Committee on Asian and Asian American Philosophers and Philosophies

2020–2021 Membership

A. Nguyen, chair (2023), newsletter editor

Bradford Cokelet (2021)

Doil Kim (2021)

Yarran Hominh (2022)

Robin Wang (2022)

Jonardon Ganeri (2023)

Dien Ho (2023)
September 30, 2021
To: Amy Ferrer, Executive Director, American Philosophical Association
From: A. Minh Nguyen, Chair, Committee on Asian and Asian American Philosophers and
Philosophies (2020-present)
RE: Annual Committee Report 2020-2021

Committee Charge

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.

The chair of this committee serves in an *ex officio* capacity on the Committee on Inclusiveness in the Profession.

The committee also publishes the *Newsletter on Asian and Asian American Philosophers and Philosophies*.

The committee charge breaks down into four distinct areas.

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

**IDENTITY 2. Promote Ethnic Diversity** (Study and propose ways of encouraging and helping Asians and Asian Americans enter the profession)

**CONTENT 1. Promote Diversity in Scholarship** (Promote the interaction between Asian and Western philosophical traditions and to help draw out their mutual relevance)

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

Under the current leadership, CAAAPP has been holding one meeting annually to systematically carry out the mission of the committee. We also conduct other committee business via email. The meeting is concerned mostly with brainstorming committee-sponsored sessions for the following year’s APA Divisional Meetings, special issues for the *Newsletter*, and APA webinars, and other matters relevant to the committee’s mission.

See Appendix I for committee-sponsored sessions at 2021 APA Divisional Meetings and Appendices II-III for tables of contents of Vol. 20, No. 1 (Fall 2020) and Vol. 20, No. 2 (Spring 2021) of the *Newsletter*. 
With respect to APA webinars, A. Minh Nguyen is currently serving as the CAAAPP representative on the Virtual Programming Committee. We are committed to organizing at least one webinar on behalf of the Virtual Programming Committee each year. Our committee approved the idea of having an annual APA Live program scheduled sometime in May in celebration of the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month. Our committee also approved the topic of the first such annual APATV program sponsored by our committee: “How to Incorporate Asian and Asian American Philosophies into Your Philosophy Courses.”

At our last meeting—Friday, June 18, 2021, 10:00 AM EST - 12:00 PM EST—we welcomed two new members: Falguni A. Sheth and Audrey S. Yap. Their terms began on July 1, 2021. Doil Kim’s and Brad Cokelet’s terms ended on June 30, 2021. On behalf of the committee, Nguyen thanked Kim and Cokelet for their outstanding three-year service on the committee. We also discussed and confirmed session topics and organizers for the 2022 Divisional Meetings. The lineups for the six committee-sponsored sessions at the 2022 APA Divisional Meetings have been finalized.

Because of considerations such as this https://consciousstyleguide.com/drop-hyphen-asian-american/, brought to APA’s attention by the chair, APA has decided to drop the hyphen in instances of “Asian-American.” Thus, from now on, the committee’s name is the APA Committee on Asian and Asian American Philosophers and Philosophies. Likewise, the committee’s newsletter’s name is the APA Newsletter on Asian and Asian American Philosophers and Philosophies.

We are deeply grateful to Vivian Nguyen, Brent Robbins, and Caylee Weintraub. A May 2020 graduate of Smith College, a second-year student at the Honors College of Florida Gulf Coast University, and a December 2020 graduate of the FGCU Honors College, respectively, Vivian, Brent and Caylee have been serving superbly as editorial assistants for the Newsletter.

Our forthcoming special issues focus on topics such as Japanese Aesthetics (Fall 2021), The Philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi (Spring 2022), Korean Philosophy (Fall 2022), and Identity and Solidarity (Spring 2023).

