Committee on the Status of Women

2021–2022 Membership

Kathryn Norlock, chair (2022)

Lori Gruen, associate chair (2022; chair 2022–2025)

Luciana Garbayo (2022)

Katie Kirkland (2022)

Naomi Scheman (2022)

Clair Morrissey (2023)

Carlotta Pavese (2023)

Christina J. Van Dyke (2023)

Susan Brison (2024)

Kristina Grob (2024)

Julinna C. Oxley (2024)

Jill Gordon, site visit program director, ex officio (2022)

Lauren Freeman, newsletter editor

Julinna C. Oxley, blog series editor, ex officio
Changes to committee membership of 2021-2022

Appreciating the instruction not to include a list of members, I start with brief news of changes. As of July 1, 2022, the Committee on the Status of Women’s Associate Chair, Lori Gruen (Wesleyan University), rises to Chair of the committee, and Barrett Emerick (St. Mary’s College of Maryland) and Ami Harbin (Oakland University) rise to co-editors of the *APA Studies in Feminism*. In January 2022, Alida Liberman became the new Associate Editor of the Women in Philosophy series at the APA blog, which Adriel Trott continues to serve as Editor.

What were the major projects/activities accomplished by the committee in the most recent fiscal year? Are any of these projects ongoing?

The major projects accomplished included:

(1) planning of and contributions to APA annual division meeting programs,
(2) the Women in Philosophy blog series edited by Adriel Trott, Julinn Oxley (outgoing Associate Editor through Dec. 2021) and Alida Liberman (as of Jan.2022) for the *Blog of the APA*, and
(3) the publication of an issue of the *APA Newsletter on Feminism and Philosophy* edited by Lauren Freeman, Volume 21, number 2 (spring 2022) – a special issue on Critical Review of Amy Reed-Sandoval’s *Socially Undocumented: Identity and Immigration Justice* and Serena Parekh’s *No Refuge: Ethics and the Global Refugee Crisis*.

All three projects are both accomplished and ongoing, insofar as the committee will also offer programming for the three annual division meeting programs in the coming year, and continue to publish blog posts and the *APA Studies in Feminism* (formerly *APA Newsletter on Feminism and Philosophy*).

How did the projects/activities of the most recent fiscal year compare to the plans laid out in the committee’s last annual report to the board? Please explain anything that changed or went differently from what was planned.

As with the previous year, all ongoing endeavors were affected by the pandemic, but negative effects were anticipated in advanced and identified in my annual report of 2021.

(1) Although the committee did the usual work in 2021 of discussing and planning sessions for all three upcoming 2022 Divisional meetings, the pandemic-caused necessity of moving the Eastern 2022 meeting from Montreal to Baltimore so shortly before the deadline for program information necessitated the cancellation of the session we had planned for the Eastern meeting in Montreal (which was arranged on the basis of Montreal-area philosophers’ availabilities), and foreshortened the efforts of committee members to hurriedly plan a substitute. We were therefore unable to offer a session at the
recent Eastern APA 2022. Some of us were able to meet at the Pacific APA, however, and planning for the coming year is robust.

(2) Editor Adriel Trott continued to find that the experience of editing the APA blog series this past year met with pandemic-related challenges, including more cancellations or postponements in addition to difficulty recruiting in the last fiscal year. As in previous years, however, editors recruited, edited, and posted two contributions a month in every month, so the success of the series endures without interruption.

(3) The effects of the pandemic on the Newsletter included the inspiration of outgoing editor Lauren Freeman to run a special third issue of the APA Newsletter on Feminism and Philosophy in 2021: Vol.20, no.1 was entirely devoted to the theme, “Feminist Responses to COVID-19 and Pandemics.” However, the regularly scheduled first issue of the past fiscal year (Fall 2021) could not be assembled in time due to the challenges for many women (including contributors and the editor) during the pandemic. The sole issue of the APA Newsletter on Feminism published in the past fiscal year was therefore the Spring 2022 issue.

How did the committee go about accomplishing the planned projects/activities?

