

MAP UK SUMMER REPORT

2018/19

From the National Team

Established in 2014, MAP UK has been gaining strength and stability year after year. Now with roughly 18 chapters across the country, our movement has representation in a growing number of major UK institutions. We are nothing without our chapters. They work tirelessly to advocate for diverse and inclusive practice in philosophy, to fight for equal treatment of all individuals, and to further the cause of public philosophy.

We are very proud of what our chapters do. As the academic year has drawn to a close, our chapters have met regularly and continue to discuss and address MAP-related issues. As part of their work, they have hosted a wide variety of events, and are planning many more for the upcoming term. The following report is primarily the highlights of these activities.

As a national team, we also operate a number of projects that are aimed at providing support for our chapters and other supporters. From mentoring to inclusive events, we're here to provide a national framework for our chapters and supporters to use. We also include an update on our national work in this report.

As always, we'd like to thank all of our new and existing chapters for their continued hard work and dedication in organising such a fantastic and varied programme of events. We recognise that participating, running and organising a MAP Chapter requires hard work and a lot of energy, and we're immensely grateful for everyone's help and involvement – whether it's large or small.

We'd also like to thank everybody who participated in these events and activities, as well as all other supporters in our home departments and beyond, who have helped to make all of these activities possible. We'd also like to thank our ever-growing network of mentors, whose commitment to making philosophy a more inclusive and supportive environment is invaluable. We wish everybody a wonderful year!

For further information on MAP UK, or to make a suggestion, please contact us at mapforthegap.uk@gmail.com.

MAP UK Directorship Team

News

Co-Directorship Changes Hands

This term we welcomed aboard a new co-director: Amy Conkerton-Darby! You can find out more about her on the MAP UK team page here: <https://www.mapforthegap.org.uk/meet-the-uk-team>

But as the wheels of justice continue to rotate, John Parry is stepping down (but not off). He continues on as a designer and contributor for MAP UK.

Birmingham – Welcome Aboard!

Spring 2019 also saw the formation of the Birmingham MAP Chapter! Welcome aboard to everyone involved so far. For the complete list of current chapters, see here:

<https://www.mapforthegap.org.uk/chapters>

Blog – Continued Success

As we approach the MAP UK Blog's 1-year anniversary, we've been glad of its continued success and of contributions from more volunteers. The Spring saw posts on harassment against women, on twitter misinformation, on the campaign to build a statue of Mary Shepherd in Edinburgh – and more!

<https://www.mapforthegap.org.uk/blog>

Could you be our next Co-Director?

As the years keep turning, MAP UK will be again looking for volunteers for some new co-directors soon. Keep your eyes peeled!

Joint Statement

One notable moment of action from the UK team this term was our joint statement with MAP International on the Aristotelian Society's choice to invite a harmful speaker to give one of their talks. Although there was a relatively small backlash about our statement (from the kinds of places you might expect), and some targeted harassment towards some of the signatories from faculty, the statement was largely well-received and supported by both MAP chapters and the philosophy community more widely, with prominent feminist philosophers coming out in support.

<https://www.mapforthegap.org.uk/post/statement-in-response-to-the-aristotelian-society-talk-on-3rd-june-2019>

MAP UK's next plan of action was to initiate and encourage academics to sign a more general statement in support of the trans* community. This was delayed for a short period, but thankfully action was taken more quickly by others, as thousands of academics signed a statement started by Dr Caroline Dodds Pennock from Sheffield University. Both John Parry and Lizzy Ventham can be found as signatories.

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/06/18/after-30-academics-sign-letter-opposing-trans-rights-3600-sign-letter-in-support/>

Events & Activities

Here are some examples of events and activities that our chapters got up to recently.

Our Edinburgh chapter...

- Now Host two events per year: the New Enlightenment Lecture and the Spring Workshop.

Our Aberdeen chapter...

- Hosted a screening of *The Examined Life* (2008), followed by a discussion.

Our SASP chapter...

- Hosted bi-weekly well-being lunches to combat stress and solitude.
- Hosted monthly discussion groups. Topics included "Should we read

Our KCL chapter...

- Ran an impressive student conference on 'Decolonisation.'
- Hosted a weekly reading group that covered epistemology, metaphysics, black feminism, and postcolonial theory.

good texts by bad people?” and “The limits of charitable reading”.

- Ran a practical workshop on ‘Creating Inclusive Classrooms’
- The undergraduate arm ran a discussion panel on ‘Race, Ethnicity and Language’.
- Ran a very successful graduate workshop called ‘Silencing, Prejudice and Resistance’.

- Hosted a film screening for Black History Month.
- Set up a workshop with academic staff to tackle underrepresentation.

Our Birmingham chapter...

- Began recording podcasts!
- Ran an “Ask-A-Philosopher” booth at a careers conference.

Our SASP chapter...

- Hosted a conference on ‘Postcolonial and Decolonial Reception of European Thought’

Interest in particular activities? Get in touch with the chapter’s contact(s), listed on our website here: <https://www.mapforthe-gap.org.uk/chapters>

In the Pipeline

If your chapter is hosting (or involved with) an event that you'd like for us to share, get in touch!

<https://www.mapforthegap.org.uk/post/map-uk-events-latter-half-of-2019>

The UK team hope to make good use of the coming term ourselves, including by sending out reminders of the MAP Mentoring scheme, and looking to include more information about individual chapters on our website. We'll keep you all posted with our progress.

Thanks

The team here at MAP UK are immensely grateful for all of the hard work that continues around the country. Volunteering is difficult and time-consuming, and whether or not you/your chapter were able to get much done this past semester, we'd like to thank you. Thank you for your continuing support, effort, and skills – no matter how you contributed.

We hope you all have a good year ahead of you!

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