

APA COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PERSONS IN THE PROFESSION

2010-11 Report

Talia Mae Bettcher, Chair

The APA LGBT Committee for 2010-2011 consisted of Talia Bettcher (chair), Loren Cannon, Margaret Denike, Kim Leighton, Kim Hall, and Anna Carastathis. William Wilkerson assumed duties as newsletter editor in Winter 2011, serving also as *ex officio* member. The committee was in email contact throughout the year.

At the November 2010 meeting of the APA Board of Officers, I made a report to the Board as the chair of the LGBT committee. I raised concerns about the Board's failure to communicate their 2009 decision to allow institutions in non-compliance with the non-discrimination statement to advertise in *JFP* (while "flagging" them) as well as the lack of clarity in the overall process by which the flagging would be executed and assessed. I indicated that since it is the charge of the LGBT committee to advise the APA of discrimination and unfair practices as it concerns LGBT people in the profession, the LGBT committee was obligated to advise the Board of Officers that the APA itself was engaging in an unfair practice by continuing to allow institutions with discriminatory policies to advertise in the *JFP*. Following the November meeting (at the request of the Board), I drafted a statement to the Board that summarized the concerns expressed at the meeting. The letter was revised and unanimously approved by the full LGBT committee. It was then sent to the Inclusiveness Committee where it was also unanimously approved.

The APA LGBT Committee held sessions at both the Central and the Pacific Division Meetings. At the Central, we co-sponsored a symposium on transsexuality and personal identity. Chair: Mindi Torrey (Michigan State University); Speakers: Talia Bettcher (California State University–Los Angeles) "Trapped in the Wrong Theory"; Miqqi Alicia Gilbert (York University) "Esse Est Interagere: To Be Is to Interact, Or, There Is No Intelligibility without Visibility"; Christine Overall (Queen's University) "Transgender, Cisgender, and Aspirational Identity"; Commentator: Loren Cannon (California State University–Humboldt). Georgia Warnke was also scheduled as a commentator, but she was unable to attend.

At the Pacific Division, we sponsored a session entitled "Regenerating Queer: The Ethical Challenges of Recent Biopolitics." Chair: Loren Cannon (California State University, Humboldt); Margaret Denike (Dalhousie University) "Homonormative Collusions and the Subject of Rights"; Kimberly Leighton (American University) "The Dis-assemblage of Genetic Meaning: Countering the Bio-normative Valuation of Genetic Relatedness: A Strategy for Queer Politics?." Chris Cuomo (University of Georgia) was scheduled to present as well, but she was unable to attend.

The chairs of APA Diversity Committees continue to serve as *ex-officio* members on the APA Inclusiveness Committee. I served in this capacity, contributing to list-serve discussions related to inclusiveness within the profession and helping assess project proposals that had been

submitted to the APA.

The committee thanks William Wilkerson for his excellent work as editor of the *APA Newsletter on Philosophy and LGBT Issues*. Our most recent Newsletter was published in Spring 2011, and we expect to publish one in Fall 2011.