APA meeting sessions are organized by the membership of the committee and usually by invitation only, brainstormed by the group via email, with the chair and the members who propose sessions usually issuing and tracking replies to invitations to participate in the sessions we devise; committee members have also chaired sessions and participated in the online division-meetings this past year. Last year we also issued a general call for participation in division meetings, which netted a proposal for an author-meets-critics session at the Central APA that we have now held.

The blog series is coordinated by editor Adriel Trott and an associate editor; they consult with each other and do all of the work of approaching contributors and editing their work (with input from the committee only when they solicit input).

The newsletter this past fiscal year was edited by Lauren Freeman, who does all of the work of approaching contributors and editing their work (again with input from the committee only when she solicits it). Lauren Freeman chose to arrange issues according to a timely theme with contributions netted from a combination of open calls and invitations to appropriate scholars.

What were the relevant results for the committee’s projects/activities?

(1) Planning of and contributions to APA Division Meeting programs: The past fiscal year included the gratifying sessions of the Central APA and Pacific APA that the committee planned in the previous year.

Central APA 2022 program information
Author Meets Critics: Carolyn McLeod, Conscience in Reproductive Health Care: Prioritizing Patient Interests
Chair: Heather Stewart (Oklahoma State University)
Critics: Javiera Perez Gomez (Marquette University), Alison Reiheld (Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville), Jennifer Parks (Loyola University, Chicago)
Response: Carolyn McLeod (Western University)
Pacific APA 2022 program information

Panel: Who’s Managing Pandemic Burnout?
Chair: Kathryn J. Norlock (Trent University)
Panelists:
Catherine Clune-Taylor (Princeton University)
Suze Berkhout (Toronto) (co-presenting for Berkhout and Maryam Golafshani (University of Toronto-Temerty Faculty of Medicine)
Martina Orlandi (Penn State University - Rock Ethics Institute)

(2) Planning and publication of the Women in Philosophy series of the Blog of the APA maintained its target publication rate of twice-monthly posts in the fiscal year, despite the aforementioned challenges. The series included published pieces on a wide range of topics including the pandemic, emotional labor, black feminism, Roe v. Wade, doom-scrolling, tone-policing, and pre-Socratic philosophy. Claire Elise Katz wrote a contribution to the “Ask a Senior Woman Philosopher” mini-series, on the topic of supporting junior philosophers as a senior scholar. A post on Bat-Ami Bar On’s work and influence was a third addition to an emergent mini-series on the blog in memory of Bar On.

(3) The final issue of the Newsletter was published and well received. In the latest edition, Volume 21, number 2 (spring 2022), Lauren Freeman arranged a special issue: Critical Review of Amy Reed-Sandoval’s Socially Undocumented: Identity and Immigration Justice and Serena Parekh’s No Refuge: Ethics and the Global Refugee Crisis. Additionally, there were three book reviews in this issue. As always, the articles that Lauren Freeman brought to publication are remarkable in their high quality and sheer quantity:

“Précis: Socially Undocumented: Identity and Immigration Justice,” Amy Reed-Sandoval
“Emphasizing Embodiment in Immigration Justice,” Simona Capisani
“Socially Undocumented and Structural Health Vulnerability,” Ryoa Chung and Lisa Eckenwiler
“Social Groups, Oppression, and the (Legally) Undocumented,” Peter Higgins
“The Value and Limits of the Socially Undocumented Interpretive Horizon,” Carlos Alberto Sánchez
“Author’s Response,” Amy Reed-Sandoval
“Précis: No Refuge: Ethics and the Global Refugee Crisis,” Serena Parekh
“Structural Injustice and Social Sin,” Mary Troxell
“No Refuge for Latin American (and other so-called Global South) Nations?” Allison B. Wolf
“On No Refuge as Public Philosophy,” David Owen
“Our Shared Responsibility for Refugees,” Sandra Raponi
“Response to Critics,” Serena Parekh

What went well? What could have gone better?
What went well: Considering the exigencies of the pandemic, including a year in which our teaching jobs were widely reported to be more of a struggle even as so many employing institutions insisted on a “return to normal,” I would say that the three main activities of the committee all went surprisingly well. APA sessions online at the Central Division Meeting and in person at the Pacific Division Meeting in Vancouver were outstanding, and offered philosophical conversations of high quality. Planning for the 2023 meetings is already well underway and the proposed sessions promise to be excellent. The blog achieved its target rate of publications against the odds, given the situation for working women during the pandemic, and the newsletter’s final issue under its old title is a juggernaut of critical scholarship; the past fiscal year also saw the successful recruitment of co-editors for the coming term.

