Committee on Asian and Asian American Philosophers and Philosophies

2019–2020 Membership

Brian J. Bruya, chair (2020), newsletter editor
A. Nguyen, associate chair (2020; chair 2020–2023)

Julianne N. Chung (2020)
Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach (2020)
Bradford R. Cokelet (2021)

Doil Kim (2021)
Yarran Hominh (2022)
Robin Wang (2022)
September 30, 2020
To: Amy Ferrer, Executive Director, APA
From: Brian Bruya, Chair, Committee on Asian and Asian American Philosophers and Philosophies (2017-2020); Minh Nguyen, Chair, Committee on Asian and Asian American Philosophers and Philosophies (2020-present)
RE: Annual Committee Report 2019-2020

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 in terms of committee developments in each over the past year.

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 first item under Identity 2 below.
- We drafted a Statement Condemning Racism and Discrimination Against Asians and Asian Americans During COVID-19 and urged the APA Board of Officers to issue it, which it did. See Appendix II.

Identity 2. Promote Ethnic Diversity (Study and propose ways of encouraging and helping Asians and Asian Americans enter the profession)
- The Newsletter Editors are currently working on a special issue of the Newsletter regarding issues related to philosophers of Asian descent.
- The Speaker Resource Secretary is currently working on developing a resource to promote diversity at the level of speakers invited to give talks in university Philosophy departments by connecting department organizers with speakers.
- The Asian Philosophy Outreach Secretary is currently working on a resource to promote diversity in publishing and conference presentation by informing Asian and Asian American philosophy groups of opportunities.

Content 1. Promote Diversity in Scholarship (Promote the interaction between Asian and Western philosophical traditions and to help draw out their mutual relevance)
- All four of our panels at the annual meetings were devoted to cross-cultural philosophy, two of which were devoted to recent monographs.
  - In a panel devoted to cross-cultural engagement with analytic philosophy of language, Alexus McLeod and Susan Blake discussed truth pluralism and reference, respectively, in the early Chinese tradition, and Joe Ulatowski and
Danielle Smith commented from the perspective of contemporary analytic philosophy.

- In a panel devoted to ritual, etiquette, and aesthetics, speakers from Buddhist and Confucian perspectives engaged current ideas in ethical and aesthetic theory.
- In an author-meets-critics panel, historian Martin Powers elaborated and defended counterintuitive claims in his groundbreaking work *China and England*, in which he documents ideals and institutions related to egalitarianism and social justice in pre-modern China that have echoes in the development of such ideals and institutions of eighteenth-century England. His critics, of diverse philosophical backgrounds, were Longxi Zhang, Stephen Macedo, Sandra Field, and Jeffrey Flynn. The papers presented at this panel are currently being prepared for publication in *Journal of World Philosophies*.
- In a second author-meets-critical panel, Aaron Stalnaker discussed and defended claims in his outstanding new book *Mastery, Dependence, and the Ethics of Authority*, which is a timely analysis of the merits of meritocratic governance. Drawing on principles in Confucian philosophy, Stalnaker demonstrates that dependence on authority and individual autonomy do not have to be in tension and can, instead, create a virtuous cycle of social flourishing. Nancy Snow, Brad Cokelet, and Patricia Marechal engaged Stalnaker in a robust debate.

See Appendix I for a complete list of this year's panels.

- Volume 19, Number 1 of the Newsletter is devoted to the place of Buddhism in current academic philosophy, interrogating the reasons for its marginalization, and forging a path forward for increased inclusion.
- Volume 19, Number 2 of the Newsletter is devoted to the topic of philosophical issues in translation in the subfield of Chinese philosophy. See Appendix II for the Table of Contents for both issues of the Newsletter.

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

- We originally scheduled a roundtable panel on teaching classic Asian philosophy texts for the Pacific meeting. We have rescheduled that panel for the 2021 Eastern meeting.
- There are two official positions on the committee devoted to content inclusion, but for the time being, those positions remain vacant.

