

# Committee on the Status of Women

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## *2012-2013 Membership*

Peggy DesAutels, chair (2013)

Hilde Lindemann, associate chair (2013)

Nancy Bauer (2015)

Carrie Figdor (2014)

Jill Gordon (2013)

Judith Green (2013)

Mary Kate McGowan (2015)

Dorothy Rogers (2013)

Valerie Tiberius (2014)

Yolonda Wilson (2014)

Lijun Yuan (2015)

Margaret Crouch, newsletter editor (2013)

**Report from the Committee on the Status of Women**  
Submitted by Peggy DesAutels, Chair (term ended July 1, 2013)  
September, 2013

The members of the APA Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) have been working to establish and promote the following initiatives and events.

**Diversity in Philosophy Conference**

The APA CSW was pleased to co-sponsor (with the APA and the University of Dayton) a conference on Diversity in Philosophy held May 29-May 31, 2013 at the University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio.

This conference examined and addressed the underrepresentation of women and other marginalized groups in Philosophy. Participants focused on hurdles and best practices associated with the inclusion of underrepresented groups. It focused on such questions as:

- Why do white males continue to be over-represented among Philosophy majors, graduate students, and faculty members, especially given that most other fields in the sciences and humanities are increasingly diverse?
- What are some effective ways to improve the recruitment, retention and advancement of women and other underrepresented groups?
- What roles do implicit bias and stereotyping play in who advances in Philosophy?
- How can the climate for women and other marginalized groups be improved?
- What role can philosophers who study marginalized groups play in advancing underrepresented groups in Philosophy?
- What can Philosophy learn from National Science Foundation ADVANCE initiatives that address how to recruit and advance women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields?
- How can we improve the climate for all underrepresented groups in Philosophy, including those who are LGBTQ, disabled, first generation in college, or economically disadvantaged?

Goals of the conference included creating opportunities for networking and building supportive communities as well as sharing cutting edge research. To find out more, go to the CSW website at [www.apaonlinecsw.org](http://www.apaonlinecsw.org).

**Site Visit Program**

The CSW led the initiative to establish an APA-sponsored site visit program. Peggy DesAutels, Carla Fehr, and Sally Haslanger serve as the first directors of this program. Specific goals of the APA-CSW-sponsored site visits include:

- Gaining information in a systematic way about the range and variety of women's and minorities' experiences in Philosophy that contribute to the ongoing underrepresentation of women and minorities in the field.

- Informing departments, where necessary, about challenges women and philosophers of other underrepresented groups face, drawing on first person reports and social science research.
- Helping departments analyze the climate issues particular to their own setting.
- Making recommendations based on proven best practices.

A workshop to train site visit team members was held on June 1, 2013 at the University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio. To date (September, 14, 2013), three philosophy departments have officially requested site visits.

### **APA Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Harassment**

Members of the CSW helped to select the members of an APA Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Harassment. This committee will examine the phenomenon of sexual harassment as it arises in professional philosophy, e.g., its prevalence and the contexts in which it occurs. To this end, the Committee will develop a protocol by which it can obtain anonymous information. It will aspire to obtain information from undergraduates, graduate students, staff, postdocs, part-time instructors and faculty, of a variety of sexual orientation and gender identifications, mindful of the distinctive vulnerabilities of LGBTQ philosophers. The committee will then recommend how the APA should implement its nondiscrimination policy in regard to sexual harassment. It will produce a report recommending best practices regarding sexual harassment in the discipline to be implemented by the APA, philosophy departments in which APA members are employed, and conferences and other professional events hosted by either.

### **CSW-organized sessions at APA Divisional Conferences**

Eastern Division APA Meeting, Saturday, December 29, 2012, Atlanta, Georgia

Panel discussion, "**Women and Power in Academia**"

Chairs: Carrie Figdor and/or Yolonda Wilson.

Panel participants:

Karen Hanson, Senior Vice President and Provost, University of Minnesota

Marjorie Hass, President, Austin College

Amy Kind, Chair, Dept. of Philosophy and Interim Director, Gould Center for the Humanities, and former Associate Dean of the Faculty, Claremont McKenna College

Central Division APA Meeting, Saturday, February 23, 2013, New Orleans, Louisiana

**Pushing the Boundaries: Mary Whiton Calkins at the Sesquicentennial of Her Birth**

Chair: Mary Ellen Waithe (Cleveland State University)

Speakers: Rebecca Zufelt (University of Dallas)

“Mary W. Calkins: An Advocate for the Self”

Mathew A Foust (Lander University)

“Calkins, James, and the War against War”

Karyn J. Boatwright (Kalamazoo College), Bridget B. Nolan (Kalamazoo

College), and Boyer Lewis (Kalamazoo College)  
“Mary Whiton Calkins: The Quest Continues”

*This session was co-sponsored by the Society for the Study of Women  
Philosophers, the Society for the Psychology of Women, and the Society for the  
History of Psychology*

Pacific Division APA Meeting, Wednesday, March 27, San Francisco, CA  
**CSW-Sponsored lunch discussion**

**Presentation by Chair of the CSW at Society for Philosophy and Psychology 2013 Meeting**

Peggy DesAutels, "Mary Whiton Calkins (1863-1930)," presented as an invited talk, Society for Philosophy and Psychology 2013 Meeting, Providence, Rhode Island, June 17, 2013.

**New Chair of CSW**

On July 1, 2013, Hilde Lindemann took over as Chair of the CSW. Peggy DesAutels will serve as an ex officio member of the CSW as Director of the Site Visit Program. Peggy DesAutels will also continue to serve as the webmaster for the [www.apaonlinecsw.org](http://www.apaonlinecsw.org).