

# Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy

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## *2017–2018 Membership*

Sara L. Goering, chair (2018)

Wendy C. Turgeon, associate chair (2018)

Kristopher G. Phillips (2018)

Kyle Robertson (2018)

Natalie M. Fletcher (2019)

Steven E. Swartzler (2019)

Marisol Brito (2020)

Amy Reed-Sandoval (2020)

**Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy**

**Annual Report  
September 26, 2018**

**Membership for the 2017-2018 year:**

**Committee Chair**

**P-**Sara Goering (2018)

**Committee Associate Chair**

**E-**Wendy Turgeon (2020)

**Committee Members**

**C-**Kris Phillips (2018)

**P-**Kyle Robertson (2018)

**C-** Natalie Fletcher (2019)

**E-** Steven Swartzler (2019)

**C-** Marisol Brito (2020)

**P-** Amy Reed Sandoval (2020)

**Current Membership [2018-2019]:**

**Committee Chair**

**E-**Wendy C Turgeon (2021)

**Committee Associate Chair**

**empty as of 7/1/2018**

**Committee Members**

**C-**Natalie M. Fletcher (2019)

**E-** John Torrey (2021)

**C-**Claire Katz (2021))

**E-** Steven Swartzler (2019)

**C-** Marisol Brito (2020)

**P-** Amy Reed Sandoval (2020)

The APA Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy (CPIP) works on (1) educating the professional philosophical community about pre-college philosophy; (2) developing initiatives to advance pre-college philosophy that can then be supported or further developed by the Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization (PLATO); and (3) helping to raise the profile of philosophy in the general society.

Consistent with these priorities, CPIP has worked on the following projects during the year July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018:

1. CPIP sponsored sessions at all three APA divisional meetings in 2016-17, and has planned sessions for all three APA meetings in 2017-18.

### **2017-2018 sessions:**

**Eastern APA:** joint with the Committee on Teaching Philosophy's teaching HUB; session on certification for philosophers teaching in K-12; unfortunately this meeting had series weather issues and a number of presenters could not attend.

**Central APA:** session on philosophy camps. Organized by Natalie Fletcher who reports here: " We had about 15 participants for the three hours. Claire and I presented our work in person and we also had some videos from Jason Taylor (University of Alberta) and an overview from Caroline Murgue (UNESCO). The audience was very keen to know more about P4C in general, and specifically in informal contexts. We had about 45 minutes of discussion and questions. Overall a great experience. Interestingly, some of those conversations continued at a Philosophy in the Contemporary World session that Claire Katz and I both also took part in, and I received many emails afterwards requesting more information about pre-college philosophy"

**Pacific APA:** two sessions, one on the AP philosophy proposal (see below for more detail); one on recruitment and retention issues for people of color in philosophy, as part of the second informal mini-conference on inclusion and diversity. This session included panelists who won APA diversity initiative grants. I was also informed that the CPIP collaborated with the APA Committee on the Teaching of Philosophy, the American Association of Philosophy Teachers, the APA Committee on Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges, and the Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization on *The Intersections between Philosophy in Schools and Public Philosophy The AAPT-APA Teaching Hub.*" Chair: Jana Mohr Lone (University of Washington) Speakers: Michael Burroughs (California State University, Bakersfield) "Broadening the Reach of Philosophy" Steven Swartzer (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) "Ethics Bowl and Philosophy in Schools" Kyle Robertson (University of California, Santa Cruz) "Philosophy in Prisons and Philosophy in Schools" Joseph S. Biehl (Independent Scholar) Marisa Diaz-Waian (Independent Scholar) "Philosophy in the Community." This was a well attended session (c. 50) with lively discussion following.

### **2018-2019 Planned sessions**

**Eastern APA: Panel: "What's the value of pre-college philosophy? Views from facilitators and teachers"**

John Ryan Torrey, Chair, SUNY-Buffalo State  
*The value of precollege philosophy*  
Chad Miller, University of Hawaii at Manoa,  
*The value of precollege philosophy programming within cities*  
Joseph Biehl, Gotham Philosophical Society  
*Notes from the front: teaching philosophy in high school,*  
Wendy Way, Bethpage High School  
*Philosophy is for adults! Responding to the challengers*  
Wendy C. Turgeon, St. Joseph's College-NY  
*A Student Viewpoint*  
Undergraduate Student, TBA

**Central APA: Session1--Panel session on “Why (and how) you should support High School Ethics Bowl”**

Geoff Sayre-McCord, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Steven Swartzter, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
(And some other participants to be determined at a later date.)

**Session 2--An Interaction session: High School Ethics Bowl: Pedagogy and Practice**

Facilitated by Geoff Sayre-McCord and Steven Swartzter

**Pacific APA:** Pacific APA: “Diving in” to precollege philosophy, with sample sessions  
Organized by Marisol Brito, Amy Reed-Sandoval, and Natalie Fletcher

2. CPIP holds one in-person meeting each year, at which most members attend and one or two participate by conference call. In 2017, we met at the Pacific meeting in April. Help to provide support for these in-person meetings has come from the Squire Family Foundation, and its executive director, Roberta Israeloff. The SFF plays a key role in funding CPIP members' travel to the meeting. The meeting was used to brainstorm APA sessions for 17/18, discuss continuity for the committee's efforts to help with the AP philosophy proposal, and consider a survey proposal to gather information on APA membership regarding first exposure to philosophy. The Committee will attempt meetings at all three divisions, hoping to include all committee members in planning, based on their ability to attend.

3. CPIP has worked with a subcommittee of PLATO to develop an AP Philosophy course. Marisol Brito and Kris Phillips (CPIP members) have been in on PLATO committee efforts on this project. Kris Phillips provides this update: “The AP panel at the Pacific went well, but there was something of a somber tone toward the end. We presented a draft of the AP curriculum (which is still being worked on), and we talked through both the process leading up to the creation of the curriculum committee, the

development of this document and some of the hopes/drawbacks of the AP process. Attendance was fairly limited. I would estimate 10-15 in total attendance, many of which are/were CPIP folks, and some are students. No doubt part of what contributed to the low numbers is a scheduling issue of being the *first* panel on the first day. With regard to the somewhat somber tone, I think the major hurdle that's coming up is the money it takes to get this kind of project running. College Board requires a significant sum, and there is some skepticism regarding where that might come from. On the plus side, once we have a workable curriculum document, Jana Mohr Lone has agreed to post it to the PLATO website for both use and feedback. This came out of the panel discussion and is a welcome development. ” Philip’s report ended on a positive note in that they are continuing to examine options.

4 In response to ongoing blog discussions about who is exposed to philosophy at a young age, and whether early exposure might help to address philosophy’s issues of diversity, CPIP is working with the APA and PLATO on a survey project to all members of the APA and PLATO. The aim will be to discover how people currently in the profession learned about philosophy, how early, in what ways, etc. We currently have a full draft of the survey, and are waiting for the APA to help distribute the survey to its membership (hopefully at the start of fall 2018).

5. CPIP is interested in exploring ways to help make philosophy more inclusive and diverse at all levels. The session at the Pacific APA (2018) aimed to highlight particular programs (e.g., Amy Reed Sandoval’s Borderlands project at UTEP and Andrea Sullivan Clarke’s ISHIP at Depauw) that have focused on doing philosophy with young people of color or from other under-represented groups in philosophy. We also invited two other philosophers who have worked on issues of diversity in philosophy to discuss retention issues for grad students of color.

**Prepared by Wendy C. Turgeon with the large assistance of Sarah Goering (chair during the past year)**