Philosophy of Mind DRL Blueprint Project

Abstract
The Diversity Reading List is an expanding online resource of texts written by under-represented authors. Among its projects is the Reading Group Blueprint which asks volunteers to create ready-made reading groups that focus on topics that are typically under-taught in philosophy curricula (e.g., Class, Colonialism, Race and Gender (CCRG), or non-Western philosophy). This allows students anywhere to take matters into their own hands and learn about these topics by following one of these blueprints, and organizing and leading their own reading group. Our proposal is to create three Blueprint on topics in philosophy of mind relating to CCRG. More specifically, we aim at creating blueprints on Chinese Philosophy of Mind, on Feminist Philosophy of Mind, and an all-female blueprint on Embodied Cognitive Science.

Basic Information
Project Coordinator(s)
Clotilde Torregrossa

Steering Committee
• Adriana Alcaraz-Sánchez (University of Glasgow)
• M. Jimena Clavel Vázquez (Tilburg University)
• Xintong Wei (University of Edinburgh)
• Jodie Russell (University of Edinburgh)
• Simon Fokt (TELdesign Limited)

Funding Amount Requested
$2,625.00

Expected Project Completion Date
June 2024

Project Description
The Diversity Reading List is an expanding online resource of texts written by under-represented authors. It is run by and for those teaching philosophy and aims to combat under-representation of traditionally marginalized groups and encourage an increase in the demographic diversity of the subject. The most recent, and perhaps our most popular development so far is our Reading Group Blueprint project. The Blueprint Project asks volunteers to create reading group outlines on systematically under-taught topics (namely anything relating to Class, Colonialism, Race and Gender (CCRG), non-Western philosophy, and the work of specific philosophers who are not white or male). Each Blueprint offers a carefully curated weekly schedule (between 7 to 12 weeks of content), with readings, videos, podcasts, all arranged in a consistent narrative and accompanied by comments and discussion questions.
The DRL has already launched two batches of blueprints, both coordinated by the DRL co-manager, Clotilde Torregrossa. The first ‘batch’ of blueprints launched in January 2022 and received a lot of positive attention from the philosophy community. So far, the DRL offers Blueprints on the following topics:

Batch 1:

- Feminist Philosophy (funded by AHRC).
- Postcolonial Theory, Race and Caste (funded by AHRC).
- Native North American Ethics.
- Sex, What is it Good For? (funded by the University of St Andrews).
- The Wartime Quartet.
- African Languages and African Philosophy.
- Race, Disability, and Gender in Bioethics.
- Philosopher Queens: Women in Philosophy and the History of Exclusion.

Batch 2:

- Class, Status, and Aesthetics (funded by the British Society of Aesthetics).
- Mestizaje, Race, and Aesthetics in Latin America (funded by the British Society of Aesthetics).
- Immoral Monuments and the Commemoration Debate (funded by the British Society of Aesthetics).
- People and Proofs.
- Explorations into Nahua and Mayan Philosophy of Mind.

Our proposal is to create three Blueprints on topics in philosophy of mind relating to CCRG. These blueprints will focus on Chinese Philosophy of Mind, Feminist Philosophy of Mind, and Embodied Cognitive Science. If our application were successful, we would use the grant to pay the Blueprint creators, as well as our volunteer editors for their time spent creating, editing, and formatting the Blueprints for public release on our website. We would then publish the new philosophy of mind Blueprints on our website, free of access to anyone who wishes to follow them. The following is a brief description of the proposed blueprints.

Each of the blueprints will be edited by Clotilde Torregrossa and Simon Fokt, who are both managers of the Diversity Reading List.

