**Minutes**

**EPSA Women’s Caucus Meeting**

Thursday, September 12, 2019

13:30-14:30, Room M1170

Uni Mail Building, University of Geneva

*Attendees:* Lena Kästner (LK), Johanna Thoma (JT), Sabina Leonelli (SL, via Skype), Dana Tulodziecki (DT), Chia-Hua Lin, Azita Chellappoo (AC), Stéphanie Debray, Maël Lemoine, Marcel Weber, Thomas Pradeu, Federica Russo (FR), Line Edslev Andersen (LA), Sara Green (SG), Marie Gueguen, Jamee Elder, Michela Massimi (MM), Helena Hachmann, Agnieszka Proszewska (AP), Javier Suárez (JS), Samir Okasha (SO), James Wilson (JW), Phyllis Illari (PI), Mieke Boon (MB), Karoliina Pulkkinen (KP), Maria Kronfeldner (MK), Lauren Ross, Christian Wüthrich, Martin Zach (MZ)

*Chair:* Lena Kästner

*Minutes:* Johanna Thoma

1. Welcome: LK welcomed all attendees, announced that a picture would be taken at the end of the meeting, and that email addresses for the mailing list would be collected throughout the meeting. A Skype connection with SL was attempted, but eventually failed.
2. Report from the Co-Chairs (LK):
   1. Thanks and Congratulations to Heather Douglas, for delivering the Caucus Lecture; MK for her work liaising between the Steering Committee (SC) and the Women’s Caucus (WC); SL for being elected to the SC, and her future work liaising with the WC; Hanne Anderson for organizing the 2019 CLMPST Congress in Prague; PI and FR for their continued work as EJPS editors; Nancy Cartwright for winning the Hempel Award.
   2. By-Laws: These were passed at the last meeting, have been approved by the Steering Committee, and are now on the website.
   3. Childcare Provision: Was offered at this conference, but needs to be better advertised. **Action: Co-Chairs to liaise with local organizers of the 2021 EPSA to ensure childcare provision and better advertising.**
   4. Caucus Lecture: This year’s lecture was going to be held by Heather Douglas, and chaired by MM (thanks for stepping in!). The lecture is now an established format, which the WC would like to continue. **ACTION: Co-Chairs to organize a WC lecture at the 2021 EPSA, soliciting suggestions from the WC members, and in consultation with the SC and local organizers.**
   5. Website: The WC now has its own section on the website, which will be expanded soon, including pictures. A mailing list will also be set up, with the help of JW.
   6. Co-Chair Recruitment: There was an open call for nominations in January, and only JT agreed to run.
3. Senior Co-Chair Elections: JT introduced herself. LK asked if anybody else would like to run, and nobody came forward. LK put forward the motion to have an affirmative vote, which was seconded by DT. JT was voted Senior Co-Chair with no dissenting votes.
4. Current and Future Projects:
   1. Study on Women in Philosophy of Science: PI reported on the state of a sociological study on the experiences of women in philosophy of science, by means of a survey. EPSA has earmarked funding on the condition other learned societies contribute as well. The EPSA money has not been used yet, but some funding from the BSPS has been used to start work on a more detailed proposal, and to come up with an initial survey design, with the help of a social scientist at UCL. Some concerns are raised: PI is interested in handing over the lead of the project to somebody else. The project needs a leading author who is an experienced social scientist, which it currently does not have. MK reported that social scientists working on women in academia are still far from turning their attention to individual disciplines, let alone sub-disciplines. LK points out that we really only have the resources for a pilot study, and the benefits of that are probably limited. MB also pointed out that we need to be very clear on what we want to know if we commission such a study. It is agreed that work should only go ahead if a sufficiently large and motivated team of new researchers gets involved. SO suggests getting in touch with Kieran Healy, a US sociologist with an interest in the philosophy profession. A sign-up sheet is passed around, and KP expresses interest in becoming involved with the study. DT, SG, and LA volunteered for the beta-testing of the survey. **ACTION: KP and PI to discuss a feasible way forward, and look into getting Kieran Healy on board (?)**
   2. Communications with the Steering Committee: LK reported that SL will be the WC liaison on the SC from now. SO and MK remarked that while there haven’t been any significant problems, there could be more open channels of communication. Some options for more direct channels were discussed. LK raised the possibility that there could be an additional SC member from the WC. FR asked if it could be the other way around, with an SC member serving as an additional co-chair of the WC. MK pointed out that at a previous meeting it was decided that two members of the SC should be part of WC leadership, but this was never implemented, and she hasn’t been involved much with the WC. We all agreed there needs to be more communication, and that at least, the WC co-chairs could sit in on SC meetings. **ACTION: LK attends SC meeting; co-chairs to inquire whether this can be arranged as a regular measure.**
   3. Working Conditions in Different European Countries: LK reported that some information has been collected on working conditions in different European countries (e.g. working hours, holidays, child care, how get a bank account etc.). The aim had been to put together an online resource. But it turned out that there are legal issues with this, as well as a concern about extrapolating from individual reports. Following on from the second problem, we would really need more data for the database to be useful. LK asked if anybody was interested in collecting more data, and nobody volunteered. LK also proposed a more low-key solution which gets around the legal issues, in the form of a mailing list where requests for information could be posted, where those with experience with the relevant country can then respond off-list. JW noted that some of the content on the EPSA website, such as the 3-minute interviews, already speak to working conditions in different countries, and there could be an option to organize this content by country. We could also have a forum on the website. Some pros and cons of a forum vs a mailing list were discussed. MK suggested that the project of offering country-specific guidance could be combined with the mentorship initiatives we would like to set up. **ACTION: Co-chairs to pursue the mailing list option and to make sure any mentoring scheme also makes room for country-specific mentoring (see below).**
   4. Mentoring Schemes (moved forward due to relevance): Ideas for mentoring schemes have been discussed independently by the Junior Scholars Group as well as the SC and the WC, and LK asked representatives of the other two groups to report their ideas first. JS (outgoing EPSA student representative) reported that there is interest in particular in region-specific mentoring, and mentoring for underrepresented groups. MZ and AP are the incoming student representatives and happy to collaborate with the WC on mentoring schemes. MK presented the idea of having a list of willing mentors on the EPSA website (the members-only section), for people to contact. JT suggested organizing informal small group lunch mentoring sessions at the next EPSA, as this is fairly easy to organize, compared to more continuous mentoring. Both ideas found significant approval, and are not incompatible. It was pointed out that any initiative will need tobe well advertised. **ACTION: Co-chairs to come up with, implement and advertise a precise initiative in consultation with the Young Scholars Representatives and the SC.**
   5. Local Initiatives: JT explained her idea of putting together resources on activities and initiatives for local ‘Women in Philosophy’ groups or Women’s Caucuses within departments, as these are still fairly rare in Europe. **ACTION: JT to crowd-source material, and put together a document for the website.**
   6. Diverse syllabi: LK reported on the idea of putting together a database of diverse syllabi in philosophy of science, and asked if anybody was interested in being in charge of such a project. It is pointed out that there already are a number of such collections (MM pointed to a local initiative in Edinburgh). PI suggested we could simply use our website to put together links to all the resources already available, which would already be a big public service. This less labour-intensive option found some approval, although AC pointed out that there are still significant gaps in terms of diverse syllabi for more specialist courses. DT and KP volunteered to collect the links to already available resources. **ACTION: DT and KP to collect links to already available resources.**
5. Other Issues: No other issues were raised.
6. Close of the Meeting: A group picture was taken. **ACTION: The Co-Chairs to make sure this ends up on the website.**