Lastly, in light of recent changes to the APA committee structure and a desire to help return balance to committee chair turnover, Amy Ferrer, APA Executive Director, and Dominic McIver Lopes, APA Board Chair, asked Nguyen to stay on as chair for one additional year, thus extending his three-year term (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2023) to end on June 30, 2024. Nguyen happily agreed.
Appendix I
CAAAPP-Sponsored Sessions at 2021 APA Divisional Meetings

Eastern

1. *Play and Spontaneity in East Asian and Anglo-Analytic Philosophy*
Chair: A. Minh Nguyen, Florida Gulf Coast University
Speakers:
   - C. Thi Nguyen, University of Utah, “The Virtue of Playfulness”
   - Jonathan Gingerich, King’s College London, “The Spontaneity of Genius: Kantian Genius Reconstructed”
Commentators:
   - Julianne Chung, York University
   - Sarah Mattice, University of North Florida

2. *How to Teach an Asian Philosophical Classic: A Roundtable Discussion (Teaching Hub Panel)*
Chair: Julianne Chung, York University
Speakers:
   - Christopher Blake-Turner, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, “Just Go Along with Things: Teaching Classical Chinese Philosophy for the First Time”
   - Hannah Haejin Kim, Stanford University, “Teaching Asian Texts Through Bridge Concepts in Ethics and Aesthetics”
   - Andrew Housiaux, Phillips Academy, “Mental Models and Misconceptions: Teaching the Bhagavad Gita”
   - Meilin Chinn, Santa Clara University, “Teaching Across Traditions with Friendship and Style”
   - Purushottama Bilimoria, Graduate Theological Union, “Using the Routledge History of Indian Philosophy to Teach Indian Philosophical Classics with an Analytic-Comparative Focus”

Central

1. *Author Meets Critics: Tongdong Bai, Against Political Equality: The Confucian Case*
Chair: Bradford Cokelet, University of Kansas
Author: Tongdong Bai, Fudan University
Critics:
   - Daniel Corrigan, Marymount University
   - Yarran Hominh, Columbia University
   - Thomas Mulligan, Georgetown University
   - Steven Wall, University of Arizona
Respondent: Tongdong Bai, Fudan University

2. *Multi-Perspectives on How to Live a Good Life: A Roundtable Discussion*
Chair: Robin Wang, Loyola Marymount University
Speakers:
  - Skye C. Cleary, Columbia University and Barnard College, “Existentialism”
  - Owen Flanagan, Duke University, “Buddhism”
  - Massimo Pigliucci, City College of New York, “Stoicism”
  - Deepak Sarma, Case Western Reserve University, “Hinduism”
  - Robin Wang, Loyola Marymount University, “Daoism”
  - Bryan W. Van Norden, Vassar College, “Confucianism”

Pacific

1. Arindam Chakrabarti: Moral and Aesthetic Phenomenology of Pain, Disgust, and Wonder
Chair: Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach, University of Konstanz
Speakers:
  - Andrei Pop, University of Chicago, “Can One be a Realist about Disgust?”
  - Nalini Bhushan, Smith College, “The Paradox of Exquisite Attachment”
  - Rae Langton, University of Cambridge, “TBA”
Respondent: Arindam Chakrabarti, Stony Brook University

2. What Is It Like to Be a Philosopher of Asian Descent?
Chair: A. Minh Nguyen, Florida Gulf Coast University
Speakers:
  - Dien Ho, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, “Thinking While Asian”
  - Emily S. Lee, California State University, Fullerton, “A Small Act of Rebellion Toward Philosophy as a Gift”
  - A. Minh Nguyen, Florida Gulf Coast University, “What Is It Like to Be a Philosopher of Asian Descent?”
  - Falguni A. Sheth, Emory University, “The Fluidity of Identity: Moving Toward a Philosophy of Race”
  - Anand Jayprakash Vaidya, San José State University, “The Story of One Male Asian American Philosopher”
  - Audrey Yap, University of Victoria, “Fit or Flight: Ethical Decision-Making as a Model Minority”


“These essays are really a delight to read. I thank the authors for their candid and often touching accounts of their personal and professional experiences…. This volume is a real treasure. Great work, Minh and Yarran!”—Manyul Im, Professor of Philosophy and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Bridgeport. Comment on “New APA Newsletter on Asian and Asian American Philosophers and Philosophies.” *Warp, Weft, and Way: Chinese and Comparative Philosophy*, 20 November 2020, 9:46 am, https://warpweftandway.com/new-apanewsletter-on-asian-and-asian-american-philosophers-and-philosophies-2/. Accessed 1 December 2020.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**SPECIAL ISSUE ON WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE A PHILOSOPHER OF ASIAN DESCENT**
_Dedicated to the memory of Dr. Jaegwon Kim_

