

# Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies

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## *2018–2019 Membership*

Brian J. Bruya, chair (2020)

Jason Chen (2019)

Hanti Lin (2019)

Julianne N. Chung (2020)

Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach (2020)

Bradford R. Cokelet (2021)

Doil Kim (2021)

Prasanta S. Bandyopadhyay, newsletter editor

September 30, 2019

To: Amy Ferrer, Executive Director, APA

From: Brian Bruya, Chair, Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies

RE: Annual Committee Report 2018-2019

The charge of the Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies is:  
The committee is charged with assessing and reporting on the status of Asians and Asian Americans in the profession. Among its responsibilities are to identify unfair or discriminatory practices and to advise the board and the members of the association of ways in which they may be rectified; to study and propose ways of encouraging and helping Asians and Asian Americans enter the profession; to promote the interaction between Asian and Western philosophical traditions and to help draw out their mutual relevance. The committee seeks to advance teaching and study of Asian and comparative philosophy. It sponsors sessions on Asian philosophy, comparative philosophy, and other relevant topics at divisional meetings.

This charge breaks down into four distinct areas, which are treated below.

**Identity 1. Study Discrimination against Persons** (Identify unfair or discriminatory practices regarding Asians or Asian Americans and ways in which they can be rectified)  
See Identity 2 below.

**Identity 2. Promote Ethnic Diversity** (Study and propose ways of encouraging and helping Asians and Asian Americans enter the profession)  
CAAAPP sponsored a panel on diversity at the 2019 Central APA. The title of the panel was, "Diversity, Minority, and Inequality: Challenges for Asian and Asian-American Philosophers---and Everyone Else." Please see Appendix 1 for more details about the panel.

The Fall issue of the *Newsletter* published Ethan Mills' report of the CAAAPP diversity panel at the 2018 Central APA Meeting (see Appendix II below).

**Content 1. Promote Diversity in Scholarship** (Promote the interaction between Asian and Western philosophical Traditions and to help draw out their mutual relevance)  
Four of the other five other regular CAAAPP panels focused on content diversity, either promoting content diversity or exemplifying content diversity. Of note is the book symposium on Jonardon Ganeri's *Attention, Not Self*, which is a landmark book arguing for the privileging of attention over self in explaining human conscious awareness. The book draws on ideas from Buddhist philosophy while also robustly engaging more recent work in philosophical psychology and cognitive science. Panel speakers were Monima Chadha, Chris Mole, and Evan Thompson.

Also of note was the publication of our 2018 Author Meets Critics Panel on Michael Ing's remarkable book *The Vulnerability of Integrity*, in the [April 5, 2019 issue of \*Res Philosophica\*](#).

See Appendix I below for a list of all CAAAPP panels at this year's APA meetings.

Articles in the Fall issue of the *Newsletter* ranged across diverse topics in Hinduism and Buddhism, touching on both perennial issues and more modern issues, such as the problem of induction. Articles in the Spring issue focused on taking stock of the instruction of Buddhist philosophy in universities around the world. See Appendix II below for the full contents of both issues of the *Newsletter* and links to them.

**Content 2. Advance Diversity in Instruction** (Advance the teaching and study of Asian and comparative philosophy)

One of our panels at the 2019 Pacific APA was part of the Teaching Hub and focused specifically on assisting individual professors in diversifying their syllabi by including more content from Asian philosophy. The panel was in the format of a game show, in which a professor presented a syllabus ready to be diversified, then three panelists offered prepared suggestions for diversifying it, after which the professor chose one as the preferred option, explaining why. Two such rounds were played. The purpose of the panel was two-fold: first to offer help to individual professors, and second to build bridges between professors interested in diversifying their syllabi (including those in the audience) and specialists capable of assisting. The syllabus diversity panel was part of a larger effort to build these bridges in a more programmatic way.

