

REPORT ON APA GRANTS TO THE PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY NETWORK

September 30, 2013

Submitted by Noëlle McAfee, Co-Director of the Public Philosophy Network

In November 2012 the American Philosophical Association Grant Fund awarded the Public Philosophy Network \$3,500 toward its March 2013 conference at Emory University, which drew together nearly 200 people from the United States and abroad to explore new approaches to publicly engaged philosophical practice and inquiry.

In addition to the APA's grant fund, the Berry Fund, administered by the APA Committee on Public Philosophy, awarded PPN \$1,400 to offer travel stipends to philosophy graduate students attending the conference. With these funds, we awarded \$250 travel stipends to seven philosophy graduate students to offset their costs.

Like our first conference, the March 2013 conference was highly participatory, offering a model of what public philosophy can look like. It opened with a "fishbowl" plenary session on pluralism and public philosophy, titled "Opening Doors and Opening windows: How to Advance Public Philosophy." PPN co-director Sharon Meagher moderated the session featuring Professors Anita Allen, Gertrude Gonzalez de Allen, Ronald Sundstrom, and Naomi Scheman – as well as members of the audience who would come take an empty seat in the circle two pose questions and join the conversation.

The next two days of the conference featured, each morning, eight concurrent three-hour workshops on topics such as food policy, climate change, public health, human rights, and global development. Conference registrants signed up for workshops in advance, with each workshop limited to no more than 22 people, organizers included. The afternoons featured organized sessions and paper panels, which were also designed to be participatory and reflective on how philosophy can be publicly engaged.

In addition to professors and graduate students in the humanities and social sciences, we had participation from activists, musicians, and professionals working in public health (including staff from the Centers for Disease Control), the arts, community organizing, animal agriculture, philanthropy, prisons, global ethics, space science, and public broadcasting. Elizabeth Minnich, Senior Scholar for the Association of American Colleges & Universities and author of the groundbreaking book, *Transforming Knowledge*, closed the conference with a keynote on "Thinking what we are doing: reflections on public philosophizing."

Graduate Student Travel Stipends. The following students received travel awards:

- Kelli Barr (University of North Texas)
- Kelsey Borrowman (Stony Brook University)

- Zacahary Piso (Michigan State University), and
- David Brooke Struck (University of Guelph)
- Roberto Toledo (Stony Brook University)
- Jocelyn Torma (University of Waterloo)
- Ian Werkheiser (Michigan State University)

The program identified both the American Philosophical Association and the APA Committee on Public Philosophy as supporters of the conference. In addition to providing funding for the conference and for philosophy graduate students, the APA's support sends an important signal that the profession values public engagement and reflection, not in simply "applying" philosophy to public problems but in rethinking very deeply the work that philosophy can do.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

THURSDAY EVENING PLENARY MODERATED BY SHARON MEAGHER 7:00-9:00 p.m. followed by reception

FRIDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS 9:00-12:00

1. Taking Philosophy into the Field of Science and Technology Policy: Toward a Paradigm for Publicly Engaged Philosophy.
2. Philosophy Behind Prison Walls.
3. Creating Public-Public Partnerships: Utilizing Universities for Participatory Budgeting
4. Streets, Surfaces, and Sounds.
5. Race, the City, and the Challenge of Praxis.
6. Performing Philosophy: Participatory Theater as a Means of Engaging Communities Philosophically Using Non-Cooperative, Experiential Games to Teach Sustainability Ethics.
7. Scientific Advisory Committees.

PANELS FRIDAY 1:30-3:00(OS for Organized Session, PP for Paper Panel)

1. Public Philosophy: Disciplinary Constraints and Opportunities (PP)
2. From Soma to Society: A Sample Spectrum of Philosophical Practice (OS)
3. Food, Health, and Justice (PP)
4. Socially Relevant Philosophy of Science (SRPOS): Scientific knowledge mobilization across communities (OS)
5. Philosophical Outreach in Schools (PP)
6. Philosophy for Working Professionals: One Approach to Teaching Ethics in Practice (OS)

PANELS FRIDAY 3:15 - 4:45 (OS for Organized Session, PP for Paper Panel)

1. Rhetoric and Dialogue in Public Philosophy (PP)
2. Speech and Necessity: Conceptualizing Civil Resistance and Institutional Response (OS)
3. Environmental and Agricultural Ethics (PP)
4. Philosophical Aspects of Energy and Environmental Policy (PP)
5. Public Deliberation and Participation (PP)
6. Cultivating Citizenship: How to Implement Civic Engagement Projects in your Philosophy Classes (OS)
7. Where shall we go in outer space, and why? (OS)

SATURDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS 9:00 - 12:00

1. Philosophy of/as Interdisciplinarity Network (PIN)
2. Challenging the Culture of Sexual Violence: Moral Literacy and Sexual Empowerment as Tools of Transformation
3. Engaged University and Just University-Community Partnerships
4. Hip-Hop as Public Philosophy
5. Sagacity and Commerce
6. Practical Epistemology and Sustainable Inquiry
7. Public Philosophy Journal: Performing Philosophy as Publication
8. Equity and Climate Change: Opportunities for Research, Teaching, and Advocacy

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY ELIZABETH MINNICH 1:30-3:00

PANELS SATURDAY 3:15 - 4:45 (OS for Organized Session, PP for Paper Panel)

1. Toward More Democratic Pedagogies and Public Life (PP)
2. Diversity and Human Rights (PP)
3. Philosophical Practice in Science and Technology (PP)
4. Adaptation, Institutions, and Land Management Policy: Some Aspects of Moral Responsibility in the Anthropocene (OS)
5. Public Philosophy and Philosophical Outreach (PP)
6. "Who asked you?" Perspectives on "Engaging the Public Through Philosophy" (OS)

Closing Reception 5:00-6:00

A full copy of the program is available here:

<http://publicphilosophynetwork.ning.com/page/conf-program-draft>