

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY

OPEN MEETING OF STAFF, GRADUATES AND UNDERGRADUATES

The Open Meeting of Philosophy Staff and Students was held on Tuesday 20th October 2015 at 1.10 p.m. in the Board Room, Faculty of Philosophy, Sidgwick Site.

Present: Charlie Evans (Secretarial Assistant), Professor Tim Crane (Chair of the Faculty Board, in the Chair), Professor Richard Holton, Heather Sanderson (Administrator), Shyane Siriwardena, Emily Dyson, Eugene Chua, Ralph Weir, Joao Pedro Borges Santos, Tara Alia Khalid, Francis Smallwood, Samuel Hughes, Anni Raty, Fiona Doherty.

Professor Crane opened the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves.

1 Minutes of the Open Meeting of 21st October 2014 were approved.

2 Brief report by the Chair of the Faculty, Professor Tim Crane

Professor Crane briefly reported on the business of the past academic year. He outlined staff changes for 2015–16, and explained that the Faculty is currently the biggest it has been since he joined in terms of academic staff, which is a positive thing for students as it brings a change of dynamic to the Faculty. The new members of staff mentioned were:

Dr John Filling: Replacement Lecturer (whilst Angela Breitenbach is on her 3 year CRASSH/SCAS Pro Futura Scientia Fellowship)

Staff on Prof Tim Crane's 'New Directions in the Study of Mind' Project:

Dr Craig French
Dr Alex Grzankowski
Dr Raamy Majeed
Ms Chris Meyns

Dr Henry Taylor: Leverhulme Early Career fellow (previously an MPhil student at the Faculty)

Dr Owen Griffiths: Replacement lecturer (whilst Tim Button is on a 2 year Leverhulme Prize Research Leave). Dr Griffiths was a previous PhD student at the Faculty.

Dr Daniel Schneider: Replacement Lecturer (whilst Prof Huw Price is working part time on a 3 year research project funded by the Templeton World Charity Foundation. Prof Price will still be giving some lectures and supervisions in 2015-16).

Dr Nakul Krishna: Replacement lecturer (while Prof Rae Langton is on leave for a year working on a full-time research project funded by the Mind Association).

It was noted that there are also a number of other College Junior Research Fellows who have joined the University. Details can be found here:

<http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/people/teaching-research>

Prof Crane also outlined which administrative roles academic members of staff would be carrying out in 2015-16:

Chair of the Faculty Board
Prof Tim Crane

Director of Graduate Studies
Prof Richard Holton

Director of Graduate Admissions
Prof Richard Holton

MPhil Course Director
Dr Tom Dougherty

Undergraduate Co-ordinator
Dr Arif Ahmed

Chair of Examiners for Part IA, Part IB & Part II
Prof Michael Potter

Prof Crane explained that while the Faculty doesn't offer joint degrees, and has in some ways quite a rigid tripos structure, the syllabus is regularly updated. He explained that there had been some syllabus changes for 2015-16, and that students were consulted on these changes via the Staff-Student Committee. For information, these changes are listed here:

Part IB, Paper 1, Metaphysics and Epistemology

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- ~~Reality: idealism and m~~Mind-dependence; primary and secondary qualities; **idealism**
- Metaphysics of modality: possible worlds, modal realism.
- **The nature of knowledge**: externalism and internalism; theories of warrant and justification.
- Scepticism: the problem of scepticism and responses.
- Sources of knowledge; evidence; perception; a priori knowledge; testimony.

