



Australasian
Association of
Philosophy

Postgraduate Student Guide

V1.1

Welcome!

This is the Postgraduate Committee student guide, your one-stop shop for all things postgraduate philosophy in Australasia. It includes useful information, links, resources, things to help you meet others, get information for your thesis, and save time making the transition from humble honours student to phenomenal participant in the postgraduate community. Of course, it will also be useful to those already enrolled in postgraduate degrees, or those joining us from outside the Australian university system.

This guide is designed by students for students. After meeting at some conferences, many of us found that whilst there are many resources, opportunities and enthusiastic postgraduate students to connect to, it could be hard to find out about them and get an idea of what everyone else has been up to. By making this guide we hope to provide informative links, save everyone time, help people connect with other students, and most importantly build an active community of postgraduate philosophers.

This guide is intended to be as comprehensive as possible. Sections which may not interest you can be skipped over, but the links and information here help to give a sense of our discipline beyond the undergraduate level. The guide will let you know how to get involved, stay up to date, and what opportunities there are for personal and career development.

Each year, this guide will be updated and built upon by the incoming Postgraduate Committee (PGC). Whilst we do our best to keep everything up to date, the most effective resources we have are the people reading this. If you have any useful links or upcoming events you think everyone would benefit from knowing about, feel free to send us a message at postgraduates@aap.org.au. If you found this really useful, we'd love to hear about that too when we meet you in person.

We hope to meet you all soon!

Table of Contents

Organisational Structure	3
The Australasian Association of Philosophy	
AAP Conference	
About US	4
Postgraduate Committee and Conference	
Committee Selection and Roles	5
MAP / Diversity Committee	
2017 Committee	6
Upcoming Events	7
Mailing Lists	
Other Associations	8
The Profession	9
Data	
Jobs	10
Postgraduate Programs	
Journal Rankings Information	
Other Things	11
Educational Resources	
Teaching Philosophy	
Visual Resources	
Podcasts	12
Blogs	
Public Philosophy	13

Thesis Advice and Planning

Humour

Organisational Structures

The Australasian Association of Philosophy

Usually referred to as the AAP (<http://aap.org.au/>), the *Australasian Association of Philosophy* is the main association for philosophers in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. The association performs a number of important functions for the Australasian philosophical community, including running a major conference and producing the Australasian Journal of Philosophy (AJP). It also advocates for philosophers in various professional contexts, provides professional resources (such as this guide) and helps to coordinate between different departments and schools.

Joining the AAP helps to support philosophy in the Australasian region and offers various opportunities for professional development and engagement. Normally \$110, graduate students can usually join the AAP for only \$55. This also gets you to a substantial discount on conference registration and includes free copies of the AJP, 30% discount off all Routledge e-books and 30% discount off the Australian Recommended Retail Price of related Routledge books. You can sign up here: <http://aap.org.au/membership>

AAP Conference

The AAP runs an annual conference in July (which is also usually referred to as the AAP). This conference had over 350 people attending in 2016, and attracts major international figures. This is an excellent opportunity for graduate students to present their work to a broad audience, engage with the philosophical community, meet professional philosophers who work in your area of interest, see what philosophers do when they are not teaching or writing papers, and go to many interesting talks.

Abstract submissions and early-bird (cheaper) registration usually close in May. Further information can be found here: <http://aap.org.au/Conference-2017>

There is also a postgraduate presentation prize for best paper and presentation. Papers are submitted and reviewed, with the top few papers being short-listed. The best combined paper and presentation wins an award and \$500. Past winners, papers and eligibility criteria can be found here:

<http://aap.org.au/prizes/postgraduatepresentationprize>

Some travel funding is also available to graduate students from the AAP, with priority usually given to those travelling from far away. However, applications have to be in by Friday 2nd June, which will be posted on the event information page soon. Many universities also provide funding for conference travel - particularly if you are presenting - so don't forget to check what funding opportunities your department or faculty might have available.

