We would like to thank the American Philosophical Association for your support of our Fourth Annual Undergraduate Women’s Philosophy Conference (April 5-7, 2019). You helped make our conference a tremendous success. We hope that we can continue this tradition of hosting such an important national event—the only of its kind. In what follow, we provide the requested information.

1. Progress and Results: Progress toward the goals and objectives of the conference.

We had four main goals and objectives that we wanted to achieve at our conference. In what follows, we describe each of the four goals and objectives and discuss the extent to which we achieved them.

A. Provide a supportive and community-building space for female-identified students to present their philosophical papers: MSU Denver upholds a longstanding commitment to providing a supportive environment that fosters the free exchange of diverse ideas and encourages people to express their viewpoints in a variety of ways, by engaging in respectful discourse in and outside of the classroom. The Fourth Annual Undergraduate Women’s Philosophy Conference supported these goals by providing a supportive space for female-identified students from across the nation to present their own philosophical work. Female-identified students and male-identified allies served as commentators, and audience members participated in the question and answer periods. Post-conference feedback demonstrates that we achieved this goal. For example, one respondent noted, “This was such an incredible experience and I’m leaving the weekend feeling more confident and empowered as a philosoper and a person.” Another noted, “This conference is the only space where I feel completely supported and empowered as a female philosopher. I loved the energy, connecting with such an awesome and smart group of women. I wish men would understand this.” Another participant expressed, “I loved the conference! It’s refreshing to talk with people with similar experiences and outlooks. I felt comfortable here and free to express my thoughts.” Several other conference attendees specifically noted how supported they felt. Participants remarked on the incredible value of the community-building and informal networking that the conference provided.

B. Provide a space for students, faculty, and community members to participate in diverse and enriching philosophical discussions of high quality: The Fourth Annual Undergraduate Women’s Philosophy conference was open to all. Students, faculty, and community members who attended the event benefited from the diverse and high quality philosophical presentations and lively discussion that followed. As well, attendees benefited from the exceptional keynote lecture by Tina Rulli (UC Davis) entitled “Reproductive CRISPR Does not Save Lives.” The student keynote speaker, Aynabeth Anderson (Rhodes College) presented a terrific paper entitled “Killing, Consent, and Kinky Sex: An Ethical Defense of Autassassinophilia.” Additional topics included free will, what constitutes a meaningful life, journalism ethics, military ethics, feminist philosophy, Buddhist philosophy, and
African philosophy, among others. Attendees included students from across the United States and Canada, faculty from MSU Denver and regional institutions, and community members. Respondents specifically noted the great range of papers and topics, and the interesting content. They called the conference constructive, valuable, and fun.

C. Provide a space that will work toward diversifying the discipline of philosophy, especially for female-identified people and people of color: The discipline of philosophy is notorious for its lack of diversity and underrepresented groups. The Undergraduate Women’s Philosophy Conference is committed to diversifying the discipline of philosophy by providing a supportive space for female-identified students, including female-identified students of color, and their allies to showcase their philosophical writings and engage in lively and fruitful dialogue to help foster understanding. Progress made toward this goal: For the third year in a row, we had a prominent female philosopher of color serve as the faculty keynote speaker. We have also advertised at Hispanic-serving institutions (MSU Denver has recently received that designation) and Historically black colleges, which has helped attract more students of color. The past two conferences have seen a significant increase in the number of people of color participate in the conference. This year, three out of ten student presenters were people of color. Five out of ten commentators were students of color, including both female and male/gender fluid.

D. Provide a space in which participants are exposed to diverse philosophical and cultural topics: Our keynote speaker, Tina Rulli (UC Davis) gave an exceptional lecture entitled “Reproductive CRISPR Does not Save Lives.” A lively and fruitful debate ensued amongst attendees. Further, many of our student presentations were on diverse topics reflecting different cultures. Of note, Corina Lee (York University) gave a paper entitled, “Traditional African Thought on Personhood: The Relationship Between the Individual and Community.” And Riley DeWaters (MSU Denver), gave a presentation called, “The Gender Binary’s Influence on Identity: Through a Buddhist Lens.” An extraordinarily impactful paper was given by Flor Mendoza-Martinez (UNC Greeley) entitled “Philosophy Through the Guilty Silence,” where she laid out Western white male philosophy’s complicity in silencing women, particularly women of color.

