

Report on the outcomes of a Short-Term Scientific Mission¹

Action number: CA17132

Grantee name: Marcin Lewinski

Details of the STSM

Title: **Negotiating authority in public discourse**

Start and end date: 01/09/2022 to 25/09/2022

Description of the work carried out during the STSM

Description of the activities carried out during the STSM. Any deviations from the initial working plan shall also be described in this section.

This was an extremely fruitful research period, in terms of the academic reading and writing done by me (the grantee). Apart from the individual research work, as planned in the original application, I carried out professional meetings with the members of the Faculty of Philosophy specializing in the area of research relevant to the current STSM and broader objectives of the Action:

With Professor Rae Langton (Host of the STSM), I discussed in some detail:

- the work of David Lewis on accommodation, and accommodation of authority in public discourse in particular;
- the way the sphere of permissibility for the actions of the hearers moves as “soft” authoritative speech acts such as advising are performed;
- the role of third parties in the authority dynamics of public discourse;
- the notion of felicity conditions for speech acts: how J.L. Austin’s misfires and abuses demarcate two different senses for a “good” speech act; in particular an advice can be “abusive” if it doesn’t attend to the well-being of the advisee or turns out to harm her;
- the difference between (perceived) credibility and (actual) expertise of public experts.

With Dr. Lucy McDonald, I discussed:

¹ This report is submitted by the grantee to the Action MC for approval and for claiming payment of the awarded grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator coordinates the evaluation of this report on behalf of the Action MC and instructs the GH for payment of the Grant.

- The notion of uptake in public discourse: who is in a position to interpret a given speech act as a speech act of a determinate type;
- The issue of the first-person authority in determining the meaning and force of speech acts;
- The cooperative and dyadic nature of communication.

With Dr Laura Caponetto:

- The various ways in which “authoritative” speech acts can be challenged: annulled, retracted, amended, or “bent” to block or otherwise defuse their authoritative and even abusive character.

Apart from that, I have arranged to meet:

- Prof. Kasia Jaszczolt, Linguistics, University of Cambridge
- Prof. Alexander Bird, Philosophy, University of Cambridge
- Dr. Dan Williams, Philosophy, University of Cambridge
- Hilary Gaskin, the Cambridge University Press’s commissioning editor in philosophy

Using the resources of the University of Cambridge library, both digital and traditional, I have accessed and read texts (both articles and books) unavailable at my home institution (NOVA University Lisbon).

All these meetings and activities contribute significantly to the Action’s overall objectives, and in particular to the Capacity Building objectives 1 and 2 focused on knowledge transfers and knowledge exchanges, this including transfers between top universities such as Cambridge and institutions in the ITCs such as NOVA University Lisbon.

Description of the STSM main achievements and planned follow-up activities

Description and assessment of whether the STSM achieved its planned goals and expected outcomes, including specific contribution to Action objective and deliverables, or publications resulting from the STSM. Agreed plans for future follow-up collaborations shall also be described in this section.

I have fully implemented the work plan and delivered the concrete outputs of the STSM, as stipulated in the original STSM application. Namely:

- Based on the work done during the STSM I delivered a presentation on “Norms of public arguments and public speech acts” at the 4th European Conference on Argumentation in Rome, 28-30 September 2022.
- I have collaborated with the Dr. Laura Caponetto on the Special Issue of the “TOPOI” journal, “Norms of public argument: A speech act perspective”, where I (Marcin Lewinski) am the Chief Guest Editor and a co-author of a paper, and Dr. Caponetto is a peer-reviewer. The paper, as well introduction to the special issue co-written by me will be published in March 2023.
- I also submitted the final proofs of a book, “Argumentation in Complex Communication: Managing Disagreement in a Polylogue” to be published by the Cambridge University Press in December 2022. Proximity of the CUP has much facilitated the timely delivery of this output (COST Association and CA1732 are explicitly acknowledged in the Preface to the book).

In terms of future collaborations, I have been invited to take part in one-day workshop at the University of Cambridge, which is a direct output of the STSM:

Workshop on Speech Acts: Between Philosophy and Linguistics, October 27th, 2022

Cynthia Beerbower room at Newnham College, University of Cambridge, UK

Chair: Laura Caponetto (Cambridge)

9.30-10.30 Kasia Jaszczolt (Cambridge), ‘Semanticizing Speech Acts’

10.30-11.30 Marcin Lewinski (IFILNOVA, Lisbon), ‘Negotiating Authority in Public Discourse: The Case of Advising’

11.30-12.30 Mireia Cabanes-Calabuig (Cambridge), 'Lexical Expressives in Communication: Routes Beyond Expressive Speech Acts'

12.30-2 Lunch

Chair: Lucy McDonald (Cambridge)

2-3 Leo Townsend (Vienna), 'The Felicity Conditions of Speaking for Groups'

3-4 Anna Klieber (Cardiff), 'How to Do Things with Silence'

4-4.30 Break

4.30-5.30 Rae Langton (Cambridge), 'How to Get a Norm from a Speech Act by Accommodation'

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/speech-acts-between-philosophy-and-linguistics-tickets-433493018287>

I have also received an invitation to participate in the bi-weekly meeting of the **Meaning Reading Group** organized by the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Cambridge.

Finally, Dr. McDonald and Dr. Caponetto will likely collaborate on future special issues of the TOPOI journal, with the academic work directly related to the goals and objectives of the current STSM. Dr. McDonald is also invited to give a talk at the NOVA University in Lisbon on December 16, 2022.