

Grant Report:

femphil: the feminist philosophy podcast

Description:

femphil: the feminist philosophy podcast is an audio program which presents the latest research in feminist philosophy for an educated audience of those interested in philosophy. Comprehensible to the educated public, femphil is comprehensive and complex enough to reflect the dialogues within feminist philosophy and to be of interest to professional philosophers, graduate students. femphil focuses both on topics and on figures in philosophy, and will produce programs from all philosophical perspectives (analytic, continental, historical, pragmatist, post-colonial, etc.) and on topics from all areas of contemporary philosophy (Metaphysics, Epistemology, Ethics, Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, etc.). femphil seeks contributors and interview subjects from all areas of feminist philosophy and seeks to be an edited forum for all interested in feminist philosophy.

Activity and Achievements 2012-2013:

- Purchased 3 digital recorders
- Purchased digital camera (for website)
- Purchased Domain (femphil.org)
- Built website, including back-end submission forms and password-protected Joomla site for collaboration
- Budgeted space on servers at Cal Poly Pomona, although we are still in process of trying to figure out a long-term solution for streaming and uploading audio
- Currently producing pieces in Finland on the history of feminist philosophy in Finland and in Nordic Feminism. The new Association for Women and Feminist Philosophy in Finland has donated server space and captioning for English programs on feminist philosophy
- Training sessions:
 - Pacific Society for Women in Philosophy
 - Cal Poly Pomona
 - Faculty
 - Students
 - APA Eastern
 - Women, Truth and Action Conference
- Finalized Call for Submissions, including: rules for submissions, website, processes for citation and references.
- Interviews with dozens of feminists in philosophy, prepped for the following programs: Intro to FemPhil; Secularism and Feminist Philosophy; Feminist Philosophy Outside Philosophy; Philosophy of Science at the Boundaries; Analytic Feminism; Womens-Only Spaces in Contemporary Feminist Thought; Feminist Philosophy in Finland; Feminism and Engaged Philosophy; and The Fem Phil Dictionary Show.

- For each of these programs we have one or more of the following: interviews, panel recordings, short-form documentaries on concepts in feminist philosophy, and vox pops.

Overview:

We have reached the milestones we hoped for, but are still on the cusp of setting the podcasts live.

The first project was to begin training and outreach to build a network of philosophers working on feminist philosophy in order to bring them into the project at an early stage. Training and outreach has required a great deal of time, but has been overall very productive.

In my training sessions, where I introduced feminist podcasting to academics, I found nearly everyone to be very excited, but also rather reluctant at first to engage in creating podcasts themselves. Thus, I have created three training sessions for every one proposed. In the first, I present the idea; in the second, I present the technical tools necessary (e.g. smartphones, computers, digital recorders), the interview questions, etc.; in the third we create scripts, edit recordings and practice vox pops. Although this extra training time has in some ways slowed down the timeline, it has been really wonderful in allowing previously nervous participants to take ownership of programs and become excited about creating more programs in future on their own. Thus, we have developed quite excellent podcast producers who will take on the task of creating programs and bringing in their students and fellow faculty into the project. This will ensure the collaborative nature of femphil podcast.

Expansion

This program could definitely be expanded to other universities. I am hoping that, ultimately, because of my technical expertise and because of the difficulties we have encountered with IT departments, I would like to find an independent tech home for the podcast. I have proposed approaching the Centre for Digital Philosophy, but this is a project that we have decided to postpone until the podcast is launched. This would allow other universities and other academics to create their own podcasts, while having the backend technical apparatus in place. I am pursuing additional grant funding to create the optimal technical apparatus for the project, allowing participants to easily upload their materials, to join the podcast, collaborate with others long-distance and to listen to fully produced programs.

Training, and support for faculty with technical expertise is essential to supporting this kind of program. I have spent rather large parts of my time in the last year training students and professors. This has taken up more time than I predicted, but it is essential in making participants familiar with the technology and comfortable enough with it to consider participating.

Next:

We have two plans for the end of 2013, beginning of 2014. First, setting the extant podcasts live, and second, finalizing the site for uploading audio in advance of sending out the call for submissions, where feminist scholars from around the world will be able to upload audio.