Part IA, Paper 2. Ethics and political philosophy

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- ~~Introduction to~~ Metaethics; Fact and Value, Objectivity and Subjectivity
- **Normative ethics**; Consequentialism, Deontology, Virtue Ethics
- ~~Egoism and Altruism~~
- **Moral psychology**, egoism and Altruism; Empathy; Cognitive and Affective Attitudes.
- ~~Political obligation, authority and dissent: what is (the problem of) political obligation?; attempted justifications of political authority; anarchism; civil disobedience and political dissent.~~
- **Political Obligation and Authority: classical social contract theory; natural duty and fair play theory; anarchism**
- ~~Rights: analyses of rights; natural rights; rights and utility; rights and~~

- interests; rights and choice.
- Equality of Opportunity: varieties of equality of opportunity; justifications and controversy; positive discrimination

Part IB Ethics, Paper 3

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- ~~Helping and Harming: demands and limits of beneficence, aggregating interests, consent, collective harms, poverty, climate change, abortion~~
- ~~Promising: contractualism, conventionalism~~
- Helping and Harming; beneficence I: demands; beneficence II: aggregation; normative powers I: consent; normative powers II: promise; contractualism
- ~~Reasons for Action: Humean Theories, Intellectualist Accounts~~
- ~~Kantian Constructivism~~
- Early modern moral philosophy: natural law; rationalism; sentimentalism
- Moral Psychology: Moral Motivation, Virtues, Vices, Moral Learning, Practical Reasoning

Part II Ethics, paper 3

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- ~~Theories of the Good: Intrinsic versus Extrinsic Goodness, Fitting Attitudes Incommensurability Sidgwick's Methods of Ethics, Goodness and Axiology, Well-being~~
- ~~Well Being: needs and capacities, preferences, happiness, disability, developmental aid~~
- ~~Metaethics: realism; expressivism and quasi-realism; irrealism metaphysical foundations of ethics, moral epistemology~~
- ~~Kant's Ethics and Kantian Ethics: the categorical imperative, duty and motive, morality and freedom, autonomy~~
- ~~Topics in Moral Psychology: Trust, Implicit Bias, Epistemic Injustice ethics of knowing, responsibility.~~

Part IB Paper 7 - Political Philosophy

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- ~~Power: what is power?; who has power? Power, justification and violence.~~
- ~~Democracy: justifications of democracy; deliberative democracy; paradox of democracy forms of democracy.~~
- ~~Equality: equality of what?; egalitarianism; labour, property & theft; the value of equality; equality and efficiency; equality of opportunity and positive discrimination.~~
- ~~Liberty: positive and negative liberty; the value of freedom; autonomy and paternalism. classical theories of liberty; contemporary theories of liberty~~

Part II, Paper 10 - Political Philosophy

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- ~~Distributive justice: commodification; international justice; justice and age groups; justice and future generations. Global Political Issues: immigration; international justice, nationalism and cosmopolitanism, global environment.~~

- Community and culture: political liberalism; communitarianism; multiculturalism; nationalism.
- Feminism: economic justice and gender; the ethics of care; gender and difference/intersectionality; pornography; rape; masculinity and femininity
- ~~Marxism: historical materialism; ideology; alienation; exploitation and justice.~~
- Radical Political Theory; Marxism, Power, Realism vs. Moralism/Ideal and non-Ideal Theory; Moral limits of markets

Part II, Paper 11 Aesthetics

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- ~~Aesthetics: aesthetic experience; realism and anti-realism; imagination and originality; art and morality.~~
- ~~Art criticism: the nature of art and ontology of art; understanding, interpretation and criticism; representation, expression.~~
- ~~Set texts: Plato, Ion, Symposium, and Republic (Books II, III, X). Hume, 'On the Standard of Taste' in Essays, Moral, Political and Literary.~~

Thematic:

Aesthetic experience; realism and anti-realism; imagination and originality; art and morality; the nature of art and ontology of art; understanding, interpretation and criticism; representation; expression

Set texts:

Plato, Ion, Symposium, and Republic (Books II, III, X). Hume, 'On the Standard of Taste' in Essays, Moral, Political and Literary.

