Committee on International Cooperation

2020–2021 Membership

Anat Biletzki, chair (2022)
Armin Schulz (2021)
Karsten Stueber (2021)
Matthew Walker (2021)
Rebecca Bamford (2022)
Anjan Chakravartty (2022)
Martin Pickave (2022)
Etienne Brown (2023)
Michael J. Cholbi (2023)
Krishna M. Pathak (2023)
Aida Roige, GSC Liaison (2021)
REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION 2020-2021
Submitted by Anat Biletzki, Chair
Annual Report, September 2021

General
The Committee on International Cooperation has been discursively active this year. That is to say, there has been much discussion concerning various questions within the Committee’s purview. Conversations were had, with various positions expressed, on the election of an Associate Chair (for 2021-2022) who would then become Chair in 2022. Other discussions engaged in articulating the feedback to the APA’s strategic planning. Going into the 2021-2022 fiscal year, a spirited conversation is now going on regarding the Committee’s choice of a panel for World Philosophy Day sponsored by the Committee.

Importantly, the members of the Committee are engaging in deep thought and forward planning regarding both the Committee’s charge/authority and its future activities – with a view to enriching the APA’s involvement in international philosophical affairs. Topics that are being considered are: (1) Philosophy in the Americas, involving not just Canada and Mexico (see below), but associations in Brazil, Argentina, and other Latin American countries; (2) Research and job opportunities overseas; (3) Connections with UNESCO (re World Philosophy Day – see below); (4) CIC’s charge and practical applications of it, including committee procedures in decision making; (5) Active engagement with Scholars At Risk (see below); (6) Active engagement with FISP – International Federation of Philosophical Societies (see below).
Most of these matters are just now on the springboard, but we see the coming year(s) as pivotal for making the APA truly instrumental in support for international cooperation.

Fund for Assistance to Overseas Philosophers
Decisions upon applications for funds from the Fund for Assistance to Overseas Philosophers are considered by the Executive Director with the recommendations of the Chair of the CIC. In 2020-2021 eleven applications were received from Iran, Turkey, Argentina, Brazil, Kenya, Venezuela, India, Costa Rica and the Czech Republic, with requests for complimentary membership in the APA or registration/technological assistance to the 2021 APA divisional meetings. All but one were approved.

Strategic Planning
The CIC conducted a forceful discussion on the strategic plan for the next 1-5 years worked on by the APA, to address and respond to the impacts of the corona pandemic, issues of racial justice, and immediate steps for support of departments and faculty members (i.e., the financial impact of the pandemic). This discussion did not necessarily have to do with international topics or cooperation. Our feedback document elaborated on general injustices, the job market, alt-ac, philosophy and philosophy departments, and APA meetings, and can be found at https://quinnipiacuniversity-my.sharepoint.com:/w:/g/personal/abiletzki_quinnipiac_edu/EesAmBkJXP1MkJ5sdL1KZYEBGAUcXXj5y5YLBriRgtlMA?e=aoTkwh
Associate Chair of CIC Appointed
According to the APA selection procedure, the committee can review nominations for the Associate Chair, who serves during the final year of the current Chair’s tenure and automatically becomes Chair thereafter. The Committee received materials on six nominations and, after discussion, submitted a preference-ranked list of two finalists. Martin Pickave was subsequently appointed by the APA board of officers as Associate Chair (2021-22).

APA Virtual Program Committee (World Philosophy Day 2020, WPD 2021, Writing for Public Audiences)
The CIC’s representative to the APAVP Committee is Rebecca Bamford (as of 2020).