Under the current leadership, CAAAPP has been holding two meetings annually (in March and August) to more systematically carry out the mission of the committee. The March meeting is concerned mostly with brainstorming panels for the following year's APA meetings. The August meeting is concerned with other matters relevant to the committee's mission. In this year's August meeting, the committee created six new roles in addition to the role of Newsletter Editor. They are: Social Media Editor, Book Blog Editor, Content Inclusion Data Secretary and Program Liaison, Content Inclusion Course Consultation Secretary, Speaker Resource Secretary, and Asian Philosophy Outreach Secretary (the responsibilities of each of which are described in Appendix III below). The goal of creating these roles is to systematize the work of the Committee in advocating for inclusion of Asian content across the profession in a way that is inviting, as opposed to coercive or abrasive. An important first step was taken by creating a database of volunteer specialists working in Asian philosophy. This can now be used to create lists of available speakers and authors and also to match up specialists with both programs and individual professors who are interested in diversifying their courses. These roles also help in creating ways to more systematically integrate Asian philosophy into non-APA groups and meetings.

Appendix I  
CAAAPP Panels at 2019 APA Meetings

**Eastern**

1. Author Meets Critics: Paul D'Ambrosio and Georg Moeller's *Genuine Pretending: On the Philosophy of the Zhuangzi*

Chair: John Williams (National University of Singapore)

Author: Paul D'Ambrosio (East China Normal University)

Critics:

Brook Ziporyn (University of Chicago)

Timothy Connolly (East Stroudsburg University)

Julianne Chung (University of Louisville)

2. Author Meets Critics: Ram-Prasad Chakravarthi's *Human Being, Bodily Being: Phenomenology from Classical India*

Chair: Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach (Emory University)

Author: Ram-Prasad Chakravarthi (Lancaster University)

Critics:

Cynthia Willett (Emory University)

Bruce Janz (University of Central Florida)

Jessica Locke (Loyola University Maryland)

**Central**

1. East Asian and Anglo-Analytic Aesthetics in Dialogue

Chair: Michael Begun (Fordham University)

Speakers:

Meilin Chinn (Santa Clara University) "Philosophical Aesthetics and the Yellow Peril"

Sarah Mattice (University of North Florida) "Daoist Aesthetics of the Everyday and the Fantastical"

Discussants:

Julianne Chung (University of Louisville)

Antony Aumann (Northern Michigan University)

2. Diversity, Minority, and Inequality: Challenges for Asian and Asian-American Philosophers—and Everyone Else

Chair: Hanti Lin (University of California, Davis)

Speakers: Brian Kim (Oklahoma State University)

"What Type of Diversity Is Epistemically Beneficial?"

Hsin-Wen Lee (University of Delaware) "Some Benefits and Challenges of Diversity in Philosophy"

Aydin Mohseni (University of California, Irvine) "On the Emergence of Inequity: Testing the Red King Hypothesis"

Tina Rulli (University of California, Davis) "What Does It Mean to Be Asian in Philosophy?"

**Pacific**

1. Book Symposium: Jonardon Ganeri's *Attention, Not Self*

Chair: Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach (Emory University)

Speakers:

Jonardon Ganeri (New York University), “Replies to Comments”

Commentators:

Monima Chadha (Monash University)

Chris Mole (University of British Columbia)

Evan Thompson (University of British Columbia)

## 2. Syllabus Makeover Competition

Chair: Adrian Currie (University of Exeter)

Speakers:

Julianne Chung (University of Louisville)

Alexus McLeod (University of Connecticut)

Jing Liu (Sun Yat-sen University)

Antoine Panaioti (Ryerson University)

Sean Smith (University of Hawai'i at Manoa)

Anand Vaidya (San José State University)

Commentators:

Liz Goodnick (Metropolitan State University of Denver)

Susan M. Peppers-Bates (Stetson University)

## Appendix II: 2018-2019 CAAAPP Newsletter

### Volume 18, Number 1, Fall 2018

Prasanta S. Bandyopadhyay, "From the Editor"

