

MAP

MINORITIES AND PHILOSOPHY

We have compiled a very short list of suggested activities for MAP Chapters, organized (roughly) by type. Chapters are in no way required to host any of the following events, nor are they limited to hosting events of these types. The purpose of this list is to provide ideas and guidance, especially for chapters that are just starting out. For more ideas, check out our list of selected [past events](#).

Outreach to undergraduates. MAP chapters are strongly encouraged to include undergraduates in their events and activities. There is evidence to suggest that introductory classes have significantly more diverse enrollments than upper-level classes and major cohorts; thus, we encourage MAP chapters to advertise their events and otherwise reach out to students enrolled in introductory classes, rather than, say, only including students who have already decided to major in philosophy. MAP chapter organizers are strongly encouraged to contact introductory class instructors to ask if they might be willing to send emails about MAP events to their students, or at least send one email early on, directing interested students to sign up to receive further announcements. MAP chapter organizers might also consider asking if they might give a very brief presentation on MAP to their schools' introductory philosophy courses. This way, interested students can be included in the MAP community from early on, and so have access to the community's support and encouragement before they make decisions about their intended majors.

Talks

- Host talks/workshops on diversity-related issues. This can include talks by other philosophers, psychologists, education researchers, sociologists, etc. *Don't underestimate the value of inviting internal speakers from other departments at your university! Many social science departments have faculty/graduate students who are conducting fascinating research on diversity-related issues.*
- Host talks/workshops on underrepresentation in academia more generally. There has been quite a lot of work done on underrepresentation in STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields; some of that work may be applicable (or -- informatively inapplicable) to underrepresentation in philosophy.
- Host talks/workshops aimed at equipping graduate student instructors / teaching assistants to deal with issues tied to underrepresentation in their classrooms.

Reading Groups

- Initiate a mixed graduate & undergraduate reading group on any topic in philosophy, as a way of fostering community, creating mentorship opportunities, and providing a supportive forum for undergraduates to contribute to philosophical conversation.
- Initiate reading groups on works by members of under-represented groups.
- Initiate reading groups on diversity related issues (e.g. implicit bias, stereotype threat, philosophical methodology and underrepresentation, etc.)
- Initiate reading groups on areas of philosophy that are of interest to the local MAP community, but are not otherwise well-covered in the department in question, or not as visible in the larger profession as they might be.

Social Events & Mentoring Projects

- Set up a mentoring program connecting graduate students and undergraduate students. (Mentoring and advising students is an important but under-discussed part of any academic career. It is also something that many find deeply rewarding and empowering. Thus, while the benefits to undergraduates of such a program are obvious, this should also be thought of as a valuable opportunity for graduate students.)
- Host information sessions for undergraduate students interested in applying to graduate school.
- Initiate regular departmental social events (teas, lunches, etc) aimed at creating connections and building community. These events can be regular (e.g. weekly), but may also be less frequent. Even a single such social event each semester can be effective in creating a sense of community that extends beyond strictly academic contexts.