



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

W A S H I N G T O N , D C

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
AND RELIGION

October 27, 2018

Dear APA,

We are happy to report that the “Thinking Trans//Trans Thinking Conference” was a tremendous success. We held the conference on October 4-5, 2018 at American University in Washington, D.C. Our Call-for-Papers circulated in early March, with a deadline for submission in mid-April. We received over fifty submissions and finalized the program with six paper sessions, three presenters per session, and included two roundtable discussions and one workshop throughout the weekend. We also had two keynote presenters, Mel Y. Chen and Che Gossett, and honored author, poet, and activist, Eli Clare with the Richard L. Schlegel National Legion of Honor Award. The program included work in a number of areas of study, including Black Studies, Indigenous Studies, Decolonial Theory, Latina Feminism, Queer Theory, Disability Studies, Political Philosophy, Phenomenology, Marxism, Metaphysics of Gender, Aesthetics, Critical Prison Studies, Literary Theory, and Psychoanalysis.

We were very pleased with the turnout for the event. Throughout the weekend, each session had about 50-75 audience members, and the keynote talks included up to 150 attendees in the audience. We were also honored to have media coverage of the event through university and student communication, including an announcement in *Mosaic: AU's Inclusive Excellence E-Newsletter*, a write-up in [American University News](#), and a report in the [AU Eagle Newsletter](#).

The APA Small Grant provided full funding for our keynote speaker Mel Y. Chen (honorarium, travel, and lodging), partial funding for conference food (breakfast and lunch on both days), and partial funding for printing the program (including session details, keynote bios, Schlegel Award announcement, and campus map). More precisely, we distributed the \$5,000 in the following way:

Printing and Duplicating = \$160.28
Food Services = \$2,514.04
Keynote Honoraria = \$1,000.00
Keynote Travel and Lodging = \$1,325.65

A full financial report is pending through the AU Office of Sponsored Programs and will be forthcoming.

Regarding accessibility, we solicited accessibility requests through an EventBrite RSVP forum and through our correspondence with presenters. We provided name tags to all participants, with a line at the bottom where they could include their pronouns. We also printed signs for the restrooms nearest the conference venues to ensure that all nearest restrooms were gender inclusive. We checked to ensure that all the buildings were accessible via curb cuts and elevators. We offered rides for folks with limited mobility in order to move from the conference sessions building to the keynote event building. We provided vegan, vegetarian, and gluten free food options for breakfast and lunch on both days of the conference, as well as for the keynote event reception. We provided AV equipment for presenters throughout the conference. We created a Google Drive where presenters could upload slides, outlines, full manuscripts, and/or large font versions of their presentations so that all audience members could follow along. Finally, American University provided the support of ASL interpreters for the full second day of our conference, as requested by two participants that day.

After the conference, we circulated a follow-up survey to ask participants about their experience at the event. All survey respondents reported being “very” or “very much” satisfied with the overall event. Some key take-away points from the respondents were:

- “An increased awareness of racial diversity and the importance of intersectionality.”

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- “The panels and keynote talks were amazing. I appreciated your choice of the keynote speakers, and how vulnerable, human, and collaborative they were.”
- “That there is a community of academics, scholars, and activists working on important philosophical issues that have far reaching implications for the discipline beyond the more immediate pragmatic goals of making the academy more inclusive and welcoming.”
- “I think the thing I'm most excited about was that I had the opportunity to connect with folks I otherwise might not have met.”
- “That trans theory is alive and well and includes activism.”

Among the areas that respondents listed as important for future iterations of the conference was the participation of more people of color, even better attention to food accessibility, more availability of single-use all-gender restrooms, and more workshops/panels on activism.

In addition to the conference, we have also made significant advances on the [Trans Philosophy Project](#) website. With the support of graduate assistants Stephen Masson from American University and Maggie Castor from University of North Carolina, Charlotte, the website currently includes conference info (2016 and 2018 programs, logistics, etc.), a growing bibliography of theoretical work in or relevant to trans philosophy, recommendations for a trans pedagogy, and a curated series of reflections on trans-affirming practices in the profession. In the future, we will continue to develop these resources to reflect both the needs and insights of the times.

We are sincerely grateful for the support of the APA Small Grant, and we believe that we have taken a significant step in building the field of Trans Philosophy. We trust that the Trans Philosophy conference will be the second of many, and we welcome opportunities to continue to expand the work of trans philosophy and the support of trans philosophers in the profession through the Trans Philosophy Project and beyond.

Thank you for your support of this work!

Sincerely,

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