

Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies

2013-2014 Membership

David Kim, chair, newsletter editor (2014)

Jay Garfield, associate chair (2014)

Prasanta Bandyopadhyay Sr. (2015)

Bina Gupta (2016)

Leah Kalmanson (2016)

Halla Kim (2014)

Emily Lee (2015)

JeeLoo Liu (2014)

October 4, 2014

To: Amy Ferrer, Executive Director, APA
From: David H. Kim, 2011-14 Chair of the Committee on the Status of Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies
RE: Annual Committee Report 2013-2014

Over the last year, 2013-14, the Committee on the Status of Asian and Asian American Philosophers and Philosophies sponsored panels at the Division Meetings of the APA, including one on Asian American Philosophy, and maintained its portion of the *APA Newsletter*. In addition, the Committee was involved in a couple miscellaneous advocacy projects.

At the 2013 Eastern Division Meeting of the APA, the Committee put on two panels. The first was *Between/Beyond Neo-Classical and Postcolonial Approaches to Asian Philosophy*. Its organizer and Chair was David H. Kim (University of San Francisco), and the speakers included: Amy Donahue (Kennesaw State University), "Expressing 'Conventional Truths' -- What Jñānaśrimitra Could Say;" Hwa Yol Jung (Moravian College), "Wang Yangming and World Philosophy;" and Leah Kalmanson (Drake University), "Reflections on Womanist-Buddhist Dialogue and the Future of Comparative Philosophy." The second panel was *Philosophy and Social Movements: Asian and Latin American Perspectives*. Its organizer and Chair was David H. Kim (University of San Francisco). The panelists included: Veena Howard (University of Oregon), "Gandhi's *Satyagraha*: Reinterpreting *Satyakriya* (Act of Truth) as a Political Strategy;" Boram Jeong (Duquesne University), "The Concept of *Minjung*: Inventing 'A People to Come';" and Grant J. Silva (Marquette University), "Populism, *Pueblos*, and Plutocracy: A Comparative Analysis of Ernesto Laclau and Enrique Dussel, or Notes on Radical Democracy from Latin America."

The Committee sponsored a panel at the 2014 Central Division Meeting of the APA: *Buddhism as Philosophy in Korea*. Its organizer and Chair was Halla Kim (University of Nebraska at Omaha). The panelists were Eunsu Cho (Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea), "Mind and Reality in Wonhyo's Philosophy," and Jin Y. Park (American University), "Envisioning Buddhist Ethics."

The Committee also sponsored a panel at the 2014 Pacific Division Meeting of the APA: *Assessing the Absence and Status of Asian American Philosophers*. Its organizer and Chair was Emily S. Lee (California State University, Fullerton). The panelists included: Molly Pinter Paxton (University of Minnesota), "Sustainable Diversity within Philosophy: Looking Beyond Bottom-Up Models;" Carole J. Lee (University of Washington), "Asian Americans and Positive Stereotyping;" and Samantha Brennan (Western University), "Micro-inequities, Implicit Bias, and Asian and Asian/American Philosophy Students."

In Fall 2013, the Committee published a special edition of its Newsletter derived from talks delivered in a Committee-sponsored panel at the 2012 Division Meeting of the

Eastern APA. David H. Kim edited, *The Embodied and Enactive Mind: Asian and Comparative Perspectives*. Each essay took one classic Asian philosophical tradition – specifically Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism – and offered an account of some feature of the embodied or enactive mind on the basis of the selected tradition. The essays included: “Neuroscience, Moral Sentimentalism, and Confucian Philosophy: Moral Psychology of the Body and Emotion,” by Bongrae Seok; “The Resonant Mind: Daoism and Situated-Embodied Cognition,” by Bradley Park; and “Self-Making and World-Making: Indian Buddhism and Enactive Philosophy of Mind,” by Matthew MacKenzie.

The Spring 2014 Newsletter was guest edited by a new member of the Committee, Leah Kalmanson. Its focus was on connections between Asian philosophy and postcolonial theory. This volume included: Leah Kalmanson, “The CAAAPP Year in Review: New Trends in Asian Philosophy and Postcolonial Theory;” Amy Donahue, “Expressing ‘Conventional Truths’ -- What Jñānaśrimitra Could Say;” Veena Howard, “Gandhi’s *Satyagraha*: Reinterpreting *Satyakriya* (Act of Truth) as a Political Strategy;” Boram Jeong, “The Concept of *Minjung*: Inventing ‘A People to Come’;” and Grant J. Silva, “Populism, *Pueblos*, and Plutocracy: A Comparative Analysis of Ernesto Laclau and Enrique Dussel, or Notes on Radical Democracy from Latin America.” The volume also included an announcement by Sarah Mattice of a new organization, *The Society for Teaching Comparative Philosophy*.

The committee has lined up several panels for the Division Meetings of the APA for the upcoming year, 2014-15. And it will maintain its portion of the *APA Newsletter*, with upcoming issues on Asian American underrepresentation in the profession (Fall 2014) and on Indian philosophy (Spring 2015).

The foregoing recounts some of the details of standard Committee activities. The Committee also assisted the profession in a couple other ways.

The APA has developed an online repository of syllabi of underrepresented courses, like those in Asian and Asian American philosophy. The Committee helped to spread word of the new initiative and the call for syllabi contributions, and some of its members offered syllabi to the collection. In addition, the APA is forming a directory of Asian and Asian American philosophers on the model of the existing directory of women philosophers (www.womenofphilosophy.com). The Committee was able to serve in an advisory capacity. Also, a new organization has been formed, which focuses on Korean philosophy, namely NAKPA: the North American Korean Philosophy Association. The Committee was pleased to offer broad support for this new organization.

Finally, the composition of the committee changed over the summer. Rotating off the committee are David H. Kim (Outgoing Chair), JeeLoo Liu, and Halla Kim. Replacing them are Jay Garfield (Incoming Chair), Amy Donahue, and Jonathan Tsou. A heartfelt thanks are extended to those who have finished their terms and a welcome extended to the Committee’s new members!