Before the establishment of the APAVP Committee, the APA held a series of APA monthly webinars. On Nov. 19, 2020, a webinar on Doing World Philosophy was held for APA members. It included Lori Gallegos (Texas State University), Kris Sealey (Fairfield University), and Bryan Van Norden (Vassar College) as presenters and was facilitated by Rebecca Bamford (Quinnipiac University, member of CIC). On February 15th, a webinar on Writing Philosophy for Public Audiences was held for APA members. It included Anat Biletzki (Quinnipiac University, Chair of CIC), C. Thi Nguyen (University of Utah), Ian Olasov (CUNY Graduate Center and Brooklyn College) as presenters and was facilitated by Lewis Gordon (University of Connecticut).

The CIC has been authorized to conduct an annual webinar on World Philosophy Day. Current discussion is focused on the panel for WPD 2021 (November 18, 2021).

World Congress of Philosophy
As a consequence of the corona pandemic, the 2023 World Congress, which was planned to take place in Melbourne, Australia, has been cancelled and will be replaced by the World Congress in Rome, Italy, in 2024.

The current Chair of the CIC, Anat Biletzki, is a member of the Steering Committee of FISP (International Federation of Philosophical Societies), which administers the World Congress. Additionally, and fortuitously, Maria Baghramian, who is also a member of the CIC (2021-24), is a member of the Steering Committee as well and is, furthermore, on the Programme Committee of the 2024 Congress. Both committees meet often in the years leading up to the World Congress. Profs. Biletzki and Baghramian will be involved in engaging the APA actively in program planning and, subsequently, in active participation during the World Congress in Rome.

Letters signed by the APA
The public letters signed by the APA, after consideration by the Board and the Committee on Public Statements, often have to do with international issues. (See, for example the Multi-Society Letter on Hong Kong National Security Law, the Multi-Society Letter on Immigrant Student Visas, statement on the Russian Federation and Bard College, the letter on Solidarity with
protests at Boğaziçi University, etc.) Although the official discussion is conducted among Board members, the members of the CIC are committed to such involvement and activism by the APA.

**Review of Small Grant Funding**
Due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, there were no grants considered in the summer of 2020.

**Baumgardt Memorial Fellowship** – The Baumgardt Memorial Fellowship is awarded every third year. Since it was awarded in April 2020, this was an off-year.

**Collaboration between North American Philosophical Societies** – As reported last year, there is an initiative afoot to hold a joint conference of North American philosophical associations (APA, Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA), Philosophical Association of Mexico (AfM)). We are still hoping that this will become a realistic venture in the future. It also coheres with the Committee’s discussion on Philosophy in the Americas.

**Scholars at Risk Network**
The APA is an SAR Affiliate Organization with the Chair of the CIC functioning as the SAR representative. For a list of previous events (2020-21), see [https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/events/](https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/events/).

**Sessions at 2021 APA Divisional Meetings organized by the CIC**
**Eastern:** The CIC did not organize a meeting at the February 20-23 Eastern Division meeting in Philadelphia.

**Central:**
**Empathy and Morality**
Arranged by the APA Committee on International Cooperation
Chair: Karsten Stueber (College of the Holy Cross)
Speakers:
  - John Deigh (University of Texas at Austin) “Empathy and Reasonableness”
  - Monika Betzler (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München) “Shared Belief and the Limits of Empathy”
  - Erasmus Mayr (Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg) “Smithian Sympathy and the Commitment to Intersubjectivity”
Commentator: Olivia Bailey (Tulane University)

**Pacific:**
**Prestige and Inclusion in Anglo-American Academic Philosophy**
Arranged by the APA Committee on International Cooperation
Chairs:
  - Rebecca Bamford (Quinnipiac University)
Étienne Brown (San José State University)

Speakers:

Rianna Oelofsen (University of Fort Hare) “Institutional Hierarchies and Prestige in Academic Communities: Implications for Diversity and Inclusion”

Thierry Ngosso (Université Catholique d’Afrique Centrale and Universität St. Gallen) “Prestige and Political Philosophy in Academic Milieu: An African Perspective”

Helen De Cruz (Saint Louis University) “Prestige Bias: An Obstacle Against the Building of an International Philosophical Community”