About Us

Postgraduate Committee

The Postgraduate Committee (PGC) is a sub-committee of the AAP council, and the creators of this guide. We represent the interests of postgraduate students to the AAP's executive and engage in various related projects to promote postgraduate philosophy in Australasia.

Australasian Postgraduate Philosophy Conference

Every year, the PGC also organises the Australasian Postgraduate Philosophy Conference (the APPC). This conference usually goes for 3 days, and mainly consists in postgraduate students presenting material from their current thesis. There are also talks given by professional philosophers and social events to meet other students. The conference is a great opportunity to practice presenting your work in a low pressure, collegial atmosphere amongst peers who are at a similar place in their career as you. It's also a great place to make friends, connect with people who actually understand the rewards and challenges of completing a postgraduate thesis, see what others are up to, and discuss all things philosophy.

This conference does not have a fixed date and is chosen by tender. This means that postgraduate students nominate their university to be the location for the next conference, and submit an application detailing their funds available, proposed dates, social events, and the costs the university would charge. This application is then assessed by the PGC who taken into account a number of factors, including in what cities the APPC has previously been hosted. Most years there is not great competition to host, so if you put in a tender there is a good chance your university could be selected.



Hosting the APPC provides great experience in organising professional events, liaising with academics, and looks fantastic on your resume as it demonstrates you are an active and capable contributor to the academic community. It also provides an opportunity for you to have a say in how the APPC is run, to add things

you think everyone would benefit from, and saves you the costs of having to travel to some other city. If you think you'd be interested in having the APPC at your university, please email us to get more details on the process.

Committee Selection and Roles

Each year, the APPC also includes the postgraduate committee Annual General Meeting, at which we discuss how things have gone in the past year, present ideas for how to improve things in the next year, and in particular elect new members and a convener.

The committee is made up of between 5 and 10 members. Being a member of the committee is a unique opportunity to help effect the future of Australasian postgraduate philosophy for the better and offers valuable experience. Committee members generally serve for 12-24 months and in that time are encouraged to take on 1 or 2 projects of their own choosing. In the past these have involved surveying postgraduates, assisting with APPC tender selections, developing guides, establishing databases, and coming up with ideas to improve the postgraduate philosophy experience.

Leading the committee is the convener. The committee convener's position involves managing the committee, overseeing and facilitating discussions, managing the tender for the APPC, presenting reports to the AAP Executive and annual meetings, and acting as a liaison between the postgraduate committee and the AAP. The convener usually serves for 12-24 months with an additional 6-12 months spent as outgoing committee convener to ensure a smooth transition between conveners.

You can contact the Postgraduate Committee via email at postgraduates@aap.org.au

Be sure to also join our Facebook page for updates, information and informal discussions at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PostgraduateStudentsAAP/>

MAP / Diversity Committee

The *Minorities and Philosophy* initiative (MAP) comprises students and faculty from philosophy and HPS departments in the United States, Canada, UK, and Australasia committed to exploring and addressing the concerns of minorities through activities such as talks, reading groups, film screenings and informal discussions. Through MAP's network, students can exchange ideas on topics related to minorities and philosophy, meet and support peers, and learn from other philosophy departments. MAP chapters can choose to provide their respective departments with regular feedback on the department climate.

The first Australian MAP was started at the University of Sydney in 2014 and has since expanded, with ANU being the latest university to enthusiastically add a chapter in 2016. The people at MAP are passionate about what they do and always looking to get other institutions involved. If you would be interested in starting a MAP at your institution, please visit <http://www.mapforthe-gap.com/apply.html>

The AAP also has a Diversity Committee which makes recommendations where appropriate, on how best to support diversity, and to devise and carry out projects that support diversity, in the profession of Philosophy in Australasia. They can be contacted at diversity@aap.org.au

2018 Committee

Convenor:



Toby Solomon works on free will and epistemic decision-making, spends a lot of time cooking and more eating, and often wonders how he ended up doing such a strange thing as philosophy.

Secretary:



Elena Gordon works on Hume and the imagination. She also serves on the AAP's Diversity Committee.



