

ABSTRACT

Samantha Wakil: Explication for Engineering.
(Under the direction of Ram Neta)

The conservative idea that it is a philosopher's job to clarify common sense beliefs about ordinary concepts is being weeded out from the population and replaced by a revisionist agenda: philosophers should not merely describe but analyze and suggest ways to improve our concepts. This project is called "conceptual engineering". The conceptual engineering literature is growing rapidly as more philosophers are deciding to do normative conceptual work. But there is a hole in the literature threatening philosophical progress. The problem is that many philosophers are practicing conceptual engineering untethered to an explicit methodology. Analyses addressing how we *should* engineer a concept and what *should* be considered successful are scarce. The thesis of this dissertation is that Carnapian Explication solves this methodological deficiency.