

APA Grant Report – September 2014

California Roundtable on Philosophy and Race
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Description

Last year we applied to the APA small grant fund and requested 5K to support the 11th California Roundtable in Philosophy and Race (CRPR) to be held at Marquette University on September 19 and 20. The APA generously awarded \$2,500. In addition to the APA fund, \$4,000 were secured by the local hosts Michael Manahan and Grant Silva. The total budget was \$6,500.

Goals

We have met most of our initial goals. This year again, the CRPR brought together philosophers of race who identify with various traditions (continental philosophy, analytical philosophy, Marxist philosophy, history of philosophy) and fostered stimulating and collegial conversations across boundaries.

Benefits to the Field and Profession of Philosophy:

By organizing a two-day workshop where scholars and students who are invested in the subfield of philosophy of race, we believe the CRPR benefits the profession in the following ways:

- Scholars who work in philosophy and race, who often work in isolation, can come together to discuss issues of mutual interest in a congenial yet intensive environment. This conference is organized according to the following format: presenters have 30 minutes to present their work in philosophy of race and 30 minutes for discussion. The fundamental audience consists of other presenters who have read the papers in advance and prepared to give full and distinct attention to ten to twelve unique papers over the course of the entire two days.
- The format of the CRPR has enabled graduate students, junior and established scholars to develop their work according to the informed comments of their colleagues, leading to publications of articles, development of dissertations, and further development of the philosophy of race.
- As well, since the CRPR has been in existence for 11 years, it has become an established, consistent site where new scholars can meet and be mentored by more established scholars. In several instances, participants inform us, they became acquainted with colleagues in departments where they eventually accepted faculty positions.

The success of this conference depends on the enthusiastic and voluntary repeat participation of many senior and junior scholars whose research is in the philosophy of race.

Diversity in the Profession:

The CRPR is organized with an eye to the diversity of philosophers across rank, gender, ethnicity and philosophical traditions. This year, we accepted fewer than 33% of received submissions. The final program included 11 presentations and a keynote speaker. Our presenters included 6 women and 5 men, 2 graduate students, 1 post-doctorate, one lecturer, 5 junior faculty and 2 senior faculty. Our keynote speaker was Professor Anita Allen (Henry R. Silverman Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania Law School). There were between 40 and 50 members in attendance over the course of two days. On both days the audience was composed of new participants, returning participants and students. There were a number of previous participants who attended the conference, and some of the moderators of the panels were also previous participants. We learned that several non-traditional undergraduate students drove 450 miles to attend both days of the conference, and that one junior faculty member attending the CRPR from some distance through personal funds, as a “reward” for having secured a tenure-track position. This same faculty member informed us that s/he had wanted to attend for several years prior, but had been unable to afford travel and accommodations.

Advertising:

Posters and flyers were distributed at the National APA meetings and at other philosophical meetings (Caribbean Philosophical Association (CPA), Society for Phenomenology and Existential philosophy (SPEP)). We sent the CFP to multiple philosophy listservs, including those maintained by Philosop, Bertold Bernreuter, SWIP, and FEAST, and CRPR itself. The conference program was advertised on various lists and on the CRPR website.

Accomplishments:

We had intended to fund partial travel and lodging for two graduate students. As one of the presenters was a local graduate student (from Marquette University), we partially funded the travel and accommodation of one graduate student from the University of Pennsylvania. Thanks to the APA grant, the co-organizers of the CRPR were able to have their travel and accommodations funded for the first time ever in 11 years. The co-organizers have never before received funding from any source, including from their home institutions, to attend and participate in CRPR meetings when they were organizers but not presenters.

One of our goals was to pay a graduate student with IT skills to further develop and maintain the CRPR website. After carefully assessing our needs we concluded that we needed someone able to redesign the web site. The current website has important information related to the conferences and last year we started a listserv associated with the web site. We would like a website that will increase the visibility of the CRPR, include links to various websites related to philosophy of race, display announcements, and more generally be a resource for students and faculty interested in philosophy of race. We need this website to be user-friendly and visually appealing to students, faculty and independent scholars. We were unable to hire someone last year to achieve this goal but we have secured the funds (\$700.00) and they are committed to this end. We expect to have someone working on the website in the next four weeks and hope to have a new website operational in the first trimester of 2015.

What was Learned:

The purpose of the conference is to bring a pluralist group of philosophers and scholars in related fields to discuss various topics in philosophy of race. We have heard over the years (and indeed have experienced the same) that scholars who do work in the philosophy of race often work in complete isolation, with few sympathetic and similarly educated interlocutors. As a result, participants often are extremely welcoming of the opportunity to discuss their research and interests with a group of critical and congenial scholars. As well, this year's workshop again reminded us of the importance of intergenerational dialogues—between graduate students, junior and senior faculty, as well as interested undergraduates.

As well, our hope is philosophers who consider themselves to work in either analytic or continental philosophical traditions will see, when in dialogue, how many of their interests and concerns overlap and can benefit from constructive insights from each other. As such, we prioritize including research from both traditions on our program, as you will see from past programs on our website.