Part IB Paper 6 Philosophy of science

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Realism, for and against: underdetermination of theory by data; the pessimistic induction; constructive empiricism; structural realism, incommensurability.
- Confirmation: the hypothetico-deductive model; the 'ravens' paradox; the 'grue' paradox; Bayesian responses; falsificationism.
- ~~Explanation and laws: the deductive-nomological model; causal and other models of explanation; 'best system' vs anti-reductionist views of laws.~~
- Scientific explanation and laws: what, if anything, distinguishes scientific explanation?; the deductive-nomological model of explanation and its rivals; 'best system' vs anti-reductionist views of laws.
- Concepts of probability: subjective probability; logical probability; frequency interpretation; propensity interpretation.
- Introduction to Philosophy of physics: spacetime and relativity; time and thermodynamics; puzzles of quantum theory.

Part II Paper 6 Philosophy of Science

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Philosophy of Physics I: the metaphysics of space and space-time; geometry and conventionalism absolute and relational theories of space; space and space-time.
- Philosophy of Physics II: the interpretation of quantum mechanics; non-locality.

- Philosophy of Biology: biological kinds, the nature of species; biological laws; functional and causal explanation in biology.
- Philosophy of Social Science: social science versus natural science; rational choice theory and social science; social ontology.
- ~~Annual topic (2014-15): Explanation: pragmatics of explanation; unificatory explanation; statistical explanation.~~ (2015-16): Philosophy of cognitive science: explanation in cognitive science; the role of neurotechnologies; embodied cognition; conceptual change, with special reference to mental illness.

Students were reminded that the current syllabus can be found on the Faculty website here:

<http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/IA/GtC>

along with course notes and reading lists.

3 The Staff-Student Committee

A short outline of the way the Staff-Student Committee functions was circulated. Prof Crane explained that the Staff-Student Committee meets once a term to discuss matters of importance to students. It was noted that the Staff-Student Committee is a formal channel for students to express views that will then be considered by the Faculty Board meeting (essentially a departmental meeting) that next follows the meeting of the Staff-Student Committee. It was also explained that when the Faculty Board is considering taking action that will directly impact on students, they would seek students' opinions via the Staff-Student Committee. Prof Crane encouraged students to serve as reps on the Staff-Student Committee, because it is an effective way for students to have an impact on their education. It was explained that for example, during 2014-15, compromise was reached on proposed syllabus changes because of the strength of student feeling. It was also underlined that student voices are listened to at Faculty Board (via the representation of Faculty Reps). It was noted that the Staff-Student Committee works most efficiently if students initially raise any issues with their Student Reps, who can then seek the opinions of their fellow students on these issues before bringing them to the SSC. If students bring concerns direct to the Staff-Student Committee without consulting their fellow students, it can be difficult to know what the consensus is on an issue, and this can waste time. It was noted that students who agree to serve on the Staff-Student Committee can contact their fellow students through the student year group email lists (phil-students15@lists.cam.ac.uk for Part IA, phil-students14@lists.cam.ac.uk for Part IB and phil-students13@lists.cam.ac.uk for Part II). It was also explained that ahead of the three meetings of the Staff-Student Committee, student reps will be given the chance to put forward items to go on the agenda to be discussed at the meeting.

4 Representatives on the Staff-Student Committee:

Student members were sought from all Parts of the Tripos and from amongst the graduates. It was explained that students who agree to be representatives for their year group perform a different function from elected Faculty Board Representatives (see below for more information on elections for Faculty Board Reps). It was noted that it is hoped that at least two students from each Part of the Tripos would act as student representatives on this Committee for their year

group. It was noted that the Chair and the Secretary of the Faculty Board are ex-officio members of the Committee.

The following students agreed at the meeting to represent their year groups from 20th October 2015 until the next Open Meeting in the Michaelmas Term 2016:

Representing IA:	Joao Pedro Borges Santos Tara Alia Khalid	CAI SID
Representing IB:	Anni Raty Eugene Chua	TH W
Representing II:	Francis Smallwood Emily Dyson	HO M
Representing Graduates:	Shyane Siriwardena (PhD) Ralph Weir (PhD) Samuel Hughes (PhD) Fiona Doherty (PhD)	N JE SE TH

It was noted that there were no MPhil representatives. Shyane Siriwardena agreed to speak to the MPhil students to see if she could encourage any of them to act as reps.