The Call for Submissions

This call requires the solving of one technical issue at Cal Poly Pomona. I have built an uploading tool, but I am having trouble coordinating with the Cal Poly Pomona streaming server administrators, partly because of personnel changes and institutional reorganization that has happened in the last 6 months. Just as detail, the streaming server folks, who were formerly under the IT administrative unit, are now part of academic affairs. Ultimately, I think this will be quite good for the femphil podcast, since our necessary technical operations will be funded through the same unit as the academic programs and will likely become cheaper (and ideally no-cost), since we will not all be part of the Provost's larger budget. The Provost at Cal Poly Pomona has been very supportive of the Philosophy department in general and in the femphil podcast project in particular. All of this technical-bureaucratic information is to explain that we have not completed but are expecting the technical apparatus to be in place for both streaming broadcast of the podcast as well as the announcement of the call for audio submissions to the podcast. The call will solicit short form audio programs, including: interviews, short concept-explanation pieces, panels, recordings of talks, and vox pops, for inclusion in the podcasts. The call for submissions is a major part of our goal, since it will allow the involvement of feminist scholars from around the country to participate in the programs.

Feminist Philosophy Podcasting

What, Why and How

Definitions

Podcast = radio show on the internet

- Audio files in mp3 format (generally)
- Streaming or download

Feminist
Podcasts

Philosophy
Podcasts

PODCASTS



Why

- The existing philosophy podcasts have little to no content on the topics of interest to feminist philosophers
 - There are exceptions!
- There is widespread ignorance about feminist philosophy
- Podcasts reach an audience that does not necessarily read...

The feminist philosophy podcast...

- There are longstanding feminist podcasts that occasionally cover topics in philosophy
- However, they cannot be expected to spend all of their time talking about concepts in feminist philosophy or devoting entire episodes to panel shows of feminist philosophers

Feminist Magazine, Bread and Roses, 4th wave feminism,
Feminist Edition Interviews, Fully Engaged feminism, The
Bitch podcast

Feminist philosophy podcasts

- Feminist philosophers have been active in blogs, fb, twitter, and other social media
- However, there is something lovely and special about audio recordings, and the mode of discussion, philosophy as a conversation
- Further, crafting programs that get the best and least dumbed down version of feminist thought into the world is worthwhile...

What

- Femphil: the feminist philosophy podcast
- High quality pieces on problems in feminist philosophy
- Submissions
 - Submissions accepted from all
 - Regular contributors will emerge
 - Grad students->Full Profs--> Projects for advanced undergrad classes

What

- **Introduction** (of topic and interviewee).
- **Interview** with feminist philosopher/panel of feminist philosophers on recent work/topic/book/current affair as it relates to their specialty.
- **Short pieces** explaining the **concepts** addressed in the podcast
- **Vox Pop: Audio montage** of quick street interviews with participants answering one question chosen by the interviewee

Teaching other people how

- The first step is finding folks who are interested in creating pieces for femphil.

Easy

- If you can teach, explain a concept, or ask a question (and wait for the answer) you can do a piece for femphil.
- You need a recording device, which almost all of us have
- You need to have a bit of quiet
- You need to connect your device to a computer
- You need to have a place to send your file.

Call for Submissions

- Upcoming podcasts:
 - Women in Philosophy
 - Feminism Post-Colonial Science Studies
 - Analytic Feminism
 - Philosophy Outside Philosophy
 - Feminist Secularism

Call for Submissions

- Concepts:
 - Intersectionality
 - Hegemony
 - Feminist Epistemology
 - .
 - .
 - .