This year, we received the following feedback:

I wanted to write you a proper and heartfelt thank you for a truly exceptional conference. I had such a fabulous time and was so inspired (in fact, I got at least two and possibly three new paper ideas over the course of the two days, so THANKS for that!). You really pulled off the impossible. Not only was the conference perfectly organized and laid out (in terms of times, sessions, appropriate number of breaks, etc.) but you also managed to get such an absolutely lovely group of people. I've never experienced a conference quite like this. It was very special and I feel so lucky to have been a part of it.

The Future:

We would like to develop contacts and projects with philosophy departments with a strong interest in philosophy of race outside the US. We are in conversations with scholars in South Africa, Germany, and France about holding future CRPR workshops outside the US. We believe that this will help nurture conversations on

philosophy of race and perhaps make collaborations possible across national boundaries, across language, cultural and historical differences.

Over the last 11 years the CRPR has provided a space where work in progress has been discussed; we know that many of these works have been published and some of them received awards. We would like to be able to pay a research assistant whose work would be to find what became of the papers presented at the CRPR over the last 11 years and identify those that received prizes.

One of the crucial aspects that, we believe, make the CRPR so successful is that we encourage participants to share all meals together over the course of two days; however, because—as an organization without permanent institutional or stable funding, we are not always able to provide meals, participants must fund their own meals. To facilitate this aspect of the conference, we have discussed the possibility of charging a modest registration fee to allow for a stable and regular fund for the CRPR, and to cover some meals but also other unanticipated expenses that tend to occur sporadically. For example, in past years, in addition to our funding our own travel and lodging expenses, we have found ourselves covering unpaid dinner or meal expenses in the region of several hundred dollars, with no possibility of institutional reimbursement.

We know that not having a registration fee facilitates the ability of participants, especially junior faculty and graduate students, to attend. We have heard this again this year. As such, we would like to continue charging no fees, or extremely low fees, but we can only do so if we are successful in obtaining other funding on a long-term basis. This year we were especially grateful that Michael Monahan and Grant Silva were able to secure institutional funding to cover the cost of the keynote honorarium, travel and lodging. However, we know from previous experiences that it is not consistently possible for host institutions to come up with the full amount. This is why we have again applied for full funding to the APA in the hope of being able to secure a stable and independent basis by which to continue organizing the CRPR.

On the following page is this year's program. Programs from previous years are available on our website (<http://caroundtable.webs.com/>).

We thank the APA for facilitating our ability to continue to organize the CRPR.

Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
September 19 & 20, 2014

All sessions will be held in the Haggerty Museum of Art on the Marquette University Campus

Friday, September 19:

Session I: 9:00-11:00 am, Moderator: Michael Monahan, Marquette University

9:00 am Emily Parker, Towson University: "Two Theories of Difference: On Denaturalization and Irrevocable Difference!"

10:00 am Lauren Freeman, University of Louisville: "Phenomenology of Racial Oppression"

11:00-11:30: Break

Session II: 11:30-12:30 pm. Moderator: Ronke Oke, Pennsylvania State University

11:30-12:30 Gwynn Markle, Cal Poly Pomona University: Race, Crime and Social Justice

12:30-2:00: Lunch

Session III: 2:00-4:00 pm, Falguni Sheth, Hampshire College

2:00 pm: Luvell Anderson, University of Memphis: "Notorious Thugs"

3:00 pm: Verena Erlenbush, University of Memphis: "Beasts, Monsters, Barbarians: The Racial Dimensions of Terrorism"

Break: 4:00-4:30 pm

Keynote Session: 4:30-6:00, Moderator: Mickaella Perina, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Anita Allen, Henry R. Silverman Professor of Law and Professor of
Philosophy

University of Pennsylvania Law School

"Philosophy and Technology: Race, Privilege and Privacy"

Keynote Reception: 6:30-7:30 pm

Saturday, September 20:

Session IV: 10:00 am-12: 00 am, Moderator: Eddy Souffrant, UNC Charlotte

10:00 am: Philip T. Mack, Marquette University: "Overlooking Racism"

11:00 am: Vanessa Wills, St. Joseph's University: "The 'White Privilege' Concept in Marxism and Critical Race Theory."

Lunch: 12:00-1:30

Session V: 1:30-3:30, Moderator: Grant Silva, Marquette University

1:30 pm: Ronke Oke, Pennsylvania State University: "How Race Travels"

2:30 pm: Lawrence Blum, University of Massachusetts, Boston: "Races, Racialized Groups, and Racial Identity: Perspectives from South Africa, U.S., and Brazil"

Break: 3:30-4:00 pm

Session VI: 4:00-6:00 pm, Moderator, Ernesto Rosen, University of Dayton

4:00 pm: Colleen McCluskey, St. Louis University: Black on the Outside, White on the Inside: Peter Abelard's Use of Race

5:00 pm: Surya Parekh, Pennsylvania State University: "Affirmations of Blackness: Reading the Black Enlightenment"

Closing Reception: 6:30-7:30 pm