE-GEACH POINT

It is almost universally accepted that the Frege-Geach Point is necessary for explaining the inferential relations and compositional structure of truth-functionally complex propositions. I argue that this claim rests on a disputable view of propositional structure, which models truth-functionally complex propositions on atomic propositions. I propose an alternative view of propositional structure, based on the notion of simulation, which accounts for the relevant phenomena without accepting the Frege-Geach Point. The view makes room for the idea that there is no such thing as the forceless expression of propositional contents and is attractive because it provides the resources for avoiding a fundamental problem generated by the Frege-Geach Point concerning the relation between forceless and forceful expressions of propositional contents. The view I propose is also made plausible by independent considerations about the behavior of truth-functional connectives. I further argue that the acceptance of the Frege-Geach Point mars Peter Hanks' and François Recanati's recent attempts to resist the widespread idea that assertoric force is extrinsic to the expression of propositional contents. Rejecting this idea, I maintain, requires a deeper break with the tradition than Hanks and Recanati have allowed for.

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