Hayden Wilkinson works on infinite ethics. He also runs the effective altruism society at ANU.



Anco Peeters works on philosophy of mind and philosophy of technology. Sometimes he blogs about his crazy adventures as a Dutchy in Australia on ancopeeters.com



Grace Campbell has worked on self-destruction and really likes animals.



Syed Nizar works on Buddhist logic. He is also an editor of biuponibeshayon.org, a Bengali site specialised on decolonisation.

Leslie Gee

James McGuire

2018 Events

2018's AAP conference is being held in Wellington, New Zealand at Victoria University from Sunday 8th July to Thursday 12th July. Details, including for the postgraduate presentation prize, can be found on the AAP website: <https://aap.org.au>

2018's Australasian Postgraduate Philosophy Conference will be held at Monash University, Melbourne, from Wednesday 28th November – Friday 30th November. More details will be available later in the year through the Aphil-I mailing list, Monash's website, and the AAP Postgraduates facebook page.

Mailing Lists

All Australasian graduate students should sign up to receive emails from the Aphil-I mailing list (<http://mailman.anu.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/aphil-I>). This is the main Australasian philosophy mailing list and includes notices of conferences, workshops and job listings (including for tutoring and research assistants) in the Australasian philosophy community.

To join, just click the link above and type in your email. To avoid getting many unnecessary notifications you can elect to receive emails in a digest format. (It may also be helpful to create a separate A-Phil folder in your inbox, followed by creating a rule that sends all emails from this list into that folder.)

The following regional lists are also quite active:

Sydney and surrounds: Sydphil <https://mailman.sydney.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/sydphil>

Canberra: Philsoc-I <http://mailman.anu.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/philsoc-I>

Europe: Philos-L <https://listserv.liv.ac.uk/cgi-bin/wa?A0=PHILOS-L>

If your university has an event you think other philosophers would be interested in attending, you can let everyone know by posting to these lists. To do this, simply send an email with all of the relevant details to the email listed on the above pages (e.g. aphil-I@anu.edu.au). This will forward the email to everyone subscribed to that list.

Other Associations

A full list of associations affiliated with the AAP can be found here:

<http://aap.org.au/philosophyresources/associations>

The *Australasian Association for Logic* (AAL) is a specialist association for those interested in philosophical logic. It runs an annual conference, often just before or after the AAP conference and in the same location. It also runs a journal and various more informal means of communication. Membership is free: <http://aal.itumathstats.com/>

The *Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law* (AABHL) is Australia and New Zealand's leading organisation concerned with issues of bioethics and health law. Its members come from many disciplines including medicine, nursing, law, ethics, philosophy, and healthcare administration: <https://aabhl.org/>

The *Australian Association for Professional & Applied Ethics* (AAPAE) aims to encourage awareness of applied ethics as a significant area of concern, and to foster discussion of issues in applied ethics. It provides a meeting point for practitioners from various fields together with academics with specialist expertise. It welcomes everyone who wants or needs to think and talk about applied or professional ethics: <http://aapae.org.au/>

The *Australasian Philosophy of Religion Association* (APRA) aims to encourage, publicise and circulate scholarly work within the field of philosophy of religion. It also hopes to foster greater ties between scholars working in the field by providing a forum for a constructive and critical analysis of religion: <http://www.apra.org.au/>

The *Australasian Society for Continental Philosophy* (ASCP) aims to foster interest and support research in the field of Continental/European philosophy, understood in a broad and interdisciplinary sense, in Australia, New Zealand, and in the Australasian region, and to provide a network for those interested in and/or working in this field both nationally and internationally. The Society endeavours to promote the interdisciplinary exchange of ideas inspired by the diverse traditions of European thought (such as phenomenology, existentialism, critical theory, hermeneutics, feminism, deconstruction, poststructuralism, and so on), and to develop productive links with other international societies and associations that share similar goals and views: <https://www.ascp.org.au/>

