

# BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY

## Minutes

Virtual AGM 23 April 2020

### **Agenda**

1. Minutes of the previous AGM.
2. Officers' Reports
  - 2.1. Chair (MRA).
  - 2.2. Treasurer (JD).
  - 2.3. Secretary (ML).
  - 2.4. Journal Editor (MB).
3. Approval of new co-editors, associate editors, and members of EB/AD of the BJHP
4. Webpage redesign
5. Prize Winners
  - 5.1. Graduate Essay Prize
  - 5.2. Rogers Prize
6. Update on 2020 Annual Conference
7. MC vacancies (including chair and secretary) and elections.

### **1. Minutes of the previous AGM**

Posted at: [https://bshp.org.uk/site/assets/files/1042/bshp\\_agm\\_april\\_2019\\_minutes.pdf](https://bshp.org.uk/site/assets/files/1042/bshp_agm_april_2019_minutes.pdf).

Silence on Minutes of the previous AGM is taken as approval.

### **2. Officer's reports**

#### **2.1. Report from the chair (MRA)**

In 2019-2020 the BSHP has continued to thrive. Notable initiatives included:

Launch of a new series of texts in partnership with Oxford University Press: BSHP New Texts in the History of Philosophy. Editors: Maria Rosa Antognazza; Micheal Beaney; Mogens Lærke (Managing Editor). Texts will be selected on the basis of their philosophical and historical significance and with a view to broadening the canon to include currently under-represented authors, philosophical traditions, and historical periods.

Redesign of the BSHP Webpage. Thanks are due to Professor Beth Lord who led this redesign in collaboration with the BSHP Management Committee. (A professional company was used: Broxden Limited, based in Perth.)

The MC met twice, in November 2019 and April 2020 to review and enhance the BSHP funding schemes, and to assess applications for conference and events funding, and for scholarly support.

The BSHP Annual Lecture was held in November 2019 in Aberdeen. Lecturer: Professor MM McCabe.

Thanks are due to Professor Lord for coordinating the Graduate Student Essay Prize, and to the Management Committee and several additional reviewers for blindly reviewing all entries.

We also are delighted to announce that the appointment panel (chaired by Professor Maria Rosa Antognazza, and composed by the following members of the BJHP editorial board / BSHP management committee: Professor MM McCabe FBA, Professor Susan James FBA, Professor John Marenbon FBA, and Professor Robert Stern FBA) has selected Dr Alix Cohen and Dr Sacha Golob as new co-editors of the BJHP, subject to the approval of the BSHP AGM.

We are delighted to announce the appointment of new Associate Editors: Dr Jennifer Marusic, with responsibility for early modern philosophy (replacing Pauline Phemister), and Dr Rachael Wiseman, with responsibility for history of analytic philosophy (replacing Mike Beaney), subject to the approval of the BSHP AGM.

See the journal editor's report (MB) for details and appointments to the EB and AB of the BJHP.

It is a pleasure to formally record our heartfelt thanks to Professor Michael Beaney for his outstanding work as editor. In the last ten years, Mike has not simply consolidated John Rogers's achievement in establishing the BJHP, but has expanded and strengthened our journal, taking it in exciting new directions. Many heartfelt thanks also to Professor Pauline Phemister for her long service as Associate Editor and, more generally, for her key contribution to the flourishing of the BJHP first as BSHP chair and then as Associate Editor.

Many thanks to Cristina Chimisso, Alix Cohen, Marina Frasca-Spada, and Pauline Phemister who served for two terms on the Management Committee, greatly contributing to the consolidation and expansion of the BSHP. Thank you also to Mike Beaney, who served on the MC for many years qua BJHP editor.

## 2.2. Report from the treasurer (JD)

Circulated to all BSHP members. Silence on the Treasurer Report is taken as approval.

## 2.3. Report from the secretary (ML)

Nothing to report.

## 2.4. Report from the Journal editor (MB)

See report in appendix to the minutes.

## **3. Approval of new co-editors, associate editors, and members of EB/AD of the BJHP.**

Silence on new co-editors, associate editors, and members of editorial and advisory boards of the BJHP, is taken as approval.

1. Appointment of new Co-Editors, subject to approval at the BSHP AGM: Alix Cohen (Edinburgh) and Sacha Golob (KCL) (replacing Professor Beaney from January 2021; the BJHP will remain based at KCL).

2. Appointment of new Associate Editors, subject to approval at the BSHP AGM: Jennifer Marusic, with responsibility for early modern philosophy (replacing Pauline Phemister), and Rachael Wiseman, with responsibility for history of analytic philosophy (replacing Mike Beaney).

3. Andrew Huddleston, Sandra Laugier, Catarina Dutilh Novaes, and Robert Wicks have been nominated as members of the editorial board, subject to approval at the BSHP AGM.

4. Susanne Bobzien, Michael Gill, and Mariá Jimena Solé have been nominated as members of the advisory board, subject to approval at the BSHP AGM.

All nominations approved.

#### **4. Webpage redesign**

We are delighted to launch our redesigned webpage: do explore it at <https://bshp.org.uk/>  
We are very grateful to Professor Beth Lord, who led this project.