1. Chinese Philosophy of Mind. To be developed by Xintong Wei (blueprint 1)

Chinese philosophy has a long and distinguished history of development spanning over a period of more than two thousand years. The historical development of Chinese philosophy can be divided into three major periods: the classical period (6th century-3rd century BCE), the period of the independent growth of Chinese Buddhism (6th century-9th century CE) and neo-Confucianism (11th century-18th century). Chinese philosophy is mostly known for its moral and political thought. Questions concerning moral cultivation, good governance and how to live a good life occupy the centre of Chinese thought and consequently draw most of the contemporary Western scholarship. Topics in philosophy of mind are, in this sense, relatively marginal aspects of Chinese philosophy. However, ancient Chinese thinkers have made important contribution by developing distinctive concepts such as ‘xin 心’ (heart-mind), ‘qing 情’ (
emotion) and ‘zhi 知’ (knowing), which play important roles in their accounts of moral epistemology and ethics. For example, in contrast to the Western conception of the mind which distinguishes between cognitive states (such as beliefs and perceptions) and affective states (such as desires and feelings), the Chinese concept ‘xin’ (heart-mind) denotes an entity that is not only the centre of cognition but also of emotion, understanding and intuition. Early Chinese thinkers endorse a holistic view about the mind-body relationship, leading to the important concept of bodily recognition ‘tiyan 体验’ or ‘tiren 体’, which is one of the fundamental methods of perception.

The aim of this blueprint is to (1) introduce and trace the development of concepts such as ‘xin’ ‘qing’ and ‘zhi’ and (2) examine and address surrounding issues in mind, moral epistemology and ethics in major Chinese thinkers and schools throughout the three periods. The readings will cover primary sources such as Mengzi, Xunzi, Zhuangzi, Chinese Buddhism and neo-Confucian texts such as A Record for Practice, as well as secondary literature.

2. Feminist Philosophy of Mind. To be developed by Adriana Alcaraz Sánchez and Jodie Russell (blueprint 2).

In philosophy of mind, when thinking about “the mind”, we are usually prompted to think about the mind as a universal thing, as something that we all (humans) have. Moreover, when exploring and investigating what makes the mind to be the mind, i.e. which are the intrinsic and special features or consciousness, we are also encouraged to think about certain properties of the mind that are universal and can be attributed to anyone. While this way of setting up the research goal of this subfield in philosophy might be practical and aid research towards finding what characterises consciousness, it is also a simplistic one and leaves aside the many inter and intrapersonal nuances of each individual “mind”. It also seems to leave out how certain sociological structures impact each mind, such as gender, race and class.

In the new anticipated book “Feminist Philosophy of Mind”, Keya Maitra and Jennifer McWeeny (2023, OUP) have curated a collection of essays that bring feminist philosophies and perspectives into the subdiscipline of philosophy of mind. According to the editors, Feminist philosophy of Mind is “an area of study that investigates the nature of mind with reference to social locations marked by categories such as gender, race, class, sexuality, nationality, and ability, and/or investigates the nature of social locations with reference to theories about the mind” (p.3). In the words of the editors, the aim is to treat collective the following questions: What is the mind? Whose mind? And To Whom is this mind attributed?

This blueprint on Feminist Philosophy of Mind will be based on an online reading group of selected chapters of the "Feminist Philosophy of Mind" book taking place between October 2022 and April 2023 that will count on the participation of the book’s editors and some of the contributors. The blueprint will provide a curated guide for each of the selected chapters to aid reading and independent discussion. We expect to collaborate with the participants of the reading group to provide a list of discussion questions that can be used to organize similar reading groups. In addition, the blueprint will also provide additional readings and sources that complement the selected chapter.

3. Embodied Cognitive Science. To be developed by Jimena Clavel Vázquez (blueprint 3).

Embodied cognition is a research program that pertains to a collection of views known as 4EA approaches or situated approaches to cognition. The acronym “4EA” refers, more specifically, to the theses that cognition is Extended, Embodied, Enacted, Embedded, and Affective. While typically treated as a block, the
views and theses that populate this approach are often disparate. Regardless, they are united by a revisionary attitude towards cognitivism, the paradigm that dominates cognitive sciences. Embodied cognition, more specifically, focuses on the non-trivial contributions of the body and the environment in cognition, and argues against the characterization of cognition as the processing of representations. The program also emphasizes the active nature of cognition, broadly construed.

In virtue of its themes and theses, embodied cognition offers a rich alternative to think about cognition and the mind, while maintaining an open dialogue with various disciplines and traditions (including analytic philosophy of mind). This program is characterized by the diversity of approaches it brings together, as well as by its interdisciplinary nature. For instance, it draws heavily on traditional work on phenomenology, as well as on Buddhist philosophy. It also brings together the research of philosophers, cognitive and developmental psychologists, biologists, anthropologists, and roboticists. More recently, some researchers have also started to think about the implications of theses within the program for normative questions that pertain to ethics and social epistemology.

