

Summer report

19th July 2016

Minorities and Philosophy chapters met regularly in the Spring semester to address MAP relevant issues, hosted a variety of events, and continue to organise a number of training and advocacy activities. The following report comprises some of the highlights of these activities from the UK region.

Events

The Bristol chapter hosted a conference on Philosophy from Minoritised Perspectives with a keynote from Helen Beebee. The Stirling chapter ran a conference on gender, race and disability. The St Andrews chapter hosted talks about gender theory and feminist philosophy of language. The Glasgow chapter organised a workshop where Tom Dougherty spoke on the underrepresentation of women in philosophy, whilst Frederique Janssen-Lauret spoke on teaching logic in a gender-inclusive way. The Edinburgh chapter hosted a workshop on the objectification of women, with talks from Katharine Jenkins, Fiona Woollard, Kathleen Stock and Aidan McGlynn.

Chapters continue to host reading groups and social events. These include a weekly feminist philosophy reading group and an end of year social at St Andrews. The Leeds MAP reading group read a number of texts on the philosophy of disability, as well as reading Rae Langton's 'Sexual Solipsism' and Paul Taylor's 'Black is Beautiful', where they were joined by the authors themselves.

Good practice, training and advocacy

The Leeds chapter is participating in a project to develop free online resources for teaching philosophy in schools. The aim is to enable teachers to give their students a brief introduction to an area of philosophy of their choice before the holiday break. The project is planned to launch at the beginning of next year. The Edinburgh chapter continue to host informal

sessions with philosophers from underrepresented groups to share their experiences in the profession with staff and students. Both the Leeds and Edinburgh chapters now play integral roles in the Diversity Reading List project, which can be viewed here: <http://www.diversityreadinglist.org/>

The St Andrews chapter have set up a mentorship scheme enabling undergraduates to meet with and receive support from PhD students.

The Oxford chapter have been advocating for conference organisers to make their events more accessible for marginalised participants, as well as pushing for opportunities for students to be able to study more diverse areas of philosophy than currently on offer. They have also encouraged graduate teachers to assemble a pool of readings from underrepresented groups in philosophy for various courses and areas, and plan to expand the project next year.

Mentorship Scheme

At last count we have 17 mentors who have volunteered to provide occasional mentoring advice to students over email. Between them they have expertise covering a range of minority statuses including those relating to race and ethnicity, sexuality, disability, income background, and gender. Anyone who identifies as a member of a group that is underrepresented in philosophy and may benefit from mentoring is encouraged to look through the mentor database (<http://mapuk.weebly.com/uk-mentors.html>) and email their chosen mentor directly.

Thanks

We'd like to thank all of our new and existing Chapters for all of their hard work organising and hosting a fantastic and varied programme of events. We'd also like to thank our ever-growing network of mentors, and all of those who have participated in MAP UK activities, as well as our various supporters in our home departments and beyond who have helped to make our activities possible.

For further information on MAP UK, or to make a suggestion, please contact us at mapforthe-gap.uk@gmail.com

Apply to form a chapter, become a mentor, or find out more at <http://mapuk.weebly.com>