

**N.B.: The published version of my dissertation, without all the distracting and laughable tableau that were in the filed version, may be found elsewhere. Here, I just provide the acknowledgments. These were wonderful times for me. UCLA was fantastic.**

## **Acknowledgments**

My mother loves telling the story of how, in 1986, soon after I returned to Shanghai, fresh from hitch-hiking through the mountains of Guizhou and Yunnan, she was standing in the driveway one day talking with Barry and Donca, listening to them tell her how if I like Chinese and the minority regions so much, I should maybe study linguistics, and they mentioned UCLA in particular as a department that might suit my interests. "Maybe you two want to study that crazy stuff, but why on earth do you think Danny would want to?" she thought to herself behind her polite smile...

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