This blueprint proposes to focus on the work of female researchers working in embodied cognition. The aims of this blueprint are to: (1) introduce key concepts within the embodied cognition program, (2) introduce the work of central researchers within the program, and (3) discuss the contributions of the research program to other philosophical disciplines. The proposal is to divide the blueprint in two main sections: work that addresses foundational issues and work that explores the intersection of embodied cognitive science with other philosophical disciplines and questions. We will include work by Eleanor Rosch, Hanne De Jaegher, Sanneke de Haan, Mog Stapleton, Melina Gastélum Vargas, Alejandra Martínez Quintero, Kathryn Nave, Carlota Serrahima, and Marta Jorba.

**Project Impact**

Based on some research conducted by the Diversity Reading List on the current state of philosophy curricula in the UK, we have identified topics that are systematically under-taught, namely anything relating to Class, Colonialism, Race and Gender (CCRG), non-Western philosophy, and the work of specific philosophers who are not white or male. To remedy this, we asked our volunteers to create these ready-made reading groups so that students anywhere can take matters into their own hands and learn about these topics by following one of these blueprints, and organizing and leading their own reading group. Each blueprint targets different groups of students by clearly indicating the level of difficulty of the reading group as a whole and of the individual texts.

**Project Goals**

- The goal of this project is to develop and publish three blueprints on topics within Philosophy of Mind (Chinese Philosophy of Mind, Feminist Philosophy of Mind, and Embodied Cognition) that can be used by students and researchers at different levels primarily to organize reading groups, but that can also be used more generally for learning, teaching, or research.

**Project Timeline**

The Diversity Reading List aims at publishing two batches of blueprints a year. Our goal is to contribute to the summer 2024 batch. The development of the blueprints will take place over the Spring 2024 semester. The blueprints will be edited and published in June 2024.
Project Outreach
The primary audience of the blueprints are undergraduate and postgraduate students within and outside philosophy who are interested in organizing reading groups on topics that are under-taught in philosophy. The secondary audience of the blueprints are other members of the profession with teaching responsibilities who are looking for resources on topics that are not typically in philosophy, and who would benefit from an already given structure and narrative. The resources included in the blueprints will also be available, more generally, to the audience who already uses the Diversity Reading List for research and teaching, since each source listed in the blueprint is also added to the curated list.

Accessibility Plan
Given that the blueprints are published online, the information provided by the project might be inaccessible to some people with disabilities. To address this, the webpages dedicated to these blueprints will adhere to the ADA standards and recommendations for accessible websites. Given that one of the members of the steering committee is based in the Netherlands at Tilburg University, we will consult experts at the university’s Teacher Desk (the department in charge of providing support to teaching staff), as well as experts at the Expert Centre on Inclusive Education in the Netherlands, an organization that provides support for the development of inclusive teaching resources and policy development (see https://ecio.nl/en/). The designated accessibility coordinator will be Jimena Clavel Vázquez. These blueprints will include the contact details of the accessibility coordinator in case further accommodations are required.

Evaluation Plan
In order to assess the blueprints after their publication, the Diversity Reading List has created a form that can be filled by those who have used the Blueprints. The form asks the following questions:

1. For what purposes have you used our Blueprints?
2. Which Blueprints did you use?
3. Did you find the Blueprint(s) you used to be (select N/A if you didn’t use them for some purpose) useful in your learning, useful in your teaching, useful in your research, inspiring to explore a topic in a new way?
4. What specifically did you find useful in the Blueprints: the selection of resources, the teaching comments, the discussion questions?
5. Were there any other purposes for which you found our Blueprints to be useful and if so, how?
6. Do you have any suggestions on how we could further improve our Blueprints?

This allows the Diversity Reading List to assess to what extent the Blueprints have been used, for what purposes, and which aspects have been the most helpful to the users, as well as to find out about any suggestions and comments that can lead to further improvement of the project. The form is always available in the website, but there are also regular calls for feedback in the Diversity Reading List’s Twitter account.

Additionally, the Blueprint project is discussed regularly by the managers, editors and collaborators of the Diversity Reading List.
Online Presence
The blueprints will be published in the website of the Diversity Reading List with the blueprints that have already been developed for previous batches. The website includes guidelines to use the blueprints and the information required to select the blueprint and organise a reading group (e.g., a specification of the level of difficulty of the blueprint--introductory, intermediate, and advanced).

https://diversityreadinglist.org/blueprints/

Budget Narrative
Based on prior funding, we estimate that the creation of one Blueprint takes 25 hours of work (regardless of the numbers of co-creators) and should be remunerated at postdoctoral research assistant rate, which we have calculated at 25 USD (around 20 GBP) per hour based on an average of different institutions.

