

EPSA Women's Caucus – The 2nd Biennial Meeting
19.15, Thursday, August 30
Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies
Fabianinkatu 24, Common Room
University of Helsinki

Number of participants: About 100

Organizers: Kristina Rolin (University of Helsinki), Sara Green (Aarhus University), Tarja Knuutila (University of Helsinki), and Andrea Loettgers (California Institute of Technology)

Minutes from the meeting

The co-chairs of the EPSA Women's Caucus, Kristina Rolin and Sara Green, opened the meeting at 19.15. Sami Pihlström and Tarja Knuutila gave greetings on behalf of the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies. Sami Pihlström informed about the research topics at the Collogium and highlighted the visitors program that has an annual call for applications.

Stéphanie Ruphy gave a report from the Program Committee for EPSA 2013 regarding submission and acceptance of papers authored by women. The number of people submitting proposals was 520, including about 130 women authors or co-authors. Also, about 25 % of the accepted papers were authored or co-authored by women, leaving the acceptance rates equal for men and women. However, these figures are not fully reliable as the EasyChair system is not configured to keep track of the authors' gender. The co-chairs of the Women's Caucus were pleased to notice that the co-chairs of the Program Committee Stéphanie Ruphy and Gerhard Schurtz have succeeded in recruiting 13 women philosophers into the Program Committee (the total number of PC members being 32).

Kristina Rolin gave a brief report on the EPSA Women's Caucus meeting in Athens (a longer version of the report can be found at the EPSA Newsletter). The first Caucus meeting was a lunch meeting attended by 35 people. The co-chairs, Kristina Rolin and Sara Green, were delighted to notice that the EPSA Women's Caucus reception and meeting in Helsinki (taking place after the General Assembly Meeting) was attended by about 100 (!) conference participants. The co-chairs wish to thank the many EPSA members, both men and women, who came to the reception and meeting to show their support for the Caucus.

The following upcoming conferences were announced. Letitia Meynell announced the next conference for the Association of Feminist Epistemologies, Methodologies, Metaphysics, and Science Studies (FEMMSS) in Waterloo, Ontario, in August 2014. Hanne Andersen announced the next biennial meeting for the Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice (SPSP) at the Center for Science Studies at Aarhus University, June 24-26, 2015. There has not yet been a plan to organize a women's caucus meeting or an alternative kind of meeting for the SPSP 2015 but the possibility will be discussed in the organizing committee and the steering committee for SPSP. Kristina Rolin announced the next conference for Logic, Methodology, and Philosophy of

Science (LMPS) in Helsinki in August 2015 and the next EPSA conference in Düsseldorf in September 2015.

The overwhelming number of attendants made it difficult to discuss problematic issues and suggestions for concrete actions in plenum. Alternative formats will therefore be considered for the next Women's Caucus meeting. Kristina Rolin called for volunteers willing to plan and organize jointly the next EPSA Women's Caucus meeting in Düsseldorf and to make proposals for other future activities. The ideas will be discussed with the EPSA Steering Committee and the Local Organizing Committee in Düsseldorf.

A group of volunteers got together during the reception and they came up with two major proposals. First, they suggested that the Women's Caucus meetings are extended to include a talk and a discussion before a meeting and a social event. At the Athens meeting in 2011, the participants discussed the challenges met by anyone trying to gather systematic and reliable data on the status of women in philosophy of science in Europe. At the Helsinki meeting, a number of participants drew our attention to recent research on women in philosophy (see the list of references below) and suggested that the Women's Caucus will organize a talk on the topic. There are at least two options the Caucus might want to explore. One option is to invite a social scientist working on empirical studies of women, gender, and bias in academia. Another option is to organize a panel with one 30-minute paper reviewing recent research on women in philosophy and two or three commentaries on the paper addressing the situation especially in philosophy of science. We discussed also the location of the Caucus talk/panel in the conference program. One option is that the Caucus will appeal to the EPSA Steering Committee to include the talk/panel into the conference program as a plenary session. Another option is to include an extra talk/panel into the conference program on Friday evening, followed by a Caucus meeting and a social event. In the latter cases, the Caucus should propose to the Program Committee and the Local Organizing Committee that they will reserve a two-hour slot for the Caucus on Friday evening without any overlapping and competing social events in the program.