Under the current leadership, CAAAPP has been holding two meetings annually (in March and August) to 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 the August meeting of 2019, we elected the Associate Chair (now the Chair) Minh Nguyen to be Newsletter Editor, replacing Prasanta Bandyopadhyay, who held the position since 2015 and submitted his resignation on June 7, 2019. We also elected Brad Cokelet to the position of Social Media Editor and Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach to the position of Asian Philosophy Outreach Secretary. And we voted for Doil Kim to remain in the position of Book Blog Editor. The position of Content Inclusion Data Secretary and Program Liaison and the position of Content Inclusion Course Consultation Secretary were not filled. In a follow-up conversation, Julianne Chung volunteered for the position of Speaker Resource Secretary.
In the March meeting, we discussed and settled on panel topics and organizers for the 2021 meetings. We also elected Yarran Hominh as Associate Editor of the Newsletter.
Appendix I
CAAAPP Panels at 2020 APA Meetings

Eastern

1. Early Chinese and Anglo-Analytic Philosophy of Language in Dialogue
   Chair: Hannah H. Kim (Stanford University)
   Speaker: Alexus McLeod (University of Connecticut) "The Syncretic Origins of Truth Pluralism in Early China"
   Commentator: Joe Ulatowski (University of Connecticut)
   Speaker: Susan Blake (Skidmore College) "Competence and Reference in Early China"
   Commentator: Danielle Macbeth (Haverford College)

2. Author Meets Critics: Martin Powers, China and England: The Preindustrial Struggle for Justice in Word and Image
   Chair: Susan Blake (Skidmore College)
   Author: Martin Powers (University of Michigan)
   Critics: Longxi Zhang (City University of Hong Kong)
   Stephen Macedo (Princeton University)
   Sandra Field (Yale-NUS College)
   Jeffrey Flynn (Fordham University)

Central

1. Author Meets Critics: Aaron Stalnaker, Mastery, Dependence, and the Ethics of Authority
   Chair: Michael Slater (Georgetown University)
   Author: Aaron Stalnaker (Indiana University)
   Critics: Nancy Snow (University of Oklahoma)
   Brad Cokelet (University of Kansas)
   Patricia Marechal (Northwestern University)

2. Ritual, Etiquette, and Everyday Aesthetics
   Chair: Gina Lebkuecher (Loyola University Chicago)
   Speakers: Yuriko Saito (Rhode Island School of Design) "Expression of Care in Everyday Aesthetics"
   Michael Slater (Georgetown University) "Ritual, Etiquette, and Everyday Aesthetics: A Confucian Perspective"
   Brad Cokelet (University of Kansas) "Ritual, Grace, and Democratic Virtue" (late replacement due to scheduling conflict)
   Si-Won Song (University of Kansas) "Aesthetics of Ritual"

Pacific – Canceled

1. Play and Spontaneity in East Asian and Anglo-Analytic Philosophy (rescheduled for Eastern Meeting, 2021)
   Chair: Minh Nguyen (Florida Gulf Coast University)
Speakers: Jonathan Gingerich (King's College London) "The Spontaneity of Genius: Kantian Genius Reconstructed"
C. Thi Nguyen (Utah Valley University) "The Virtue of Playfulness"
Commentators: Julianne Chung (University of Louisville)
Sarah Mattice (University of North Florida)

2. Ethics, Politics, and the Chinese Social Credit System (not rescheduled)
Chair: Sarah Mattice (University of North Florida)
Speakers: Stephen C. Angle (Wesleyan University) "Bottom-Up 'Social Credit' and the Confucian Ideal of 'Getting It Oneself (zide)"
Bradford Cokelet (University of Kansas), Daniel Corrigan (Marymount University), and John Symons (University of Kansas) "Could a Data-Driven Social Capital System Respect Human Rights?"
Commentator: Joseph C. W. Chan (University of Hong Kong)

