

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

As we look back on the last year in academic philosophy, perhaps the scandalous moments seem the most memorable. But academic philosophy's culture of marginalization and exclusion of minorities has been the subject of philosophical critique for some time. What current events have made clear is that demographic reports on unequal representation do not express the experience or practice of academic philosophy as alienating. If this is the case, how can we rescue our discipline?

Our symposium, "Power, Pedagogy, and Philosophy's 'Woman Problem'" was inspired by just this project. How has philosophy become the special case among humanities departments? As feminist philosophers, how do we approach this as a structural problem, inherent to philosophy as an academic practice? We have chosen to think of this provocatively as philosophy's "woman problem". But why is it a "woman problem"? How does this formulation of the marginalization of women in philosophy mystify the very structures of oppression at play, occluding other minority oppressions and introducing an over-determined political narrative?

We propose with our symposium, an immanent critique of philosophy as a discipline. Our goal is to address what is truly the problem of *philosophy*. Can philosophy's problem be localized within the academy? Or, to put it another way, we turn again to questions of theory and practice. What structures of power persist in philosophy, and how can we disrupt them? What in the pedagogical practice of philosophy is othering to women and minorities, and what feminist pedagogical techniques are available to us to make philosophy classes, conferences, and communities less hostile and more supportive?

People in Support of Women in Philosophy (PSWIP) is one of many independent organizations that have emerged as a response to philosophy and as a resource for philosophers. We are a New School for Social Research-specific group, dedicated to the academic and professional development of women philosophers. We meet weekly throughout the academic year to workshop members' papers in

preparation for publication or presentation. We also hold seminars on relevant professional topics like pedagogy or grant writing.

Our group has persevered for over a decade because of a continual need for the support we provide for students at the New School. Our approach is a micro-version of New York Society of Women in Philosophy's SWIPshop series, held throughout the year. NYSWIP itself is a resource for women in philosophy in the greater New York area. The current climate in academic philosophy calls for interventions on both of these levels. This symposium is a collaborative effort between these two groups, and aims to bring together many local feminist resources.

This year's Journal of Papers highlights the work of three of our members, and represents the diversity of philosophical interests within our group. Brought together by a shared commitment to the advancement of women in philosophy, we have workshopped a breadth of philosophical themes and approaches which are exemplary in this year's papers on Nietzsche, Spinoza, and feminism, phenomenology, and psychoanalysis. We are proud to also include conference proceedings as part of this year's journal, and thank our participants for their contributions and support.

This year's, and previous year's, Women in Philosophy Annual Journal of Papers can be found online at www.newschool.edu/nssr/women-in-philosophy. For more information, contact pswip@newschool.edu. Our group would like to thank the Department of Philosophy at the New School for Social Research for their continued support.

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