2. Successes and Challenges: Significant successes and challenges of the conference.

One comment from the post-conference feedback, mentioned above (1A) really captures the success of our conference in achieving the above-mentioned goals: “This conference is the only space where I feel completely supported and empowered as a female philosopher. I loved the energy, connecting with such an awesome and smart group of women. I wish men would understand this.” This conference continues to fill a real need within the discipline for female-identified philosophy students. The fact remains, and we’ve heard this throughout the four years of hosting this conference, in both formal and informal settings, that (by and large) female-identified students do not feel supported qua female philosophers in the classroom. Their efforts are routinely undermined or dismissed by male faculty and students. This conference provides a supportive space to build confidence and community, and for those reasons alone it is invaluable.

For four years now, we have worked hard at improving the conference in light of participant
feedback. We have finally seen significant improvement in participants of color. The biggest criticisms/suggestions we had this year were requests to do more of the same: include more ways to build community and networking opportunities. Specifically, participants suggested increasing the number of workshops, introduce roundtable discussions, and start a Facebook group to keep in touch. One participant expressed (rightly) that informal networking is as important as papers. At this conference, thanks in large part to the APA’s generous award, we were able to include two off-campus “group bonding” experiences: a tour of Denver and a trip to the aquarium. Participants truly enjoyed and benefitted from these activities and we hope to continue these types of opportunities next year.

3. Lessons Learned:

The nice thing about having done this for four years now is that we find that we’re making fewer mistakes, since we take post-conference feedback very seriously. The one persistent problem, though it has gotten better, is that not all conference attendees participate in all of the sessions, despite that they agree, before they are officially invited, to do so. Since this is a very intimate conference, attendees notice who is missing, and of course this thwarts efforts at community-building. One comment rightly noted, “People should commit to seeing at least 75% of the talks if their paper is chosen to create reciprocal support.”

4. Additional Information that impacted the conference: N/A

Please note that final budget, conference program, and selected photos from the conference are in separate attachments.

Respectfully submitted July 25, 2019
Carol V.A. Quinn
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The Fourth Annual MSU Denver
UNDERGRADUATE WOMEN’S
PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, April 5 - 7, 2019

This image contains three women’s faces. Two green women in profile face in opposite directions, and one blue woman faces forward. Behind the women there is a tan circle with fourteen red triangles pointing toward the center. This logo was created by Erica Payne, a senior at MSU Denver double majoring in Philosophy and Psychology. This image intends to convey the feelings of inspiration and empowerment that a supportive environment can foster.
10:15-10:45 am  Registration  
SSB 4th Floor

10:45-11:15 am  Opening Remarks:  
SSB 400  
Vicki Golich, Provost  
Ibon Izurieta, Associate Dean of College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Arlene Sgoutas, Dean of College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Carol Quinn and Liz Goodnick, Philosophy Department and Conference Organizers

11:15 am-1:30 pm  Paper Session 1: Free Will  
SSB 400  
Chair: David Rodezno, University of Northern Colorado  

Paper 1: Vanessa Salazar, University of Northern Colorado, “Counterpart Theory and its Implication on Free Will”  
Commentator: Marissa Maldonado, MSU Denver

Paper 2: Emily Schilling, MSU Denver, “Spinoza & Frankl: The Roles of Happiness and Free Will in Living a Meaningful Life”  
Commentator: Nate Evans, University of Northern Colorado

1:30-2:00 pm  Catered Lunch  
SSB 407

2:00-2:45 pm  Workshop on Empowering Women in Philosophy  
SSB 400  
Tina Rulli, University of California- Davis  
Nancy Matchett, University of Northern Colorado  
Bailie Peterson, University of Northern Colorado  
Boram Jeong, University of Colorado- Denver

3:00-5:00 pm  Group Activity for conference speakers, commentators, chairs, and faculty participants only  
Break and free time for conference attendees