3. Teaching Hub
How to Teach an Asian Philosophical Classic: A Roundtable Discussion (rescheduled for Eastern Meeting Teaching Hub, 2021)
Chair: Julianne Chung (University of Louisville)
Speakers: Min Tang (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) "Concepts, Traditions, and Translations: Helping Students Appreciate Classical Chinese Philosophy"
Chris Blake-Turner (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) "Just Go Along with Things: Teaching Classical Chinese Philosophy for the First Time"
Andrew Housiaux (Independent Scholar) "Mental Models and Misconceptions: Teaching the Bhagavad Gita"
Meilin Chinn (Santa Clara University) "Teaching Across Traditions with Friendship and Style"
Hannah Kim (Stanford University) "Teaching Asian Texts through Bridge Concepts in Ethics and Aesthetics"
Purushottama Bilimoria (University of Melbourne and University of California, Berkeley) "Using the Routledge History of Indian Philosophy to Teach Indian Philosophical Classics with an Analytic-Comparative Focus"
Appendix II
2019-2020 CAAAPP Newsletter

Volume 19, Number 1 (Fall 2019)
From the Guest Editor, "Buddhist Philosophy Today: Theories and Forms," Rafal Stepień

Articles
"Philosophy, Quo Vadis? Buddhism and the Academic Study of Philosophy," Brook Ziporyn
"What/Who Determines the Value of Buddhist Philosophy in Modern Academia?" Hans-Rudolf Kantor
"Buddhist Philosophy? Arguments from Somewhere," Rafal Stepień
"Doing Buddhist Philosophy," C. W. Huntington, Jr.
"Decolonizing the Buddhist Mind," Mattia Salvini
"Reflecting on Buddhist Philosophy with Pierre Hadot," Matthew T. Kapstein
"Some Suggestions for Future Directions of the Study of Buddhist Philosophy," Jan Westerhoff
"Practicing Buddhist Philosophy as Philosophy," Pierre-Julien Harter
"Emptiness, Multiverses, and the Conception of a Multi-Entry Philosophy," Gereon Kopf
"Buddhist Philosophy and the Neuroscientific Study of Meditation: Critical Reflections," Birgit Kellner

Volume 19, Number 2 (Spring 2020)
From the Guest Editor, "The Timeliness of Translating Chinese Philosophy: An Introduction to the APA Newsletter Special Issue on Translating Chinese Philosophy," Ben Hammer

Articles
"Preparing a New Sourcebook in Classical Confucian Philosophy," Roger T. Ames
"The Impossibility of Literal Translation of Chinese Philosophical Texts into English," Tian Chenshan
"Three Thoughts on Translating Classical Chinese Philosophical Texts," Edward L. Shaughnessy
"Introducing Premodern Text Translation: A New Field at the Crossroads of Sinology and Translation Studies," Carl Gene Fordham
Appendix III

APA Statement Condemning Racism and Discrimination Against Asians and Asian Americans During COVID-19

APA board issues statement condemning racism and discrimination against Asians and Asian Americans

Monday, May 4, 2020
Posted by: Erin Shepherd

Today, the board of officers of the American Philosophical Association issued a joint statement condemning racism and discrimination against Asians and Asian Americans during COVID-19. The statement, which was drafted by the APA Committee on Asians and Asian American Philosophers and Philosophies, reads as follows:

In light of increasing reports of pandemic-related cases of xenophobia, discrimination, and racism, including acts of violence, against Asians and Asian Americans, as well as statements by the US President and other high-level government officials that appear designed to incite such sentiments, the undersigned organizations strongly and unequivocally condemn all forms of racism and ethnocentrism, especially recent attempts to scapegoat Asians or Asian Americans for the coronavirus pandemic.

There is a long history in American society of both direct and indirect language demeaning members of some ethnic groups, including unjustifiable stereotypes associating Asian immigrants with disease, in particular. Intentional or unintentional use of such language inflames both explicit and implicit biases against such groups. Terminology such as “Chinese Virus,” “Wuhan Virus,” and “Kung Flu” tend to highlight differences among people rather than making any kind of meaningful designation about an organism or a disease.

Let us support the Asian and Asian American members of our communities by rejecting all forms of xenophobia and racism, treating Asians and Asian Americans with dignity and respect, and encouraging all individuals (especially government officials and leaders within civil society), organizations (especially governmental agencies), and media outlets to use the official designations from the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization to refer to the virus as SARS-CoV-2 and the disease as COVID-19.

American Philosophical Association
American Folklore Society
American Historical Association
American Sociological Association
American Studies Association
Medieval Academy of America
Middle East Studies Association
Rhetoric Society of America
Society for Ethnomusicology
Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study