What could have gone better:
(1) Although the APA’s nimble change for our sakes, from an in-person session at the Central APA to an online session, was truly helpful for our involved scholars and participants, and given the spike in COVID cases could not be helped, turnout was a bit depressed as compared to what our committee usually enjoys. I hope the coming year sees a successful return to in-person conferring.
(2) As I reported last year, site-visit program concerns are ongoing with respect to a sustainable membership with institutional wisdom and sufficient numbers of participants to share the work; program leadership is currently reviewing how to continue and improve program practices.
(3) And of course, a complete answer to the questions as to what could have gone better in this past year, as with the previous year, has to include the situation for working women in a pandemic, especially those with child- and dependent-care responsibilities, alas. But only time and vaccinations can correct that.

What are the committee’s plans for the coming fiscal year?
(1) Members of the committee hope to meet up via Zoom, and Lori Gruen as new Chair is actively arranging that. Members also hope to eventually meet at divisional meetings that we (severally, separately) attend (again, pandemic permitting!). Email is always our primary means of the work of the committee, but that is the sort of communication that one squeezes in around one’s job duties and does not permit the sorts of energetic and blue-sky thinking that meeting and eating in a dedicated place and time allow.
(2) The committee is currently arranging sessions at every divisional meeting in the coming year, and retains hopes of a post-pandemic future in which we return to the traditional practice of offering two sessions at every conference, not just one. Current sessions include:

Eastern APA 2023 program information

Abortion after Dobbs
Chair: Susan Brison (Dartmouth College)
Speaker: Bertha Manninen (Arizona State University) "Abortion and Beyond: Fetal Personhood after Roe"
Shannon Dea (University of Regina) "A Harm Reduction Approach to Abortion Revisited"
Jordan Pascoe (Manhattan College) "Out of Defense Mode: Rethinking Reproductive and Sexual Justice After the End of Roe"

Central APA 2023 program information

**Feminist Philosophy of Mind: Machines, Gender, Race, and Sexuality**
Chair and discussant: Jennifer McWeeny
Speakers: Iva Apostolova, E. Diaz-Leon, Amy Kind, Janine Jones

Pacific APA 2023 program information

**Feminist Philosophy of Mind**
Chair and Discussant: Keya Maitra
Speakers: Naomi Scheman, Susan Brison, Gabrielle Bennette Jackson, Anne Jacobson, Emily McRae

The status of “women” in the Committee on the Status of Women

Lori Gruen, as Chair, will also be hosting three conversations about the status of “women” in the Committee on the Status of Women, co-sponsored with the Committee on LGBTQ People in the Profession.

The first event, co-sponsored by the Committee on Virtual Programming, will occur on September 23, 2022 as a webinar. Speakers are Robin Dembrow, Sally Halslanger, Blake Hereth, Tamsin Kimoto, Dee Payton, and Lori Watson, Lori Gruen will moderate. There will also be a session at the Eastern and Pacific meetings.

**Eastern APA 2023**

Speakers are Louise Antony, Blake Hereth, Andrea Pitts, Bailey Thomas and Lori Watson. Gruen will moderate.

**Pacific APA 2023**

Speakers are Asha Bhandary, Catherine Clune-Taylor, Tamsin Kimoto, Quill Kukla, and Lori Watson. Gruen will moderate.

**Last suggestions and recommendations:** As this is my last report as chair, I cannot resist the chance to say that someday, meeting once a year in person in warm weather and meeting once a year online is the better future. -KJN

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Norlock and Lori Gruen