Committee on Philosophy and Computers

2018–2019 Membership

Marcello Guarini, chair (2019)

Piotr Boltuc, associate chair (2019), newsletter editor

Gary Mar (2019)

Dylan E. Wittkower (2019)

B. Jack Copeland (2020)

Robin Smith (2020)

Susan G. Sterrett (2020)

Daniel Susser (2020)
APA COMMITTEE ON PHILOSOPHY AND COMPUTERS
ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Chair: Piotr Boltuc (2020)

Members: Gary Mar (2019)
          Dylan E. Wittkower (2019)
          B. Jack Copeland (2020)
          Robin Smith (2020)
          Susan Sterrett (2020)
          Daniel Susser (2020)

Newsletter Editor: Piotr Boltuc
Past Chair: Marcello Guarini
MEMBERSHIP CHANGES
The committee welcomed long-time newsletter editor Piotr Boltuc as the Chair. As the committee is scheduled to be phased out, members who have completed their terms as of June 30, 2019 – Gary Mar and Dylan Wittkower – will not be replaced. Marcello Guarini completed his term as chair of the committee.

DISCUSSION OF BECOMING AN AFFILIATED GROUP
While the committee is being phased out as of June 30, 2020, the committee was invited to consider the possibility of becoming an affiliated group of the APA. There has been some discussion of this by the remaining members of the committee. A decision has not been taken on whether to pursue this option, but the discussion continues. The possibility of becoming an affiliated group was mentioned in the committee newsletter, vol. 18, no. 2, p. 27 (Note from the Chair).

AWARDING OF THE BARWISE PRIZE
Gualtiero Piccinini was selected by the committee as the winner of the 2018 Barwise Prize. Professor Piccinini’s mechanistic account of physical computation and his related work on the theory of cognition has deepened our understanding of physical computation, information processing, computational approaches to cognition, and the integration of psychology and neuroscience.

ORGANIZATION OF APA EVENTS
The committee continued to work hard at organizing events at APA meetings. At the 2019 Eastern APA, Gualtiero Piccinini’s book, *Physical Computation: A Mechanistic Account* (OUP, 2015), was featured in a book panel organized by the committee on philosophy and computers. As well as featuring Gualtiero, commentators included Frances Egan, John Symons, Nico Orlandi, and Martin Roth. Committee member Gary Mar served as session chair. This session was organized before Dr. Piccinini was selected as the Barwise winner; his Barwise paper will be presented at a future APA meeting. At the 2019 APA Pacific meeting, we had two sessions. One was entitled “Data Ethics,” chaired by Joshua August Skorburg, who also delivered a paper in the session. Other speakers included Shannon Vallor and Colin Koopman. Our second session was entitled “Philosophical Insights from Computational Studies: Why Should Computation Thinking Matter to Philosophers?” Gary Mar chaired the session and delivered a paper, and his fellow speakers were Edward Zalta and Aydin Mohseni (who presented on behalf of Cailin O’Connor).

This was the second year in a row that the Philosophy and Computers committee organized three sessions at APA meetings.

NEWSLETTER
As well as organising successful sessions at APA meetings, two issues of the Newsletter were produced, vol. 18, nos. 1 and 2. Articles continue to be submitted, and the Newsletter is poised to continue publishing until the committee is dissolved.
For the APA Committee on Philosophy and Computers
Marcello Guarini (2016-2019)
Professor of Philosophy
Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
University of Windsor