**FROM THE EDITORS**

A. Minh Nguyen and Yarran Hominh  
*Editors’ Introduction: What Is It Like to Be a Philosopher of Asian Descent?*

**ARTICLES**

M. Ashraf Adeel  
*The Rock on My Chest*

Kenneth Aizawa  
*The Not-So-Lonely Journey of a Japanese American Philosopher*
Yubraj Aryal
*Fashioning Oneself as a Philosopher of Asian Descent*

Prasanta S. Bandyopadhyay
*The Unbearable Lightness of Being an Asian American Philosopher*

Celia T. Bardwell-Jones
*What Does It Mean to Be a Philosopher of Filipina American Descent?*

Julianne Chung
*What Am I?*

Kenny Easwaran
*One Life in Philosophy*

Saba Fatima
*Philosophy, Liberation, and Other Roads Less Travelled: Being Asian in Philosophy*

Dien Ho
*Thinking While Asian*

Masato Ishida
*“Does He Get Paid?”*

Yoichi Ishida
*In Praise of Teachers*

Justin Khoo
*Mixed, but not Diluted*

David H. Kim
*Frenemy Philosophy*

Halla Kim
*Criss-Crossing the Philosophical Borderlines: What Is It Like to Be a Philosopher of Asian Descent?*

Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach
*Making Meaning of Practices in Academic Philosophy*

Emily S. Lee
*A Small Act of Rebellion Toward Philosophy as a Gift*

Mi-Kyoung (Mitzi) Lee
*How I Came to Be a Philosopher*
Keya Maitra  
*From Accidental to Integral: My Journey with Doing Philosophy*

Gary Mar  
*Breathing Living History into Haunted Places*

Bo Mou  
*Facing Challenges and Re-Advancing: Toward Constructive Engagement*

Karen Ng  
*The Past, the Present, and the Owl of Minerva*

Anthony Nguyen  
*Ambiguity, Alienation, and Authenticity*

Ann A. Pang-White  
*My Philosophy Journey to the West*

Jin Y. Park  
*Doing Philosophy at the Margin*

Yuriko Saito  
*My Journey Across the Pacific*

Falguni A. Sheth  
*The Fluidity of Identity: Moving Toward a Philosophy of Race*

Saam Trivedi  
*“Wogs” and Philosophers*

Anand Jayprakash Vaidya  
*On What It Is Like to Be a Male Philosopher of Asian Descent*

Audrey Yap  
*Fit or Flight: Ethical Decision-Making as a Model Minority*

**MEMORIAL NOTICE**

Paul Guyer, Justin Broackes, and Bernard Reginster  
*In Memoriam: Jaegwon Kim (1934–2019)*

**ASIAN PHILOSOPHY BLOGS**

**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIAL ISSUE ON BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY: BOOK SYMPOSIUM ON WHY I AM NOT A BUDDHIST BY EVAN THOMPSON

FROM THE EDITORS

A. Minh Nguyen and Yarran Hominh
Editors’ Introduction: Buddhist Modernism and Its Discontents

ARTICLES

Evan Thompson
*Précis of Why I Am Not a Buddhist*

Christian Coseru
*On Pursuing the Dialogue Between Buddhism and Science in Ways That Distort Neither*

Bronwyn Finnigan
*On Being a Good Friend to Buddhist Philosophy*

Jonardon Ganeri
*Buddhism after Buddhist Modernism: Comments on Evan Thompson’s Why I Am Not a Buddhist*

Jay L. Garfield
*Throwing out the Buddha with the Offering Water: Comments on Evan Thompson’s Why I Am Not a Buddhist*

Laura P. Guerrero
*Free to Be You and Me: Cosmopolitanism, Pluralism, and Buddhist Modernism*
Sonam Kachru  
*Some Questions for Friends of Buddhism*

Constance Kassor  
*Thompson Is Not a Buddhist, But What About the Rest of Us?*

Abraham Velez de Cea  
*Deconstructing Buddhist Modernism Without Postmodern Orientalism?*

Louise Williams  
*Buddhist Modernism: Let’s Be Suspicious But Not Because It Lacks Faith*

Evan Thompson  
*Replies to Critics*

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION