

NYSWIP SWIPshop

Report and Evaluation for the  
APA National Office

# NYSWIP SWIPshop 2011-2012 Evaluation and Report

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## I. Steering Committee:

### Members:

Name	Position	University
Amy Baehr	Associate Professor of Philosophy	Hofstra University
Serene Khader	Assistant Professor of Philosophy	SUNY Stony Brook
Georgina Campelia	Ph.D. Student in Philosophy	The Graduate Center, CUNY
Rachel McKinney	Ph.D. Student in Philosophy	The Graduate Center, CUNY
Carolyn Plunkett	Ph.D. Student in Philosophy	The Graduate Center, CUNY

### Sponsor:

1. New York Society for Women in Philosophy (NYSWIP)

### Hosts:

1. New York University Department of Philosophy
2. The Graduate Center, CUNY

## II. Statement of Purpose:

SWIPshop is a workshop where philosophers present papers on any topic in the philosophy of gender, sex and sexuality, feminist philosophy, feminist theory, feminism, and related topics. SWIPshop follows the successful models of WOGAP (Workshop on Gender and Philosophy) at MIT, and BayFAP (Bay Area Feminism and Philosophy Workshop).

SWIPshop is a place for philosophers of all genders, all philosophical traditions, and all professional levels (graduate students, junior faculty, senior faculty) to meet as equals and discuss their work in a supportive environment.

We meet monthly to discuss the work-in-progress of philosophers doing work related to feminism (very broadly construed) in the New York City area. Since we read the work ahead of time, each workshop focuses on discussion rather than presentation.

The workshop serves at least three main goals: (1) publication-oriented research feedback; (2) community-building for the feminist philosophical community in NYC and the surrounding area; and, finally, (3) it fills various professional development roles for feminist philosophers as well as the wider NYC-area philosophical community.

### **(1) PUBLICATION-ORIENTED RESEARCH FEEDBACK**

One of the key goals of SWIPshop is to provide a space for feedback (content, form, editorial, etc.) for philosophers (especially graduate students and junior faculty) to facilitate research and publication. Our workshops foster open and critical discussion on our participants' work-in-progress with a keen eye toward publication. We are a group of philosophers with a wide range of expertise (including political philosophy, philosophy of language, epistemology, ethics, Continental philosophy, and history of philosophy) who engage with each other in productive, fruitful ways. Many of our presenters are working on articles aimed at publication or on sections of their dissertation research. One of our key aims is to help our participants meet their research goals, be it publication or dissertation completion. We do this by offering critical objections, friendly suggestions, and citations for further research within the space of our workshops.

### **(2) COMMUNITY-BUILDING**

Within the New York City area philosophical community there are a multitude of different philosophical traditions, methodologies, and interests. We aim to perform some important bridge-building work for this community vis a vis feminist philosophy. We feel that there is a critical mass of feminist philosophers in the NYC area, from all philosophical backgrounds, and the workshops serve as an important network not only for research-oriented dialog, but also for scholars to meet other philosophers in the profession with similar interests. The workshops also serve this goal via NYSWIP outreach: that is, by publicizing NYSWIP as an organization, and getting younger philosophers involved in NYSWIP.

### **(3) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Finally, SWIPshop serves as an important professional development tool for feminist philosophers in the NYC area. In addition to familiarizing participants with up-and-coming research in feminist philosophy and beyond, SWIPshop brings together graduate students and faculty for informal learning, mentorship, and strategizing for all levels of the profession: dissertation research and completion, job market skills, and tenure-track goals. Through our workshops, presenters receive thoughtful and critical feedback that can prepare them for job talks and publications. Moreover, SWIPshop provides a platform for the development of mentorship at all levels of the profession. It also cultivates partnerships and work that pushes boundaries, such as the joining of separate areas of philosophy and the merging of philosophy with other academic fields.

## **III. Evaluation**

For the 2011-2012 academic year we had 15 abstract submissions for 10 scheduled workshop dates. And we had 4 abstract submissions for two Summer 2012 workshops. We were able to draw presenters from 8 different universities and accommodate multiple areas of feminist philosophy (including moral theory, political theory, philosophy of language and epistemology). We had between 6 and 15 participants in each

workshop. We had very active participation at each session and presenters found the feedback extremely helpful. Please see more specific evaluation of our stated goals below:

**Evaluation of three stated goals:**

- (1) Publication-Oriented Research Feedback: Many of the presenters in the 2011-2012 SWIPshop series were looking for publication-oriented feedback. They found our workshops very helpful in this regard. It seems that our success in this area is due to the diversity of our participants; both in terms of their philosophical disciplines and their positions in the academic community. Also, since we focus on discussion and the papers are distributed beforehand, each presenter receives 2 hours of critical and helpful feedback from the participants. Thus, our workshops have been quite successful in fulfilling this goal. However, since our participants continue to be dominated by students and faculty from CUNY, we hope to increase our visibility at other academic programs in the greater New York City area for future workshops.
- (2) Community-Building: In the past year, we have made some important steps toward building a community of feminist philosophers (broadly construed). We have been successful in attracting participants from many areas of philosophy whose work intersects with feminist philosophy. We have also begun to build relationships across academic institutions in the area. We have made a few changes that have been a great help in this vein. First, we now have a website ([swipshop.tumblr.com](http://swipshop.tumblr.com)) where we post information about upcoming workshops as well as other information that might be helpful to our members (such as CFPs and conference announcements). Second, we have created a NYSWIP Facebook page to increase the ease of access to our workshops. And, finally, we have created an email account ([swipshop@gmail.com](mailto:swipshop@gmail.com)) so that communication is centralized and easily accessible. Despite all of these improvements, we continue to find ourselves having some trouble drawing participants from multiple philosophy departments in the New York City area. We will be planning new ways to bridge these gaps at our meeting at the beginning of the 2012-2013 academic year.
- (3) Professional Development: Our workshops have been very successful in helping students and faculty develop their professional skills at all levels of the profession. We have found that it has been particularly helpful for students who are working on qualifying papers and their dissertation. Our sessions provide a space for critical feedback that can be very helpful to progressing towards dissertation completion. Moreover, our workshops provide an excellent environment for preparing our presenters for job talks and publications. Again, we find our greatest asset to be our diversity (both in professional levels and philosophical disciplines). We plan to continue to increase this diversity by actively attracting more faculty and students from other institutions in the New York City area.

Finally, we recognize that despite attracting work in multiple areas of feminist philosophy, we still lack work in formal philosophy. Though SWIPshop sessions have accommodated philosophers working at the intersection of formal philosophy and feminist philosophy, there is no similar space for women working in formal philosophy. Though SWIPshop is open to having sessions in this area, we thought it best to sponsor a

mini-conference in honor of Ruth Marcus in Spring of 2013. The purpose of the conference is to provide an open and supportive environment for women working in formal philosophy. We hope this conference will fill a much needed gap and engage a wider range of women philosophers in New York City and the surrounding area.

### III. Budget Report

Since we did not receive the APA Grant until January of 2012, we only have costs reported after January 2012. Before January of 2012, food, drinks and other workshop supplies were provided by NYSWIP and SWIPshop volunteers. Below you will find a budget report for Spring 2012 and Summer 2012:

#### Spring 2012:

Date	Jan 26, 2012	Feb 9, 2012	Mar 29, 2012	Apr 17, 2012	May 10, 2012
Presenter	Courtney Zehnder	Liz Camp	Jennifer Morton	Jane Dryden	Elvira Basevich
Affiliation	Teachers College, Columbia	University of Pennsylvania	City College, CUNY	Mount Allison University, Canada	The Graduate Center, CUNY
Paper Title	"I have a Boyfriend, But... Giving a Personal Account of Sexuality in the Classroom"	"Slurs, Semantics, and Stereotypes"	"Cultural Code-switching: Straddling the Achievement Gap"	"Embodiment and Vulnerability in Fichte and Hegel"	"Theorizing Sexuality, the Dialectic and Freedom: Reading Marcuse Against Butler"
Number of Participants	8	14	8	9	10
Cost of Food and Drinks	87.75	55.35	155.83	66.41	49.46
Cost of Dinnerware	35.23			14.97	
Cost for Printing Handouts	0	0	0	0	0
Travel Reimbursement	None of our presenters this past semester required travel reimbursement. All were local except one, who already had funding for travel.				
<b>Total per Workshop</b>	<b>122.98</b>	<b>55.35</b>	<b>155.83</b>	<b>81.38</b>	<b>49.46</b>
<b>Total (YTD)</b>	<b>465</b>				

Summer 2012:

Date	Jul 12, 2012	Aug 9, 2012
Name	Myisha Cherry & Laura Kane	Carolyn Plunkett and Kris Sealy
Paper Title	"Forgiveness, Respect and the Reclaiming of Rage for Social Justice" & "On the Public/Private Distinction: why all acts of harm are public acts"	"Creating Room for Emotion in Deliberative Democracy" and "Power as or in Vulnerability: Fanon and Levinas on an Ethical Politics"
Topic	Political Philosophy	Political Philosophy
Number in Attendance	6	6
Food:		
Item A	51.39	35.29
Item B		
Item C		
Other Expenses:	0	0
<b>Total Spent</b>	<b>51.39</b>	<b>35.29</b>
<b>Total Summer</b>		<b>86.68</b>
<b>Total YTD</b>		<b>551.68</b>

#### IV. SWIPshop 2011-2012 Schedule

August 9, 2012 (summer session): Kris Sealy "Power as (or in) Vulnerability: Fanon and Levinas on an Ethical Politics" and Carolyn Plunkett "Creating Room for Emotion in Deliberative Democracy"

July 12, 2012 (summer session): Myisha Cherry "Forgiveness, Respect, and the Reclaiming of Rage For Social Justice" and Laura Kane (the Graduate Center, CUNY) "On the Public/Private Distinction: Why all acts of harm are public acts"

May 10, 2012, 6:30pm. Elvira Basevich (the Graduate Center, CUNY) "Theorizing Sexuality, the Dialectic and Freedom: Reading Marcuse Against Butler"

April 17, 2012, 6:30pm. Jane Dryden (Mount Allison University, Canada) Embodiment and Vulnerability in Fichte and Hegel

March 29, 2012, 6:30pm. Jennifer Morton (City College, CUNY) "Cultural Code-Switching: Straddling the Achievement Gap"

February 9, 2012, 6:30pm. Liz Camp (University of Pennsylvania), "Slurs, Semantics, and Stereotypes"

January 26, 2012, 6:30pm. Courtney Zehnder (Teachers College, Columbia), "I Have a Boyfriend, But ... Giving a Personal Account of Sexuality in the Classroom"

December, 2011, 6:30pm. Amanda Montgomery (NYU), "A Defense of Consequentialism and the Impartiality Principle"

October 27, 2011, 6:30pm. Kelsey Borrowman (Stony Brook), "Plasticization as Necrophilia: Death, Decomposition, and the Inorganic in Foucault"

September 21, 2011, 6:30pm. (This is a Wednesday!) Gina Campelia (CUNY Graduate Center), "Empathy as Knowledge: Realizing the Epistemic Content in Empathy"