



June 23, 2017

**Report on the Workshop for Early Career Women in Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy
(held on 22nd April, 2017)**

The APA grant (\$3,000) was used to organize a Workshop for Early Career Women in Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy, as indicated in the original application. The organizers—all members of the Philosophy department of Fordham University, NY—including Dr. Giorgio Pini (professor of philosophy), Dr. Zita Toth (who during the preparatory stage was a doctoral student and successfully defended her dissertation just a week before the Workshop), and Dr. Shane Wilkins (postdoctoral fellow). The funding obtained from the APA was supplemented by a grant (\$880) from the Deans of Arts and Sciences at Fordham University.

Planning

In a preliminary meeting held in December 2016, the organizers agreed that:

- (1) the description “early career women” would include doctoral students in the last stage of their dissertation work;
- (2) the Workshop would be a one-day event to be held on April 22, 2017;
- (3) there would be two invited speakers, whose expenses (travel, hotel, and meals) would be completely covered; each invited speakers would be given 45 minutes for her presentation, after which 45 minutes would be reserved for discussion;
- (4) there would be a call for paper with the aim of getting 4 additional pre-read short presentations (15 minutes each);
- (5) the discussion after each short presentation would start with a short commentary by another participants in the workshop;
- (6) the final banquet (an essential part of the event intended to foster collaborations among the participants) would be open to all the participants and its expenses would be covered by the organizers thanks to the grants received.

The main speakers originally selected were Prof. Marilyn McCord Adams (Rutgers University) and Prof. Therese Scarpelli Cory (Notre Dame University). The idea was to have a senior and relatively junior person on the panel. Both Prof. Adams and Prof. Scarpelli Cory promptly accepted our invitation, but Prof. Adams had soon to decline due to her critical health conditions. As soon as Prof. Adams let us know that she could not participate, we asked Prof. Susan Brower-Toland (Saint Louis University), who immediately accepted our invitation. The sad news of Prof. Adams’s sudden passing away reached us at the beginning of 2017.

With regard to the short call for papers, by late February we received 13 submissions. After a process of blind review, 4 papers were selected by the following scholars: Celia Byrne (doctoral students at Toronto), Kendall Fisher (doctoral student at Syracuse, recently hired at Seattle University), Machessa Samz (doctoral student at Fordham), and Simona Vucu (doctoral student at Toronto).

The workshop

The workshop took place on April 22, 2017 at the Lincoln Center campus of Fordham University. The program was the following:

9:00 Breakfast

9:20 Opening remarks (Zita Toth)
9:30 Keynote: “Representation, Reality, and a Medieval Tradition of Mind-World Identity,” Therese Scarpelli Cory (Notre Dame)
11:15 “I Can’t Be Without You: The Role of Essential Causal Series in Avicenna’s Proof for the Necessary Existent,” Celia Byrne (Toronto)
12:00 Lunch
2:00 “Aquinas on the Subsistence of the Rational Soul.” Kendall Fisher (Syracuse)
3:00 “Aquinas on Singular Cognition.” Machessa Samz (Fordham)
4:00 “On Sine Qua Non Causes Simona,” Vucu (Toronto)
5:00 Keynote: “Causation and Mental Content: Against the Externalist Interpretation of Ockham,” Susan Brower-Toland (SLU)
6:30 Concluding remarks (Giorgio Pini)
7:00 Conference Banquet at Pasha Restaurant (UWS)

The complete list of the participants was the following:

Andrew Arlig (Brooklyn College);
Kelsey Boor (Fordham University);
Kate Bresee (Fordham University);
Susan Brower-Toland (Saint Louis University);
Celia Byrne (Toronto University);
Kendall Fisher (Syracuse University);
P J Gorre (New School of Social Research, NY);
Natalie Hejduk (Columbia University);
Scott MacDonald (Cornell University);
Giorgio Pini (Fordham University);
Machessa Samz (Fordham University);
Therese Scarpelli-Cory (Notre Dame University);
Zita Toth (Fordham University);
Christina Van Dyke (Calvin College);
Simona Vucu (Toronto University).

The participants who were not the invited speakers (whose expenses we were able to cover) or did not live in the NYC area were generously hosted by doctoral students of the Fordham philosophy department.

Evaluation

In our opinion, the workshop was a resounding success. It gathered participants from 10 different institutions. All the papers were of a very high level. The discussion after each paper was very lively and philosophically rewarding. The atmosphere was intellectually vibrant throughout the workshop. The two main goals that the organizers had set for the workshop—first, creating an opportunity for early career women in medieval and Renaissance philosophy to connect among themselves, and, second, putting together a high level event in medieval philosophy in NYC—was completely achieved. We received extremely positive feedback from all the participants (both speakers and people in attendance). It is our hope to repeat the experience in the future.

Expenses

Here is a detailed report of the budget received and the way the grant was spent:

Hotel (for the two invited speakers, 2 nights; we booked with the Empire Hotel, which has a special rate for Fordham events): \$1,196.00

Catering (coffee, etc. for breakfast and breaks): \$319.00

Travel (for the two invited speakers): \$1,219.54

Banquet (for all participants): \$756.32
Miscellaneous (taxi): \$69.75
Miscellaneous (stationery): \$84.64

Total: \$3,618.25.

The total expenses were covered in the following way:

- \$3,000 came from the APA grant, which was spent in its entirety;
- the remaining \$618.25 came from the Fordham grant (\$880).

Respectfully submitted

Giorgio Pini
Professor of Philosophy
Fordham University
Philosophy Department
113 W 60th Street
New York, NY 10023

Email: pini@fordham.edu
Tel: 212-636-7676