

Final Report and Evaluation for 2015 Junior Metaphysics Workshop Submitted as per the requirements of the APA Small Grant Fund

Abstract: The Junior Metaphysics Workshop was organized in an effort to highlight the work of early career scholars working in metaphysics, broadly construed. While there is no shortage of excellent conferences for metaphysicians, the overwhelming majority of these conferences tend to 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. With the generous assistance of the APA, the second installment of this conference was held at Grand Valley State University in April 2015. The conference was a great success. Moving forward, our goal is that this conference will continue as an annual event (held at different institutions each year), 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 early career scholars.

Outcomes: The conference was held on April 17th - 18th on the Pew Campus of Grand Valley State University. Participants included seven invited speakers, seven invited commentators, and one invited chair; also in attendance were some GVSU faculty, as well as some graduate students from nearby graduate programs. We are mindful of issues raised by the Gendered Conference Campaign; our group of 15 participants included five women and ten men.

Two sessions were held on April 17th, and five sessions were held on April 18th. Each speaker gave a 40-minute presentation, followed by 15 minutes of comments by an assigned commentator, and a 25-minute Q&A period.

The conference was advertised with a website (<http://sites.google.com/site/juniormetaphysics>) which was linked to by the APA website and the PhilEvents website. Flyers were posted around the GVSU campus, and distributed via email to many nearby Philosophy departments. The conference was also advertised on social media by GVSU and other nearby Philosophy departments.

After the conference, each participant was sent a brief questionnaire for the purposes of gathering feedback on the conference. Respondents were unanimously positive. Many indicated that they feel that the conference more than met its goals in both providing a focus on the work of, and building a network of, early career scholars. Many also indicated that the travel assistance provided was very helpful (and, in some cases, essential), especially given the fact that many early career scholars have small (or no) research and travel budgets. Many also indicated an enthusiasm toward participating in future iterations of the conference.

Based on the feedback of our participants and discussions with the project's steering committee, we have decided to arrange next year's conference slightly differently than this year. We will be switching to a peer-reviewed submission format, and the conference will follow a "read-ahead" structure in which all papers are distributed to all participants ahead of time, with the expectation that all papers will have been read by all involved at the start of the session. The speaker will introduce and contextualize the paper for 10 minutes or so, followed by commentary by two commentators (rather than just one, as we had this year). We plan to follow our already established tradition of, as much as is possible, inviting one year's speakers back to serve as the next year's commentators. This will allow us to continue to foster a community while also including a diverse group of new participants every year.

Budget Report: We received \$4,000 from the APA Small Grant fund, as well as \$1,000 from Grand Valley State University, \$750 from Texas Christian University, and \$200 from Western Michigan University, for a total budget of \$5,950.

With this budget, we were able to provide hotel rooms and travel assistance (in the form of reimbursements for gas and airfare) for all speakers and commentators who were in need. We were also able to cover dinner for all speakers and commentators on the first night of the conference, and for all participants (including visiting graduate students) on the second night. The remainder of the budget went toward conference supplies and travel expenses for the organizers (for the purposes of airport trips).

A breakdown of our expenditures is as follows:

| <u>Item</u> | <u>Cost</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Lodging | \$2,636.58 |
| Travel Assistance | \$2,107.86 |
| Meals | \$1,149.18 |
| Supplies | \$80.84 |
| Total: | \$5,974.46 |
| Overspent By: | \$24.46 |

Report submitted by: Wesley D. Cray
Visiting Assistant Professor
Department of Philosophy
Grand Valley State University
1 Campus Drive
Allendale, MI 49401

2015 Junior Metaphysics Workshop

Grand Valley State University
323/330 Kennedy Hall, Pew Campus

Email: juniormetaphysics@gmail.com

Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/juniormetaphysics>

Friday, April 17th

- 4:00 PM – 4:20 PM Registration
- 4:30 PM – 5:50 PM Aaron Griffith (Central Michigan University)
"The Metaphysics of Social Construction: a Grounding Account"
Commentator: Bradley Rettler (Baylor University)
Chair: Wesley Cray (Grand Valley State University)
- 6:00 PM – 7:20 PM Ricki Bliss (Lehigh University)
"What Dependent Entities Explain"
Commentator: Kelly Trogdon (Virginia Tech)
Chair: Wesley Cray (Grand Valley State University)
- 8:00 PM Conference Dinner (at Grand Rapids Brewing Company)
-

Saturday, April 18th

- 9:30 AM – 9:50 AM Registration
- 10:00 AM – 11:20 AM Jonah Goldwater (College of William & Mary)
"Count Indeterminacy without Vagueness"
Commentator: Nick Mantegani (Western Michigan University)
Chair: Wesley Cray (Grand Valley State University)
- 11:30 AM – 12:50 PM Kate Ritchie (City College of New York)
"Social Groups and Group Nouns"
Commentator: Wesley Cray (Grand Valley State University)
Chair: Luke Manning (Western Michigan University)
- 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM Lunch (on your own)
- 2:30 PM – 3:50 PM Sommer Hodson (University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh)
"Causation, Personal Identity, and Moral Responsibility"
Commentator: Kelly McCormick (Texas Christian University)
Chair: Luke Manning (Western Michigan University)
- 4:00 PM – 5:20 PM David Glick (University of Rochester)
"Spatiotemporal Entanglement"
Commentator: Sam Cowling (Denison University)
Chair: Luke Manning (Western Michigan University)
- 5:30 PM – 6:50 PM Daniel Giberman (University of Gothenburg, Sweden)
"Property Monopoly, Temporal Mereology, and Persistence"
Commentator: Jennifer Wang (Stanford University)
Chair: Luke Manning (Western Michigan University)
- 8:00 PM Conference Dinner (at HopCat)

Thanks!

The Junior Metaphysics Workshop is generously sponsored by the American Philosophical Association, the Grand Valley State University Philosophy Department, the Texas Christian University Philosophy Department, and the Western Michigan University Philosophy Department.