What to Submit

- Interviews
- Talks
- Recorded pieces on concepts in feminist philosophy

How it all works

I.

recording



How it all works

I.

recording



recording

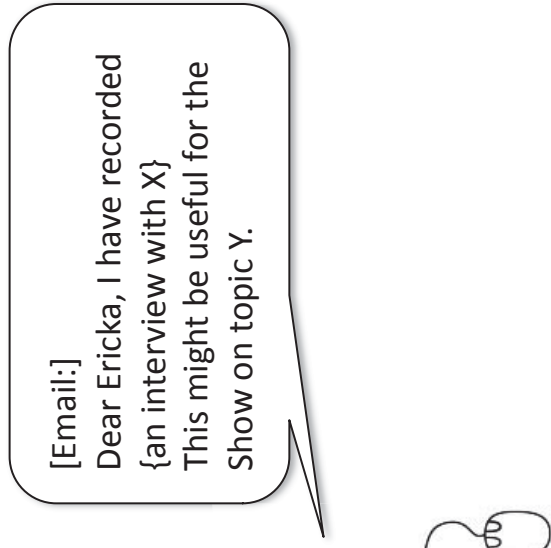
- 3 minute vox pop
- 2 minute explanation of a topic
- 45 minute interview
- Recording of a lecture
- Recording of a panel discussion

How it all works

I.



II.



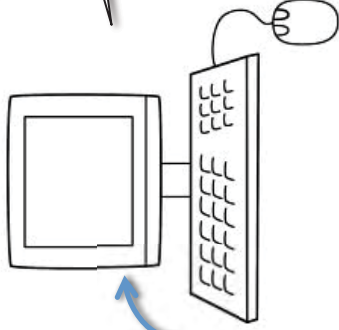
How it all works

I.

recording



II.

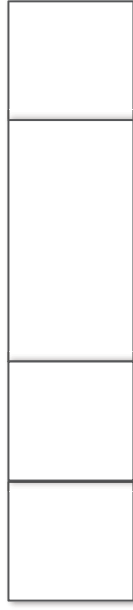
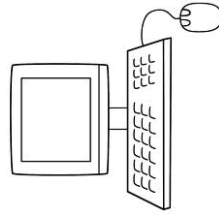


[Email:]
Dear Ericka, I have recorded
{an interview with X}
This might be useful for the
Show on topic Y.

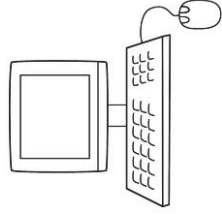
III.



Ok, I have a 45 minute show
on Y and it will go in the first
segment.

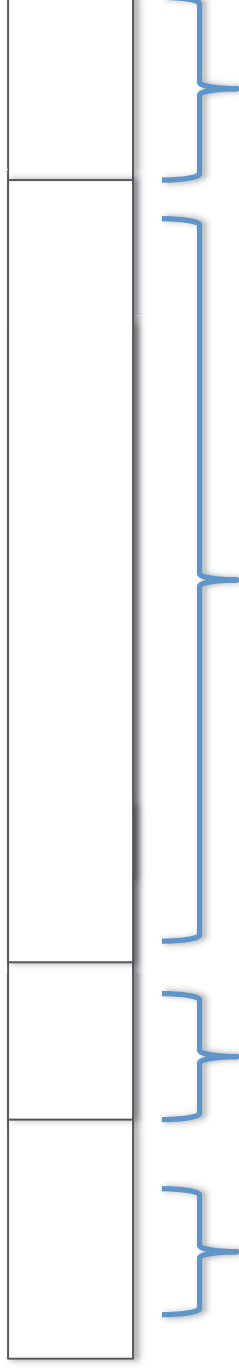


IV.



Tech stuff:

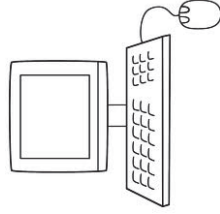
Free editing software: AUDACITY
(if you can edit images, you can edit audio)