Prof Crane explained that for the future SSC meetings in 2015-16, a student would be required to chair the meeting. Emily Dyson agreed that she would take on the role of Chair.

5 Dates of the Staff-Student Committee Meeting

A document showing the dates for the three SSC meetings in 2015-16 was circulated. It was noted that the date of the next meeting has changed, and will now take place on Tuesday 10th November, at 1.05pm in the Faculty Board Room. Students were also encouraged to look at the Undergraduate Calendar, which can be found on the Philosophy website which shows the dates for all SSC meetings, amongst other important dates: <http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/important-dates-folder/ugrads-calendar>

6 The following announcements were noted:

Student Election to the Faculty Board

It was reported that the elections for student representatives on the Philosophy Faculty Board will be held on **Tuesday 24th November 2015** with the closing of nominations a week earlier on **17th November 2015**.

Elections would be organised via an online voting system, students would receive further information on this nearer the time.

It was noted that currently there is only one Undergraduate Faculty Board Rep, as the other rep has intermitted for this year. Alia Khalid kindly offered to stand in as

the second Undergraduate Faculty Board Rep until the elections take place on 24th November.

Student Representatives on the Councils of the Schools

It was noted that all students on the electoral roll also have the chance to be elected to serve on Councils of the Schools. It was explained that the Philosophy Faculty is part of the School of Arts and Humanities, which in turn is one of six schools within the University. It was explained that while a Philosophy student could stand for election to the Council there is no requirement for the Faculty to provide a candidate, since the philosophy Faculty is one of eight Faculties that come under the School of Arts and Humanities. It was also explained that the Council of the Schools is less of a decision making body, and more for reporting. However, if students are interested in learning more about the working and administration of the University, this would be a good council to sit on. It was noted that the elections for Student Representatives for the Councils of the Schools will also use the on-line ballot and will be managed by the Education Section. It was further noted that the date has yet to be confirmed by the Council of the Schools, but is likely to take place on November 26th/27th. CUSU and the Education Section will contact students directly about this.

Faculty Reps – who are they and what do they do?

A document from CUSU was circulated.

Suggestion Box

Attention was drawn to the suggestion box in the Old Library where students are invited to post any comments they wish to make on any Faculty related matter. It was noted that the suggestion box was introduced so that students would have another way of passing on concerns/suggestions in addition to filling out lecture questionnaires. It was noted that if students need confidential advice on any matters, support could be found at:

<http://www.studentadvice.cam.ac.uk/>

7 Any Other Business

Social Committee

Prof Richard Holton explained that last year, the Faculty had agreed to provide some funding for an Undergraduate Social Committee to organize some events. Eugene Chua explained that last year the committee had organized a social event for Undergraduates at the end of Lent Term, but it was felt that if a similar event is held this year, it would be better to hold it a bit earlier in the academic year. Eugene agreed to liaise with Heather Sanderson about when this event might take place, so that an agreement could be reached about what funding the Faculty would provide. Shyane Siriwardena explained that the current set amount of funding which the Faculty provides for the annual Graduate Student dinner was felt to be a bit low, and in some ways didn't encourage students to attend. She felt a per head contribution from the Faculty would work better. Heather Sanderson agreed to meet with Shyane to discuss this further.

Consultation on Student Workload

Heather Sanderson flagged up to the Committee that the University is asking all Faculties to consult students on their thoughts about workload, and that this

matter would be on the agenda for the next Staff-Student Committee on Tuesday 10th November, and would also be discussed at the next Faculty Board meeting, before the Faculty is required to provide a response at the beginning of December. Emily Dyson asked whether this was in response to the “End the week five blues” campaign that took place last year, and Heather Sanderson explained that this may well have been a contributing factor. There was also discussion over whether feedback on workload should come from just undergraduates, or postgraduates as well, and Heather Sanderson indicated that the Faculty would be interested in feedback from all students.

The meeting finished at 1.35pm