



American  
Philosophical  
Association

# Grant Application

Visit <http://www.apaonline.org/?grantfund> to submit.

## Contact Information

Contact Name: Wesley D. Cray

Email Address: [REDACTED]

APA Member?  Yes  No

*Only APA members may submit grant applications. Membership will be verified.*

## Funding Information

Fiscal Agent: [REDACTED]

Fiscal Agent Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Total Funding Amount Requested: \$5,000

*Proposals over \$5,000 normally are not funded.*

## Project Information

Project Title: Junior Metaphysics Workshop

Abstract:

*Maximum 150 words.*

This grant would fund a metaphysics conference at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) in Grand Rapids, MI. This conference is aimed at promoting and supporting the work of recent Ph.D.s, many of whom are still presently seeking tenure-track jobs.

## Steering Committee

Name	Institutional Affiliation	APA Member?
Sam Cowling	Denison University	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Wesley Cray	Grand Valley State University	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Kelly McCormick	Texas Christian University	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Kelly Trogon	Virginia Tech	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Nick Mantegani	Western Michigan University	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Bradley Rettler	Baylor University	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

*Attach a brief resume for each member of the steering committee (maximum two pages per person) highlighting that member's activities and achievements relevant to the project.*

## Project Purpose

*Provide a brief account of the project's purpose, explaining its benefits for the profession and/or how it involves community outreach. Attach additional pages as necessary.*

There is no shortage of excellent conferences for metaphysicians. Unfortunately, the overwhelming majority of these conferences involve only tenured or tenure-track faculty or are exclusive to graduate students. This severely limits the opportunity for junior scholars, many of whom are without tenure-track jobs, to disseminate their research and form scholarly connections with other philosophers.

Last year, a number of us took some initial steps toward filling this void by organizing a conference in Kalamazoo, MI at Western Michigan University. This conference consisted exclusively of recent Ph.D.s and primarily those without tenure-track jobs. It was an enormous success and allowed for remarkably helpful networking among a group of job-seekers. We hope to replicate this success by organizing a second conference, which would further expand this network of researchers and, in many cases, job-seekers. Given the various challenges of the job market, we believe the informal mentoring and support this event can provide are worth the APA's support.

In putting together this year's program (8 speakers and 8 commentators), we aim to actively recognize and support diversity within the discipline. We also hope that this conference will continue as an annual event (held at different institutions), serve as a model for similar conferences in other areas of philosophy, and help lay the foundation for a scholarly society the goal of which is to recognize and promote the work of a diverse group of junior scholars.

## Project Status

*Describe the groundwork already laid for the project or, in the case of projects involving community outreach, the relationships already developed in the community. Attach additional pages as necessary.*

The steering committee has already developed a format for the conference aimed at increasing visibility for job-seeking faculty and allowing under-employed philosophers substantive feedback on their work. In particular, those who presented at last year's conference (many of whom now have tenure-track jobs) will provide comments on papers given by presently job-seeking philosophers. In this way, the conference aims to foster a sense of community and informal mentoring while providing an important opportunity for those who most need a venue to present their research.

We have thus far secured \$1,000 of funding from GVSU, \$750 from Texas Christian University, and \$200 from Western Michigan University. We are likely to receive additional funding from Denison, and we are in the process of contacting Baylor University and Virginia Tech with requests for additional funding. We are continuously seeking out new sources of funding, with the goal of providing as much travel assistance as possible for those on the program (many of whom will not have research and travel budgets).

## Project Plan and Timeline

*Attach additional pages as necessary.*

The conference is tentatively scheduled for April 10th-11th, 2015. The processes for requesting space at GVSU, securing conference catering, and acquiring additional funding from GVSU and other participating universities have already begun. Invitations for presenters and commentators will be sent out by December 1st, 2014. Details regarding participants' travel and lodging will be worked out on a case-by-case basis, so dates are expected to vary. Post-conference follow-up emails (discussed later, under 'Evaluation Plan') will be sent out by May 10th, 2015, with an evaluation report compiled by September 15th, 2015.

## Outreach Plan

*Describe how the project will be advertised to the larger philosophical and/or lay public. Attach additional pages as necessary.*

Information about the conference, including a link to its official website, will be posted to the PhilUpdates mailing list. Information will also be shared via social media (particularly Facebook). Flyers will be posted around GVSU's campus, and copies of the flyer will also be sent to the universities of all participants, as well as universities near GVSU (including Western Michigan University, the University of Michigan--Ann Arbor, and Notre Dame).

We are also asking for some funds to provide conference dinners and lunches for the participants and members of the philosophical community in the area, with hopes of fostering further academic and philosophical connections and discourse.

## Accessibility Plan

*If the proposal involves public lectures, performances, presentations, or films, describe how the project will be accessible for disabled persons, including deaf/hard of hearing and blind/visually impaired individuals. Attach additional pages as necessary.*

At present, the conference plans to follow whatever protocols GVSU and the APA have in place and, upon notification of attendee need, we will make use of whatever relevant resources GVSU has available.

## Evaluation Plan

*Describe how the project will be assessed at its completion with an eye to what worked and what could be improved. Attach additional pages as necessary.*

We plan to follow up via email with all conferences participants and attendees with a brief questionnaire about their own evaluation of the conference. The questionnaire will include an open section in which those filling it out can offer suggestions about how to further improve future conferences.