intro

We're talking about
topic Y, including an
interview with X by *Your
Name.*

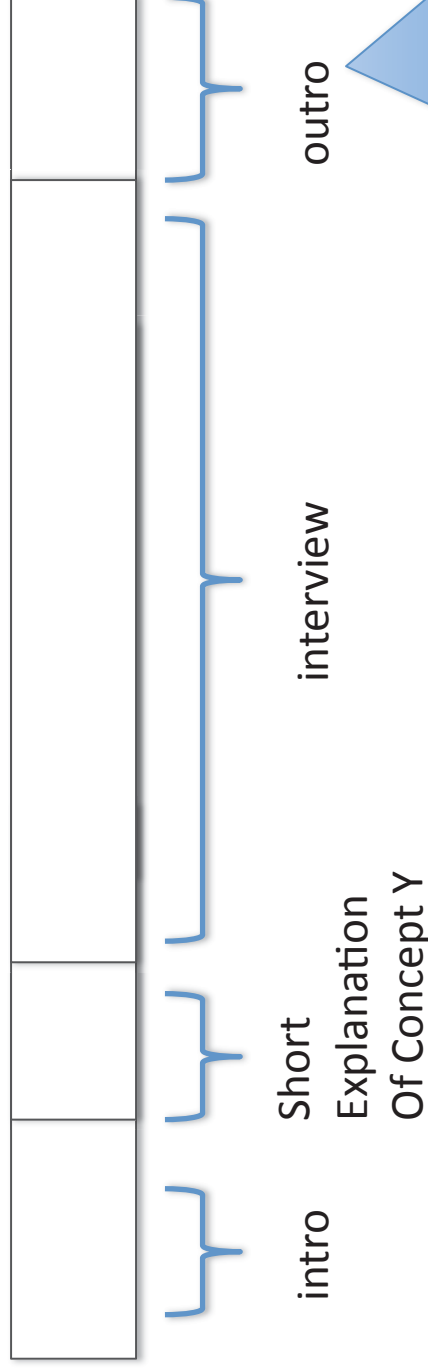
IV.



Tech stuff:

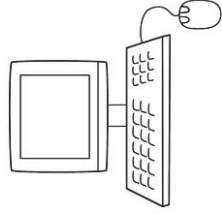
Free editing software: AUDACITY

(if you can edit images, you can edit audio)



Thanks to our contributors today: X, Yourname, Etc. With editing by *my students*

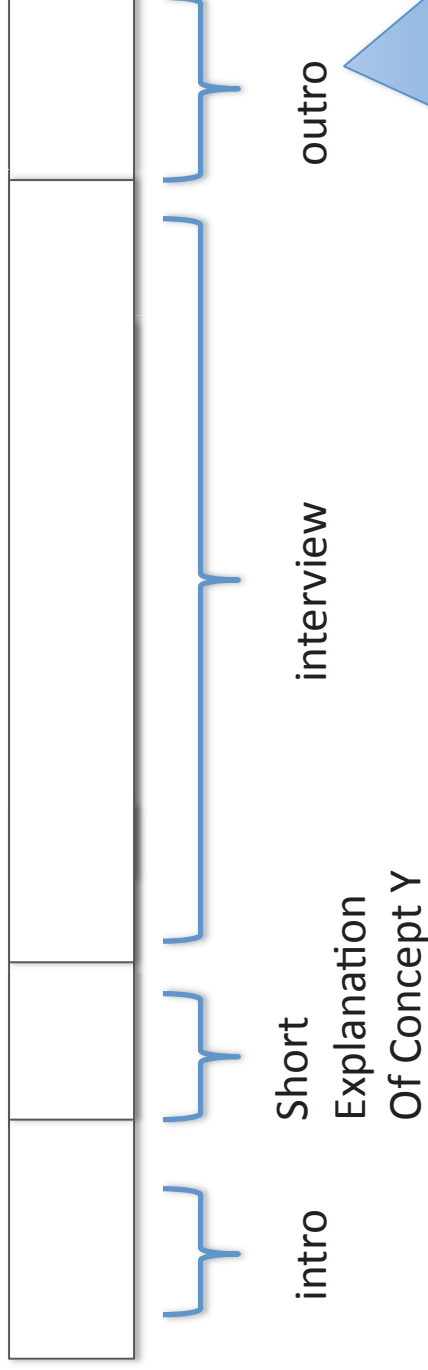
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Tech stuff:

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Topic / Question / Show ideas?

Workshop

- Record something
- Bring your computer/recording device
- Propose a show topic
- Propose a concept to explain
-
- Interviewing
- Editing
- File stuff...