Madhumita Chattopadhyay, "Locating Early Buddhist Logic in Pāli Literature"

Rafal Stepień, "Do Good Philosophers Argue? A Buddhist Approach to Philosophy and Philosophy Prizes"

Pradeep P. Gokhale, "Īśvaravāda: A Critique"

Palash Sarkar, "Cārvākism Redivivus"

Prasanta Bandyopadhyay and R. Venkata Raghavan, "Some Critical Remarks on Kisor Chakrabarti's Idea of 'Observational Credibility' and Its Role in Solving the Problem of Induction"

Kisor K. Chakrabarti, "Some Thoughts on the Problem of Induction"

Sanjit Chakraborty, "Remnants of Words in Indian Grammar"

Ethan Mills, "Report on an APA Panel: Diversity in Philosophy"

Book review: *Minds without Fear: Philosophy in the Indian Renaissance*, reviewed by Brian A. Hatcher

### Volume 18, Number 2, Spring 2019

Rafal Stepień, "From the Guest Editor"

Thematic title: *Buddhist Philosophy Worldwide: Perspectives and Programs*

John Powers and Leesa S. Davis, "Buddhist Philosophy in Australian Universities"

Roy Tzohar, "Buddhist Philosophy, and Eastern Philosophy in General, in Israel and Palestine"

Karin Meyers, "Buddhist Philosophy in the Kathmandu Valley"

Jakub Zamorski, "Buddhist Philosophy in Poland: Legacy and Prospects"

Asanga Tilakaratne, "Study of Buddhist Philosophy in Sri Lanka"

Shinya Moriyama, "Buddhist Philosophy in Two Japanese Cross-Philosophical Approaches"

He Huanhuan, "Sanskrit-Based Buddhist Philosophy in China Today"

Zhihua Yao, "Teaching Buddhism as Philosophy"

Joseph McClellan, "Preserving the Four Noble Truths at the Heart of Buddhist Pedagogy"

Hari Shankar Prasad, "Sailing against the Current: The Buddha, Buddhism, and Methodology"

### Appendix III: CAAAPP Roles and Responsibilities

- Newsletter Editor. Minh Nguyen, 8/2019 - present. Duties: Publish two editions of the Newsletter annually. Develop topics, invite contributors, edit contributions, oversee publication process.
- Social Media Editor. Brad Cokelet, 3/2019 - present. Duties: Manage the CAAAPP website and FaceBook? page (etc.?), including feature articles, news, and contributions from the Book Blog. Work with the APA blog editor to get some pieces also published on the APA blog. Connect with other social media outlets to promote our stories and activities. Be a hub for other Asian and diversity societies to promote their CFPs, etc.
- Book Blog Editor. Doil Kim, 4/2019 - present. Duties: produce the Book Blog for the CAAAPP website, including info about new books in the field(s) and links to book reviews in journals.
- Content Inclusion Data Secretary and Program Liaison. Open. Duties: collect data on multicultural inclusiveness in philosophy programs; report results on our website, the APA Blog, the Newsletter, or other appropriate outlets; act as a liaison to connect programs who have made such progress with programs wishing to make progress.
- Content Inclusion Course Consultation Secretary. Open. Duties: maintain and promote group of specialists who can help others diversify their syllabi; organize syllabus makeover panels at APA meetings.
- Speaker Resource Secretary. Julianne Chung, 9/2019 - present. Duties: organize and maintain a list of speakers and their topics in Asian Philosophy and promote the list to philosophy programs. Work as a bridge between programs looking for speakers and the speakers, themselves.
- Asian Philosophy Outreach Secretary. Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach, 8/2019 - present. Duties: regularly contact diverse groups and publications about contributions in Asian philosophy, e.g., book review editors, philosophy blog editors, journals, graduate student groups--be a gadfly. Regularly encourage people in Asian philosophy to submit work to APA meetings and to meetings of other philosophy societies, e.g., in aesthetics, social/political philosophy, environmental philosophy, etc.