

Temporary Assistant Archivist for SWIP Archive Project

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To: Amy E. Ferrer, Executive Director,
American Philosophical Association

From: Sandra Harding,
SWIP Archive Project Steering Committee
(Joan Callahan, Ann Garry, Sandra Harding, Alison Jaggar)

Here is our report on the “Temporary Assistant Archivist for SWIP Archive Project” to which the APA gave a \$5,000. grant to be spent during 2015-2016. The SWIP Archive is located in the Feminist Theory Archive of the Pembroke Center at the John Hay Library at Brown University.

The planned hire of the Assistant Archivist had to be postponed for a couple of months because Wendy Korwin, the Pembroke Center archivist who was to hire her and supervise her work, left Pembroke to complete her dissertation. Rhonda Chadwick was hired to replace her. After Rhonda had a chance to settle into her new job, she hired Katie Stebbins as the temporary assistant archivist. Katie began working on the existing donations to the SWIP Archive on August 17.

Meanwhile, the SWIP Archive now consists of 6.5 feet (as archives measure their holdings) of contributions from nineteen feminist philosophers. This includes two boxes of Eastern SWIP materials from a decade or so ago that had been located in the Sophia Smith collection at Smith College, but had not been processed. With the proper formal permissions, Korwin had been able to get these moved over to Pembroke so to “unite the collection.”

As of September 9, Rhonda reports that Katie has worked about 48 hours over the past three weeks. She has been focused on gaining intellectual control of the collection. Katie writes:

While the SWIP collection is small in size, its grassroots origins, multiple divisions with overlap, and number of donors make for considerable variables. While SWIP is run by its divisions, there are still newsletters, mailing lists, membership dues, and business meetings at the national level. Within each donor, the series will be intellectually broken down into their primary SWIP division, and then by type such as correspondence, conferences, business, etc.

While the SWIP Archive was still in an unprocessed state, it was already visited during the June 6-7 Brown Summer Immersion Program in Philosophy (<http://www.sippatbrown.com>). Professor Debbie Weinstein, who was the Associate Director of the Pembroke Center at the time, spoke to the group about the project and what had been received so far. Katie will also help

Rhonda to set up an on-line and in-library exhibition of the SWIP Archive when this initial processing is completed.

We on the Steering Committee will continue to remind regional SWIPs to get their members to contribute to the Archive, and to set up a procedure within each SWIP for making ongoing contributions. (Not an easy task for the SWIPs!)

This SWIP Archive is relatively unusual in that it preserves the records of a disciplinary but grass-roots organization, and one focused on feminism and on philosophy. This archive will be an important resource for scholars from philosophy and other disciplines who are interested in the history and practices of disciplinary organizations and institutions, and of course to scholars interested in the history of philosophy itself and of feminist theory.