

# Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies

---

## *2016–2017 Membership*

Jay Garfield, chair & newsletter editor (2017)

Brian J. Bruya, associate chair (2017)

Amy Donahue (2017)

Jonathan Y. Tsou (2017)

Manyul Im (2018)

Ethan Mills (2018)

Jason Chen (2019)

Hanti Lin (2019)

Prasanta S. Bandyopadhyay, newsletter editor

---

Jay L. Garfield FAHA  
Doris Silbert Professor in the Humanities  
Department of Philosophy  
Smith College  
Northampton, Massachusetts 01063  
T (413) 585-3649 F (413) 585-3710  
[jgarfield@smith.edu](mailto:jgarfield@smith.edu)  
1 May 2017

**Annual Report of the American Philosophical Association  
Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophies and Philosophers  
2016-2017**

**From:** Jay L. Garfield FAHA, Chair, Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophies and Philosophers

**To:** Amy Ferrer, Executive Director, American Philosophical Association

**CC:** Brian Bruya, Associate Chair, Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophies and Philosophers

The APA Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophies and Philosophers sponsored panels at each of the APA divisional meetings, published its newsletter, and moved forward on an initiative to sponsor a book table displaying recently published books on Asian and Asian-American philosophy and by Asian and Asian-American philosophers to increase the salience of this work and to inform those who may wish to extend their professional or teaching competence in this direction. This report will mark a transition in the chairpersonship of the committee.

At the Eastern Division meeting, we sponsored a session on Chinese Skepticism. Zachary Garettenberg organised and chaired the panel, which focused on the *Zhuangzi*. Julianne Chung, Alexis McLeod and Bryan Van Norden presented papers, with Eric Schwitzgebel as commentator. The panel, bringing together relatively early career researchers and established scholars, attracted a good audience.

At the Central Division meeting we sponsored two sessions on the practice of Asian philosophy, and one systematic session. The first two included a session on the status of Asian philosophy and a session on incorporating Asian philosophy into pedagogy and public philosophy. We also held a session on classical Indian epistemology. The session on the status of Asian philosophy focused on broadening the vision of philosophy in the profession. Leah Kalmason, Rika Dupal, Meilin Chinn and Amy Donahue presented papers that addressed curricular change, the incorporation of Japanese philosophy into our teaching, and the role of philosophy in multicultural education. The session on pedagogy featured Julianne Chung, Anna Lannstrom, Ethan Mills and Anand Jayprakash Vaidya. Their talks concerned how to teach and to popularize Asian texts and the practice of teaching Asian philosophy in the prisons.

It is important that committee presents panels that address these curricular and pedagogical issues in order to inform our colleagues regarding the importance of Asian philosophy in the curriculum, and to show them how to extend their vision of the field. It might be a good idea for the programs in the future to highlight panels devoted to pedagogical and curricular issues to make them more salient to conference participants, including not only our sessions, but all sessions addressing such topics.

The session on classical Indian epistemology was organized and chaired by Prasanta Bandyopadhyay. Nilanjan Das and Birdie Kushner gave talks on topics in Buddhist epistemology. Ethan Mills, Anand Jayprakash Vaidya and Amit Chaturvedi addressed issues arising in the orthodox traditions and in dialogues between Orthodox and Buddhist traditions. It was nice to see such a broad look at topics in Indian epistemology.

We sponsored two sessions at the Pacific Division meetings. The first was on the nonexistent, and was organized by Alexis McLeod. Laura Guerrero, Julianne Chungg and Anand Jayprakash Vaidya presented papers on fictionalism in Daoist, Nyāya and Buddhist traditions. The papers were beautifully connected, and showed how fictionalism can be deployed across these traditions and the difficulties that strategy entails. Jay L Garfield commented.

Our second session at this Pacific Division meetings was on the current status of Asian-American philosophers. Jonathan Tsou organized the session, which included talks by Jonathan himself, as well as by Audrey Yap Meena Krishnamurthy and Hanti Lin. Thien-Tin Le and Michelle Pham commented. This was a very well-attended session that raised a number of important issues for Asian-American philosophers in the profession, and occasioned lively conversation. One panelist was unable to attend in person. She presented and participated in discussion via Skype, and this went remarkably well. The device of dual commentators also worked well to stimulate discussion.

I am particularly pleased that of our six conference panels, three addressed systematic philosophical issues, and three addressed issues connected to our professional lives, curriculum and pedagogy. I am also pleased that we had a nice balance between South and East Asian topics. On the other hand, I worry that we had a number of repeat presenters. We need to broaden our base of panelists more in the future, while retaining the breadth of our offerings.

We are also hoping to staff a book table at the Eastern Division meetings this year that would display a wide range of books published in the past two or three years on Asian philosophy and by Asian and Asian-American philosophers. The table will collect books from multiple publishers and will be staffed by a philosopher who can help those interested to locate resources for research and teaching in Asian philosophy.

Prasanta Bandyopadhyay and Matthew Dasti continue to do a magnificent job editing the *APA Newsletter on Asian and Asian American Philosophy and Philosophies*. Our Fall 2016 issue was devoted to Indian philosophy and comprised the following articles: "The Alternative Voice against War in *Gita*," by Ram Majhi; "East Meets East: Jain Syadvada and Daoism," by Saam Trivedi; "Layers of Self-Consciousness," by Manidipa Sen, "The Nature of Resemblance: Some Indian Views," Prabal Kumar Sen and "The Practice of Textual Interpretation in Indian Tradition," Anindya Bandyopadhyay. The Spring 2017 issue will

focus on East Asian material. The *Newsletter* has been attracting very good articles, and is becoming an important venue for the publication of research in Asian philosophy. Its editors are to be commended.

Amy Donahue and Jonathan Tsou complete their terms on the committee this year, and we thank them for their service. Julianne Chung joins us. We thank Amy and Jonathan for their service, and we welcome Julianne to this committee. And with this report I conclude my service as Chair of this committee. I am grateful to the APA for this opportunity to serve, and I am grateful for my colleagues on the committee for their hard work and support. I wish my successor, Bryan Bruya, all the best as he takes over. The committee is in good hands.