The *Australian Society of Legal Philosophy* (ASLP) aims to promote the study and discussion of legal philosophy through publications, conferences and other means. Since its inception, the Society has drawn its membership principally from law schools, judges and legal practitioners, but also from philosophy and social science departments. The Society holds an Annual Conference which all are welcome to attend, and publishes the *Australian Journal of Legal Philosophy*: <http://www.aslp.org.au/>

The *Federation of Australasian Philosophy in Schools Association* (FAPSA) is an umbrella organisation supporting the interests of its nine affiliated Associations. Through professional development and advocacy initiatives, FAPSA seeks to enrich and expand philosophy education in primary and secondary schools in Australasia: <http://fapsa.org.au/>

Women in Philosophy at the University of Melbourne (WIPUM) is a collective of women studying and working in philosophy at the University of Melbourne, other women philosophers throughout Melbourne and around Australia, and for and those who support their work. It is a space for women philosophers to gather, discuss ideas, and socialise: <https://www.facebook.com/wipum.melb/>

The Profession

In addition to learning about philosophy as field of study, it can also help to learn about philosophy as an institution. The following are some links to help you get a feel for what's going on in the discipline.

PhilPapers is a very useful site for quick and easy access to journal articles. You can also make use of its subject classifications for searching, cited by feature, and read articles which may not yet be available from journals: <https://philpapers.org/>

Although many people already know about *PhilPapers*, you may not have heard of some of its associated sites. *PhilEvents* also has lots of upcoming events, mostly conferences, which are worth checking out: <https://philevents.org/>

Conference Alerts provides listings of lots of upcoming events, particularly outside the US and Australia: <http://www.conferencealerts.com/topic-listing?topic=Philosophy>

As mentioned earlier, mailing lists such as A-Phil are probably the easiest way to find out about upcoming events in your area.

The Philosophy Paperboy is a simple website which publishes a daily list of new papers in all areas of philosophy. It is a very useful way of keeping up to date with what is going on in your area and philosophy generally. It covers most of the major journals and on average has about 20-30 titles a day, which only take a few minutes to scim through to see if there is anything of interest: <https://thephilosophypaperboy.com>

Data

Sometimes people wonder what intuitions professional philosophers actually have regarding topics such as trolley problems, philosophical zombies or the nature of knowledge. In 2009, some philosophers decided to actually find out. That (really interesting) data is available here: <https://philpapers.org/surveys/>

Further discussion and analysis: <https://philpapers.org/archive/BOUWDP.pdf>

(If you want to know exactly what, for example, your supervisor or favourite philosopher thinks about topic x, there's a chance you can see their exact responses right here: https://philpapers.org/surveys/public_respondents.html)

The American Philosophical Association (APA) has links to tons of data relevant to the profession, such as membership demographics, placement data, salaries, diversity and representation, and working outside of academia. These are all available here: <http://www.apaonline.org/?page=data>

Some samples:

- Income distribution of philosophy majors (it's the highest of any non-STEM field): http://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/info-Degrees_that_Pay_you_Back-sort.html
- An analysis of prevalence and visibility of women in Philosophy: <http://faculty.ucr.edu/~eschwitz/SchwitzAbs/WomenInPhil.htm>
- APA membership demographics: <https://apaonline.site-ym.com/?demographics>

Jobs

PhilPapers has another associated site, *PhilJobs*, which regularly posts new job openings: <https://philjobs.org/>

UniJobs is an Australian search tool that will also search for academic positions outside of philosophy, as well as administrative roles at universities:

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/unijobs/listings/arts-and-humanities/oceania/>

Phylo has an official job listings page (<http://phylo.info/jobs>) as well as an unofficial wiki where people can post about jobs they've heard of: <http://phylo.info/jobs/wiki>

Postgraduate Programs

Although most people reading this are already enrolled in a postgraduate degree, some Masters students will be looking at going overseas to complete their PhD. There is no sure-fire way to gain entry to a top program or to get a job, but we've compiled some thoughts from various online resources which we think many will find helpful:

