
Note:

This funding application was written for a fund with certain limitations (e.g., specified # of meetings per semester; cap in budget). The amount requested below and the description of semester events may not fit with other departments.

**Proposal for Dean's Fund Student Colloquium, Spring 2011:
GENDER AND PHILOSOPHY**

ORGANIZERS:

- Sara Protasi, 3rd year in Philosophy
- Eric Guindon, 3rd year in Philosophy
- Julia von Bodelschwingh, 3rd year in Philosophy and Religious Studies
- Yena Lee, junior undergraduate, philosophy major

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE OF THE SERIES:

It is a well-known fact that Philosophy is a discipline with a large gender gap: according to recent estimates, at most 21% of philosophers in the U.S. are women.¹ In the last few years, the underrepresentation of women in the field has received increasing attention, and research projects in several different disciplines (philosophy, sociology, psychology, gender studies) have tried to discover the reasons for this gender gap. Moreover, forums, blogs, and task forces were started in many philosophy departments to discuss the challenges that women face in the profession.

Our main objective is to hold monthly meetings, open to both men and women (undergraduates, graduates, and faculty), where we will discuss current research on or related to the topic of women in philosophy. The general aim of these meetings will be to provide a forum where we all can (1) better familiarize ourselves with issues pertaining to women in philosophy, (2) learn about and discuss current research from philosophy, sociology, gender studies, and psychology, and (3) present and discuss our own views on these issues. We believe that the material to be discussed will prove helpful and interesting for both the men and women of the department, because one of the main problems is a lack of awareness among both men and women philosophers of these issues.

Some of the topics we would like to discuss in this colloquium are relevant to people in other disciplines, and we will encourage members of other departments to attend. Among these topics are gender-specific differences in communications styles and patterns of gender bias in student evaluation and admissions. Other topics are more specific to

¹ American Philosophical Association Newsletter 8.2 (2009) says 21%, while Buckwalter and Stich in "Gender and Philosophical Intuition" cite an even lower number.

philosophy; for instance, we will be discussing very recent research on gender differences in philosophical intuitions, and the effects that these differences might have.

Our group was founded in the Fall of 2010, and we have had several organizational meetings. Moreover, at the request of one of our undergraduate students, a handful of the female graduate students in the department also hosted an informal meeting for female undergraduates who are interested in pursuing graduate study in philosophy. We answered their questions about what it is like to be a woman in a graduate program in philosophy, and we also set the foundations for potential graduate-undergraduate mentoring. Six undergraduates and five graduate students attended this meeting.

The Philosophy Department generously funded our informal meeting with the undergraduates, but in order to organize monthly colloquia with invited speakers discussing their research, we require steadier support. Getting funding from the Dean's Fund for our Spring 2011 colloquium would allow us to invite scholars both from Yale and from nearby research institutions. It would also make it possible to offer refreshments or lunches at our meetings, which will probably improve attendance.

OUR PLANS FOR USING INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES:

Due to the topic of our colloquium, the institutional resources that are most crucial for us are administrators who deal with these issues in their work, as well as researchers from other departments who are studying gender. Among the resources we are in the process of exploring are the Yale Women's Center, the department for Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, the Women's Leadership Initiative, Yale Law Women, and WISAY (Women in Science at Yale).

We are also planning to invite scholars from other Yale departments as speakers (see tentative schedule below), and a distinguished emeritus professor in the philosophy department, Prof. Ruth Barcan Marcus, will tell us about her extensive experience as a woman philosopher at Yale. Finally, we will contact the Office for Diversity and Equal Opportunity (ODEO) to explore the possibility of organizing a joint event, or inviting someone like Assistant Dean Nearon to tell us about the Graduate School's efforts to promote gender equality. The latter would be especially helpful for our colloquium meeting on gender biases in the evaluation and admission of students (see below).

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

- February 10th 2011, 12 PM: Ruth Barcan Marcus, Prof. emeritus in the Yale Philosophy Department: "**The Status of Women in the Profession: Past, Present, Future**"
- March 4th 2011, 4 PM: Wesley Buckwalter, graduate student at CUNY, discussing his recent co-authored paper "**Gender and Philosophical Intuition**;" Professor Tamar Gendler, chair of the Yale Philosophy Department, will respond

[...]

(Note: for other events, see "file of "Calendar of events")

ITEMIZED BUDGET FOR SPRING 2011:

Travel Expenses: ²	\$ 200.00
Food and refreshments:	\$ 250.00
Advertisement / Posters and printing cost for handouts:	\$ 50
Total expenses for Spring 2011:	\$ 500

² Approximate figure, depending on who we will invite for meetings 3 and 4. Our speaker for meeting 2 will require \$ 40.00 for travel from New York. If travel costs exceed the allotted amount, we could use part of the money allotted for advertisements and posters.