Additionally, editing and formatting one Blueprint takes 10 hours of work (which includes formatting the information via a spreadsheet, sourcing bibliographic information and links, adding each individual entry to the main List, uploading the Blueprint to the website, and creating the downloadable PDF). This should also be remunerated at postdoctoral research assistant rate of 25 USD (around 20 GBP) per hour and would be shared amongst our three Blueprint editors (allocation below).

This brings the total funding for one Blueprint to 875 USD (700 GBP) and the total for three Blueprints to 2,625 USD (2,100 GBP). A detailed project budget can be found attached to this application.

Other Funding Sources
Previous batches of blueprints have received funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council of the UK, the University of St Andrews, the Future of Work and Income Research Network, and the British Society of Aesthetics. For this batch of blueprints, we have also applied for funding to the Mind Association. This application, however, was unsuccessful.
# American Philosophical Association Small Grant Budget Template

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<th>Item (e.g., salaries, honoraria, supplies, travel)</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
<th>Amount Requested from Other Sources</th>
<th>Amount Requested from APA</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

Cells in the total row automatically total the items in the column above them. The total cell for the last column must match the total in the top section of the budget template. If the total here does not match the corresponding total above, the

Proposals over $5,000 normally are not funded.
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AOS

Aesthetics
Metaphilosophy
- Experimental Philosophy
- Conceptual Engineering

Metaethics
Ethics
Social Epistemology
Feminist Philosophy
Environmental Philosophy
History of Philosophy
- Enlightenment

AOC

EMployment

September 2021 – July 2023: Associate Lecturer in Philosophy (Teaching Focused), University of St Andrews, UK.
January 2021 – June 2021: Teaching Fellow in Philosophy, University of St Andrews, UK.
January 2020 – June 2020: Teaching Fellow in Philosophy, University of St Andrews, UK.
September 2016 – June 2019: Postgraduate tutor in Philosophy, University of St Andrews, UK.

EduCation

2015 – 2020: PhD in Philosophy, St Andrews/Stirling Philosophy Graduate Programme, University of St Andrews, UK.
2014 – 2015: M.Litt. in Epistemology, Mind and Language with distinction in the dissertation, University of St Andrews, UK.

PublicatIons

Research Articles


**Book Reviews**

**GRANTS AND PRIZES**

**2022**
- British Society of Aesthetics Small Grant. £3,997 awarded for organising a Scottish Aesthetics Forum conference ‘Themes in Aesthetics and Social Epistemology’.
- Scots Philosophical Association Conference Support Grant. £1,250 awarded for organising a Scottish Aesthetics Forum conference ‘Themes in Aesthetics and Social Epistemology’.
- British Society of Aesthetics Small Grant. £2,100 awarded for creating Diversity Reading List Blueprints (shared with DRL volunteers).

**2019**
- British Society of Aesthetics Small Grant. £2,968.96 awarded for organising the Scottish Aesthetics Forum.
- American Philosophical Association Diversity and Inclusiveness Funding. $1,000 awarded for updating the Diversity Reading List (shared with Chris Blake-Turner).
- GRADskills Innovation Grant and Postgraduate Conference Fund. £343 awarded to organise a MAP SASP workshop titled ‘Creating Inclusive Classrooms: The Theory and Practice of Teaching Underrepresented Groups’. Matched funding from the St Andrews philosophy department and the SASP programme.

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion**
- **2021 - present**: Project Manager for the *Diversity Reading List in Philosophy*.
- **2021 - 2022**: Philosophy Representative on the *EDI Committee* for the School of Philosophical, Anthropological and Film Studies, University of St Andrews.
- **2017 – 2021**: Collaborator to the *Diversity Reading List in Philosophy*.
- **2019 – 2020**: Member of the *Athena Swan Bronze Award Application Committee* for the School of Philosophical, Anthropological and Film Studies at St Andrews.
- **2018 – 2020**: Member of the *Minorities and Philosophy SASP* chapter.

**Research**
- **2017 – present**: Organiser for the *Scottish Aesthetics Forum*.

**Professional Memberships**
- British Society of Aesthetics
- American Philosophical Association

References on request