The second major proposal was that the volunteers prepare a list of crucial issues to be discussed among the EPSA women members. The main purpose of the list is to help us develop good practices for EPSA and especially for EPSA conferences. The list will be circulated among the women members of EPSA, and once an agreement on the agenda has been achieved, the list will be sent to the President of EPSA.

Research on women in philosophy

Kristina Rolin and Sara Green are grateful to the many women philosophers who have assisted them in putting together this list of research, data, blogs, and others resources on women in philosophy:

2008. Haslanger, Sally. Changing the Ideology and Culture of Philosophy: Not by Reason (Alone). *Hypatia* 23:2, 210-223. See also Women in Philosophy Task Force: <http://web.mit.edu/wphft/WPHTF/Welcome.html>

2009. *APA Newsletter on Feminism and Philosophy* 8:2, an update on women in philosophy. See also APA Committee on the Status of Women: Data on women in philosophy: <http://www.apaonlinecsw.org/data-on-women-in-philosophy>

2010. Lee, Carole J., and Christian D. Schunn. 2010. Philosophy journal practices and opportunities for bias. *APA Newsletter on Feminism and Philosophy* 10 (1): 5–10.

2010. Rooney, Phyllis. Philosophy, adversarial argumentation, and embattled reason. *Informal Logic* 30:3, 203–234.

2011. Fehr, Carla. What is in it for me? The benefits of diversity in scientific communities. In *Feminist epistemology and philosophy of science*, edited by Heidi Grasswick.

2011. Wylie, Alison. Editor's Introduction: The cost of exclusion. *Hypatia* 26:2, followed by a cluster of papers on women in philosophy.

2011. Beebee, Helen & Saul, Jennifer. Women in Philosophy in the UK: A report by the British Philosophical Association and the Society for Women in Philosophy UK.

2012. Paxton, Molly, Figdor, Carrier & Tiberius, Valerie. Quantifying the gender gap: An empirical study of the underrepresentation of women in philosophy. *Hypatia* 27:4, 949-957.

2012. *Journal of Social Philosophy* 43:3, a special issue on gender, implicit bias, and philosophical methodology.

Recent blogs

2013. Lombrozo, Tania. Name five women in philosophy. Bet you can't. June 17, 2013. <http://www.npr.org/blogs/13.7/2013/06/17/192523112/name-ten-women-in-philosophy-bet-you-can-t>

2013. Anderl, Sybille. Der Aufschrei der Philosophinnen. June 22, 2013. <http://blogs.faz.net/planckton/2013/06/22/der-aufschrei-der-philosophinnen-812/>

2013. Haslanger, Sally. Women in philosophy? Do the Math. September 2, 2013: http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/09/02/women-in-philosophy-do-the-math/?_r=1

2013. Alcoff, Linda Martín. What's wrong with philosophy? September 3, 2013: http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/09/03/whats-wrong-with-philosophy/?emc=edit_tnt_20130903&tntemail0=y&_r=1

2013. Langton, Rae. The disappearing women. September 4, 2013: <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/09/04/the-disappearing-women/>

2013. O'Connor, Peg. The double bind. September 6, 2013: <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/tag/women-in-philosophy/>

Acknowledgements: The organizers are grateful to the conference assistants (Ilmari Hirvonen, Juho Pääkkönen, Päivi Seppälä, Pekka Tolvanen, Emilia Westlin) for the long working hours they did in order to make the Caucus reception/meeting a highly successful social event. We also wish to thank Sami Pihlström for providing us with an opportunity to use the Common Room at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies.

Meeting minutes and proposals compiled by Sara Green (sarag@ivs.au.dk) and Kristina Rolin (kristina.rolin@helsinki.fi).