

Report on use of APA Small Grant for UPDirectory – 2015-16
Fund Recipient: Ruth Chang, Rutgers, ruthechang@gmail.com

Throughout the past year, I have spent time on four tasks to maintain and build The UPDirectory: 1) weekly updates of new entries and edits, 2) creation and introduction of the Bulletin Board, 3) Creation and introduction of The Philosopher of the Month series, and 4) moving forward with automatization of adding new entries and editing current ones. I will discuss each of these tasks in turn,

First, every Wednesday I go through all new entries or requests to edit current entries that have been submitted through the website. I take this new information and reformat it in Microsoft Excel so that it will work with the current database plugin. I then add each new entry or edited entry to each individual Area of Specialization and Self Identification pages in Microsoft Excel. After these additions and changes have been made, I upload each of the edited Excel documents into the database plugin on the website. This way, each new entry and request to edit is taken care of each week.

Second, working with Ruth Chang, I set up a blog and weekly newsletter for the website that provides announcements and postings relevant to our subscribers.

Third, I initiated a new blog series called The UPDirectory Philosopher of the Month, showcasing the work and personality of a different philosopher of an underrepresented group in philosophy. The philosopher provides a photograph and 500 words describing their work in philosophy. My goal with this series is to promote the work of our subscribers in a more visual and impactful manner.

Fourth, I have been working on automatizing the first task described above, adding new entries and editing current ones. This is a long-term task as it involves completely revamping the website and building a new back-end from scratch. Right now we are using a Wordpress Plugin that does all of the back-end work for us, but that also means that all of that work in Excel has to occur. I am currently researching Wordpress back end design and starting to piece together the new site on a dummy-site. I will continue to manually update the website until the automatization is complete.

--- Rebecca Millsop, rvm@mit.edu