

BPA Executive Committee Election 2016: Nominee Details

Dr Anna Bergqvist (Manchester Metropolitan University, [webpage](#))

I am Lecturer in Philosophy at Manchester Metropolitan University, where I direct the Aesthetics and Creativity Network and the Particularism in Bioethics, Professional Ethics and Medicine Network. I am also Director of the Values-based Practice Theory Network at St Catherine's College Oxford, and serve as Member of the AHRC Peer Review College. My principal research interests are aesthetics and moral philosophy. I am co-editor of *Philosophy and Museums* (Cambridge University Press, 2016) and *Evaluative Perception* (under contract with Oxford University Press). I have also published on particularism, thick evaluative concepts and selected issues in philosophy of language and mind. I am interested in the intersection between value philosophy, philosophy of perception and philosophy of psychiatry, currently preparing a monograph on particularism and narrative understanding in medical epistemology.

For me, one central aspect of philosophy lies in its capacity to free people's mind: the continuous work that it takes to decide for yourself what is valuable and living your life in accordance with that decision. This is a key principle that informs all my work, in a way that also fuels my collaborative work with the wider community.

Prof Alexander Bird (University of Bristol, [webpage](#))

1. UK Higher Education has gone through an extraordinary number of changes in recent years, and the rate of change is not decreasing (the TEF, the Stern review of the REF, possible restructuring of RCUK, etc.). It is essential that the BPA is well informed regarding emerging policies from early on that it can campaign and can influence outcomes effectively. It must collaborate with other subject associations in so doing. I was chair of REF panel, on the AHRC's BGP1 panel . . .

2. While we have made progress regarding gender equality we have still a long way to go, and on other areas of diversity we have hardly made a start. Here I am strongly motivated by concerns for (i) fairness; and (ii) the health of UK philosophy. I am a member of the BPA/SWIP-UK Committee for Women in Philosophy.

3. Philosophy in schools. Philosophy is no longer exclusively taught in universities and we need to connect more effectively with school teachers and the exam boards. We can thereby strengthen the place of philosophy in Britain while also using schools as one route for improving the diversity of those studying and then researching/teaching philosophy.

Dr Ian James Kidd (University of Nottingham, [webpage](#))

Alongside a general commitment to the promotion and protection of philosophy as an academic discipline, I have a specific interest in diversity, equality, and inclusion issues in philosophy - demographically (of genders and ethnicities) and intellectually (of areas and traditions). From 2014, much of my service to the profession has focused on this - as founder and chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Group at Durham Philosophy (2014-16) and Equality and Inclusion Officer at the Leeds School of Philosophy, Religion, and History of Science (2014). I oversaw the successful adoption of the BPA-SWIP Good Practice Scheme at these departments; introduced voluntary implicit bias, stereotype threat, and chilly climate training for undergraduates, postgraduates, and staff (Durham was the first philosophy department to do this); advised human resources staff and those responsible for Athena-SWAN applications; and have been invited to advise, address, and give training at half a dozen departments in the UK and Ireland. If appointed, my hope is to use this experience and expertise to further the BPA's aims to promote and foster teaching and research of philosophy - especially in a professional and social climate where the extent and effectiveness of the profession's response to issues of diversity, equality, and inclusion will be crucial.

Dr Fiona Woollard (University of Southampton, [webpage](#))

I am an Associate Professor in Philosophy at Southampton. I joined Southampton in 2010, after two years as a Fixed Term Lecturer at Sheffield. I completed my PhD in 2008 at Reading. My main areas of research are Normative and Applied Ethics, Philosophy of Sex, and Philosophy of Pregnancy and Motherhood. I've been a member of the Executive Committee of the British Society of Ethical Theory since 2011, have served as Chief Referee and Local Conference Organiser and am now co-Treasurer. I've also acted as Chief Referee for SWIP.

I think the best thing about the BPA is that it makes possible collective action on problems that it is difficult to tackle individually. The BPA/ SWIP Guidelines laying out good practice when it comes to women in philosophy were fantastic. We really need something similar for other underrepresented groups. I'm pleased to see that there is movement towards this and I'd really like to contribute to this.