- Postgraduate Program Advice from Mark Colyvan: <http://www.colyvan.com/postgradadvice.html>
- US-specific postgraduate program application advice from Eric Schwitzgebel: <http://schwitzsplintersunderblog.blogspot.com.au/2007/10/applying-to-phd-programs-in-philosophy.html>
- Alison Fernandes has this summary of her experience applying for overseas programs as an Australian student: <http://www.colyvan.com/applyinggraduateschool.pdf>
- Mark Colyvan has this advice for would-be early career researchers: <http://www.colyvan.com/careeradvice.html>

Journal Rankings

Which journals you should send your submissions to first is a difficult task. Opinions can vary, some journals take longer to get back to you than others, and some journals will be much better for you depending on your discipline. That being said, it can help to get a feel for what 'tier' a journal is in compared to others. The best advice will probably come from

your supervisor, but here are some lists we were able to find which can help you get started:

<http://www.colyvan.com/journals.html>

http://the-brooks-blog.blogspot.com.au/2011/09/journal-rankings-for-philosophy_29.html

<http://mnemosynoesis.livjournal.com/31062.html>

<http://leiterreports.typepad.com/blog/2015/09/the-top-20-general-philosophy-journals-2015.html>

The American Philosophical Association has some very useful information about journal acceptance rates, average review time, etc. available at:

<http://www.apaonline.org/page/journalsurveys>

Other Things

Educational Resources

The *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (SEP) is a great resource. It provides summaries of areas of philosophical research, and is written by current leading scholars in the area. One key feature is that pages are updated every few years, to reflect the current state of the research: <https://plato.stanford.edu/>

The *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (IEP) aims to provide detailed, scholarly information on key topics and philosophers in all areas of philosophy. The IEP's articles are written with the intention that most of the article can be understood by advanced undergraduates majoring in philosophy and by other scholars who are not working in the field covered by that article: <http://www.iep.utm.edu/>

Teaching Philosophy

Teaching Philosophy 101 is a very comprehensive resource for developing one's teaching pedagogy. This includes resources for skill development, lesson planning and time management, assessment and interacting with students:

<http://www.teachphilosophy101.org/>

One really rewarding project some of us have been involved with is teaching philosophy to primary school children. In addition to being very enjoyable, it also presents a chance to develop your teaching and class management skills. In NSW, *Primary Ethics* is often looking for volunteers to teach K-6 kids whose parents have chosen to not enrol them in Scripture classes: <https://primaryethics.com.au/about/>

The Federation of Australasian Philosophy in Schools Association (FAPSA) is an umbrella organisation which deals with the many state-level institutions promoting philosophy in schools. Although they primarily aim to encourage current professional

teachers to include philosophical methods and topics, they too have opportunities for involvement in primary education: <http://fapsa.org.au/associations/>

Both the Diversity Reading List (<https://diversityreadinglist.org/>) and the Deviant Philosopher (<http://thedevariantphilosopher.org/>) provide resources for including works from authors in traditionally under-represented groups in your teaching.

Online Visual Resources

Crash Course Philosophy is a really useful and ongoing series of videos which covers many areas of philosophy in 10 minute instalments. It also has great visual aids of thought experiments and links topics together to encourage further engagement:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR>

Wireless Philosophy features 10 minute talks written by professional academics to which animations are then added. Some topics which are too complex to be explained in only 10 minutes are instead presented over multiple videos: <http://www.wi-phi.com/>

Philosophy Tube is a channel created by a MPhil student, and typically provide summaries of philosopher's arguments in language most viewers can understand:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2PA-AKmVpU6NKCGtZq_rKQ

Podcasts

If you can't get enough philosophy from your thesis, podcasts can be a handy way to make even your time on public transport or in your car philosophical.

