

**UK**

**Winter Report**

**6th February 2017**

***UK MAP chapters met regularly throughout the latter half of 2016, continuing to address and discuss MAP-related issues. They hosted a wide variety of events, and are also planning many more for this year. The following report comprises some of the highlights of these activities.***

**News**

* **We are delighted that in November, the University of Southampton formed a MAP chapter. We’re thrilled to have them on board.**
* **Exciting Opportunity to Work with the folks at the Diversity Reading List! The DRL (**[**http://www.diversityreadinglist.org/**](http://www.diversityreadinglist.org/)**) was set up to collaboratively collect texts by authors from under-represented in Philosophy, to promote the works of these authors and to facilitate their use in syllabi. The DRL are now looking to collaborate with MAP chapters, in that chapter members can ask their respective departments for funding for work into expanding the texts on the DRL. MAP members would then carry out this valuable work, and be paid for doing so; their departments would be engaged in a successful diversity project, and the DRL (and the profession as a whole) would benefit as a result. Just recently, this exact model has worked extremely well in Edinburgh and Leeds, for example. If you are interested in being a part of this great initiative, contact Simon Fokt(**sfokt@exseed.ed.ac.uk**).**

**Events & Activities**

* **The Manchester chapter held a conference aimed at undergraduate students, which featured talks on gender, race and disability. The speakers were Jessica Bernard (St Andrews), Graham Stevens (Manchester) and Rebecca Bennett (Manchester). This also featured a workshop on postgraduate studies in Philosophy, where Catherine Abell (Manchester) gave a talk on how to apply for Masters courses, and the various funding sources available. Undergraduates were given the opportunity to ask Postgraduates questions about various courses.**
* **The Sheffield chapter hosted their second annual MAP lecture, with Meena Dhanda (Wolverhampton) speaking on 'Caste and Race: An Inescapable Comparison'.**
* **The Warwick chapter (in conjunction with their Philosophy, Law, and Politics & International Studies departments), co-hosted two events with Jennifer Saul (Sheffield): 1) A public lecture for students (followed by a Q&A) on techniques of racist linguistic manipulation, and 2) A research seminar on issues around Implicit Bias training.**
* **The Leeds chapter have continued their reading group on the Philosophy of Disability.**
* **The Sheffield chapter have continued their fortnightly reading group on the Philosophy of Race, and have recently begun reading Patricia Hill Collins’s *Black Feminist Thought.***
* **The Warwick chapter have set up a ‘decolonising Philosophy’ reading group.**
* **The Warwick chapter held an informal coffee event for staff and students from underrepresented groups.**
* **The Leeds chapter hosted a film screening of Werner Herzog’s documentary ‘Land of Silence and Darkness’.**
* **The Stirling chapter held a public event where they analysed and discussed the result of surveys distributed to their undergraduates and staff, with the overall aim of improving inclusion in seminars (see ‘Good Practice, Training & Advocacy for more information about this).**

**Good Practice, Training & Advocacy**

* **The KCL chapter are considering an innovative way in which they can incorporate undergraduates into the running of their chapter, with PG and faculty as mentors/advisors.**
* **The Leeds chapter have connected with a local high school, supporting the teaching of AS Philosophy with supplementary classes. Leeds PhD Philosophy students will deliver four sessions (Jan-March) which aim to develop AS students’ skills in applying abstract philosophical theories and arguments to more concrete examples.**
* **The Leeds chapter have also linked with the Leeds University of the Third Age (**[**http://www.u3aleeds.org.uk/index.htm**l](http://www.u3aleeds.org.uk/index.html)**), to provide introductory sessions on a range of philosophical topics.**
* **The Stirling chapter have surveyed their undergraduates, with the aim of better understanding how they perceive inclusion in seminars. They have also surveyed their staff, asking them questions about their strategies for inclusion in seminars, and on possible barriers to student participation that they might have identified. They are now compiling a report on seminar inclusion based on their findings, to distribute to Stirling students and staff, and to MAP UK.**
* **The Warwick chapter have been working on a survey on the general climate in their department, which is being conducted among postgraduate students. They have also been looking into implicit bias training for TAs, and discussing ways to diversify curriculum content.**

**Mentorship Scheme**

**The mentorship scheme has continued to grow - we now have 21 mentors who have offered to provide advice to any student who identifies as a member of a group which is underrepresented in philosophy. Between them, our mentors have a broad range of expertise covering a range of minority statuses, including those relating to race and ethnicity, sexuality, disability, income background, and gender. We have recently made a change to the way the scheme works - students who are interested in speaking to a mentor can look through the database and contact someone directly (**[**http://mapuk.weebly.com/uk-mentors.html**](http://mapuk.weebly.com/uk-mentors.html)**), OR contact Natalie Ashton via the MAP UK email address** [**mapforthegap.uk**](http://mapforthegap.uk/)**@gmail.com if you would like advice on choosing a mentor and/or to be introduced to a mentor via email.**

**Things to look forward to**

**[Nb. There are lots more exciting events to look forward to, but we’ve only included those with specific dates].**

* **On February 6th 2017, the Glasgow chapter will host a Workshop on ‘Education and Justice’. The keynote speakers are Helen Beebee (Manchester) and Ben Colburn (Glasgow). You can find out more about this** [**here**](http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/humanities/studentstaff/informationforcurrentstudents/philosophystudents/minoritiesandphilosophy/mapworkshop2017/)**.**
* **On March 9th 2017, the Warwick chapter will host a talk and discussion with Christopher Bartley (Liverpool), who will be speaking about Indian Philosophy.**
* **In March 2017, the Glasgow chapter are organising a talk within the series of the Philosophical Society at Glasgow. This topic will be feminist theology, and the speaker will be Anna Ortin (Edinburgh).**
* **On May 9th 2017, the Leeds chapter will host a workshop on the Philosophy of Disability. The keynote speaker will be Jackie Leach Scully (Newcastle). Conference website:** [**http://ppod2017.weebly.com/**](http://ppod2017.weebly.com/)

**Thanks**

**We’d like to thank all of our new and existing chapters for their continued hard work and dedication in organising such a fantastic and varied programme of events. We’d like to thank everybody who participated in these events and activities, as well as all other supporters in our home departments and beyond, who have helped to make all of these activities possible. We’d also like to thank our ever-growing network of mentors, whose commitment to making Philosophy a more inclusive and supportive environment is invaluable. We wish everybody a happy, mappy, and healthy 2017.**

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

**Apply to form a chapter, become a mentor, or find out more at** [**http://mapuk.weebly.com**](http://mapuk.weebly.com)**. For more information on the MAP project globally, visit** [**http://www.mapforthegap.com**](http://www.mapforthegap.com)**.**