5:00-5:30 pm  Coffee and Snack Break  
SSB 407
5:30- 6:45
SSB 400

**Student Keynote**
Chair: Liz Goodnick, MSU Denver

Aynabeth Anderson, Rhodes College, “Killing, Consent, and Kinky Sex: An Ethical Defense of Autassassinophilia”
Commentator: Alina Moreau, University of Northern Colorado

7:00- 9:00 pm

Tivoli Student Union
640 (Zenith)

**On-Campus Catered Dinner for all registered participants,**
**Entertainment provided by Kenny Martinez**
SATURDAY, APRIL 6

8:45- 9:15 am   Catered Breakfast and Registration
SSB 407

9:15- 11:30 am   Paper Session 2: Ethics
SSB 400
Chair: Tessa Kauffman, MSU Denver

Paper 1: Monica Lockett, University of Lethbridge, "A Duty to Report: Alternative Journalism as a Political Obligation to Resist and Remedy Injustice"
Commentator: Lillian Canfield, University of Northern Colorado

Paper 2: Alyssa Zduniak and Gabby Kasper, Manhattan College, "The Moral Permissibility of Soldier Disobedience"
Commentator: Jorge Rubio, University of Northern Colorado

11:30 am- 3:30 pm   Group Activity for conference speakers, commentators, chairs, and faculty only

Catered Lunch and free time for conference attendees

3:30- 4:30 pm   Paper Session 3: Feminism
SSB 400
Chair: Riley DeWaters, MSU Denver

Paper: Maryssa Soots, Fort Lewis College, "Confined by Beauty"
Commentator: Colton Lee, MSU Denver

4:30- 4:45 pm   Coffee and Snack Break
SSB 407

4:45- 6:00 pm   Faculty Keynote
SSB 400
Tina Rulli, University of California- Davis, "Reproductive CRISPR Does Not Save Lives"

6:30- 8:30 pm   Conference Banquet for conference speakers, commentators, chairs, and faculty participants only
8:30- 9:00 am  Catered Breakfast and Registration
SSB 407

9:00- 11:15 am  Paper Session 4: Non-Western Philosophy
SSB 400
Chair: Stephen May, MSU Denver

Paper 1: Riley DeWaters, MSU Denver, "The Gender Binary's Influence on Identity: Through a Buddhist Lens"
Commentator: Claudia Marron, MSU Denver

Paper 2: Corina Lee, York University, "Traditional African Thought on Personhood: The Relationship between the Individual and Community"
Commentator: Kamri Flores, University of Northern Colorado

11:15- 11:30 am  Coffee and Snack Break
SSB 407

11:30-1:30 pm  Paper Session 5: Philosophy of Education
SSB 400
Chair: Claudia Marron, MSU Denver

Paper 1: Amanda Pinto, Appalachian State University, "University Classroom Access: A Curricular Criphystemology of Anxiety"
Commentator: Annika Holm, University of Northern Colorado

Paper 2: Flor Mendoza-Martinez, University of Northern Colorado, "Philosophy Through the Guilty Silence"
Commentator: Molly Hewitt, Indiana University- South Bend
Our Sponsors

We would like to thank all our sponsors whose funding made MSU Denver’s Fourth Annual Undergraduate Women’s Philosophy Conference possible. Thank you all for your generous contributions and for helping us create an awesome, memorable event this year!

MSU Denver Department of Philosophy

MSU Denver College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean’s Office

MSU Denver Office of Sponsored Research

MSU Denver Gender Institute for Teaching and Advocacy

MSU Denver Office of Diversity and Inclusion

MSU Denver Office of the Provost

American Philosophical Association

Planning Committee

We would also like to give a special thanks to last year’s coordinator, Don Mather, for assisting this year’s coordinator, Damian Morales. And to all who have helped the planning committee with various aspects of the conference, we extend our gratitude.

Liz Goodnick, PhD.
Carol Quinn, PhD.
Donald Mather
Damian Morales

American Philosophical Association

The Gender Institute for Teaching and Advocacy

Metropolitan State University of Denver