The Philosophers's Zone is broadcast on ABC Radio every Sunday at 5:30PM and rebroadcast on Wednesday's at 7:30PM. You can also download episodes for your phone here: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/philosopherszone/>

Partially Examined Life is a podcast about philosophy, philosophers and philosophical texts. The format is an informal roundtable discussion, with each episode loosely focused on a short reading that introduces at least one "big" philosophical question, concern or idea: <http://www.partiallyexaminedlife.com/category/podcast-episodes/?order=ASC>

Philosophy Bites - David Edmonds (Uehiro Centre, Oxford University) and Nigel Warburton (freelance philosopher/writer) interview top philosophers on a wide range of topics. They have also turned compilations of these interviews into books:

<https://itunes.apple.com/au/podcast/philosophy-bites/id257042117?mt=2>

The History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps - A Professor of Philosophy takes listeners through literally the entire history of all philosophy, "without any gaps." The series looks at the ideas, lives and historical context of (so far) major Western, Chinese and Indian philosophers as well as the lesser-known figures of the tradition in chronological order. At the time of writing after 285 episodes they are only approximately up to the 14th century:

<http://historyofphilosophy.net/all-episodes>

Blogs

Academic philosophers also regularly contribute to blogs, which can be useful for finding summaries of topics, getting feedback on fresh or underdeveloped ideas, seeing what current areas people are interested in, and understanding the intellectual exchanges that occur prior to journal submission. The following are blogs which currently active philosophers regularly contribute to that may be of interest:

Daily Nous features a wide range of topics on all things philosophy, including the discipline itself: <http://dailynous.com/>

The Philosopher's Cocoon is aimed at early career researchers: <http://philosopherscocoon.typepad.com/blog/>

PeaSoup discusses all things Ethics and Moral Psychology, and encourages people to submit underdeveloped ideas for discussion: <http://www.peasoup.us/mission/>

Being a woman in philosophy has many first hand experiences of (sadly) negative treatment by others in the discipline: <https://beingawomaninphilosophy.wordpress.com/>

The Brains blog is a forum for work in the philosophy and science of mind, and also contains details of upcoming symposia: <http://philosophyofbrains.com/>

Public Philosophy

The AAP's Facebook page frequently posts a good mix of posts on old things, new things, blog posts, news and events, philosophy in the public sphere, and humorous comics: <https://www.facebook.com/AustralasianAssociationofPhilosophy/?fref=ts>

The Conversation is an online news platform, but unlike most newspapers with journalists, the articles are written almost exclusively by academics who have expertise in a relevant area. *Cogito* is *The Conversation's* philosophy section. Philosophers regularly write on philosophical issues that arise in the public domain: <https://theconversation.com/columns/cogito-377>

- This article by Patrick Stokes is the most read article on *The Conversation's* entire site, and a useful read for students: <https://theconversation.com/no-youre-not-entitled-to-your-opinion-9978>

Tim Dean, one of the founders of *The Conversation*, has this public call to philosophers to contribute more to public discussions: <https://medium.com/so-ethical/why-we-need-philosophy-communication-9b54b7f740a3#.pqb6w82ub>

New Philosopher magazine comes out every quarter: <http://www.newphilosopher.com/>

The Ethics Centre regularly post good examples of philosophy communication: <http://www.ethics.org.au/on-ethics/blog>. They also regularly hold corporate events and public debates in Sydney (<http://www.ethics.org.au/events>) and help run the *Festival of Dangerous Ideas* in September each year (<http://fodi.sydneyoperahouse.com/>).

Thesis Advice and Planning

Some resources to help plan and manage your time are available here:

<http://www.ithinkwell.com.au/resources>

<https://thesiswhisperer.com/> is a blog featuring lots of advice on how to write a thesis

Although written before the digital age, Umberto Eco's *How to Write a Thesis* is quite famous and still popular: <https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/how-write-thesis>

Humour

Existential Comics provides some witty insight into what famous caricatured philosophers might be like if they met each other: <http://existentialcomics.com/>

Saturday Morning Breakfast Cereal is a daily web comic which often has philosophical subject matter, along with lots of ideas from economics and science: <http://www.smbc-comics.com/comic/self-driving-car-ethics>

David Chalmers has a comprehensive list of philosophical humour from around the internet: <http://consc.net/phil-humor.html>