#### **5. Prize Winners**

##### 5.1. The Graduate Essay Prize 2019

The winner of the 2019 BSHP Graduate Essay Prize is Wim Vanrie, of the University of Ghent, for his essay “Why did Frege reject the theory of types?”.

The runner-up is Michael Morgan, of the University of Chicago, for his essay “Socrates on how to be ignorant.”

Congratulations to both for their excellent papers!

##### 5.2. The Rogers Prize 2019

The award for 2019 goes to Nicholaos Jones (University of Alabama in Huntsville) for his article ‘The architecture of Fazang’s six characteristics’ (27.3):  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09608788.2018.1563768>

The committee also chose as runner-up Jing Huang (Free University of Berlin) for her article ‘Did Nietzsche want his notes burned? Some reflections on the *Nachlass* problem’ (27.6):  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09608788.2019.1570078>

Congratulations to both for their excellent contributions to the BJHP

#### **6. Update on 2020 Annual Conference**

The BSHP 2020 conference on ‘Women in the History of Philosophy’ has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be held next year, in April 2021, as our usual annual conference.

## **7. Election to the Management Committee**

Beth Lord sent a virtual ballot paper via email. Each member could express up to 7 preferences. To preserve gender-balance, at least three of the vacant positions were reserved for women. Deadline: Thursday 30 April 6pm.

Total Vacancies: 7

### Proposed for reelection (second term of service):

Maria Rosa Antognazza (chair) (King’s College London); Mogens Laerke (secretary) (Maison Française d’Oxford, CNRS); Susan James (Birkbeck College).

### Nominations for four other vacancies (in alphabetical order):

Angela Breitenbach (University of Cambridge); Jonathan Cottrell (University of Edinburgh)  
Alexander Douglas (University of St Andrews); Matthew Duncombe (University of Nottingham); Katharine O’Reilly (King’s College London)

Results:

### Reelected:

Maria Rosa Antognazza (chair) (King’s College London)  
Mogens Laerke (secretary) (Maison Française d’Oxford, CNRS)  
Susan James (Birkbeck College)

### Elected:

Angela Breitenbach (University of Cambridge)  
Jonathan Cottrell (University of Edinburgh)  
Alexander Douglas (University of St Andrews)  
Katharine O’Reilly (King’s College London)

## Appendix I: Report from the BJHP editor (MB)

I write this report partly in lieu of presenting an oral report at what was due to have been the Editorial Board meeting of the *BJHP* at this year's BSHP conference, now cancelled (or at least postponed). I also send it to all BSHP Management Committee members in lieu of the report I usually give at the MC meeting and AGM. Comments are very welcome by email, and unless I hear otherwise by 23 April, when the EB and MC meetings would have been held, I shall assume that you are happy with the recommendations made in what follows. (The main thing is the formal ratification of the new appointments.) This is also my last report as *BJHP* Editor, so it contains something of a review of what we have achieved over the last ten years, making it more appropriate to offer a fuller, written report.

As usual, though, rather than repeat what I have already said in the editorial that opens this year's volume of the *BJHP*, let me first direct you to that editorial:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09608788.2020.1713552>

To highlight the news about which I am especially happy, I report in this editorial on the appointment of Alix Cohen and Sacha Golob as the new co-editors, who take over from me officially on 1 January 2021 (subject to formal ratification at the BSHP AGM). We have already begun the process of handover, and indeed this current report – and attached documents – is an important part of this, in offering a summary of what has been published under my editorship, to help inform the future development of the journal. You are especially invited to comment on these documents: I am sure Alix and Sacha would be happy to hear from you.

Since that editorial was written, I am delighted to announce that we have also now appointed two new associate editors: Jennifer Marusic (shortly to join the University of Edinburgh from Brandeis), with responsibility for early modern philosophy (replacing Pauline Phemister), and Rachael Wiseman (University of Liverpool), with responsibility for history of analytic philosophy (replacing me). We welcome them to the *BJHP* editorial team (subject to formal ratification at the BSHP AGM), and look forward to working with them.

I am also delighted to report that Andrew Huddleston (Birkbeck) and Sandra Laugier (Paris 1) have agreed to join the Editorial Board, and Catarina Dutilh Novaes and Robert Wicks have agreed to serve for a second five-year term. Susanne Bobzien (Oxford), Michael Gill (Arizona) and Mariá Jimena Solé (Buenos Aires) have agreed to serve on the International Advisory Board. I attach the current list of those on the two boards, with relevant dates. We have just about reached the point where we have a clear system of appointments and membership. Both the Editorial Board (excluding the editors) and the Advisory Board now have 20 members, with four places coming up for appointment or renewal every 5 years. Terms of office are thus for 5 years, renewable once (except in special circumstances), to ensure that there are always opportunities for the next generation of scholars to get more involved.

### *Recommendations*

With all this in mind, then I formally propose to the BSHP Management Committee and AGM that they ratify the following appointments, for the period 2021–25: Alix Cohen and Sacha Cohen as Co-editors of the *BJHP*; Jennifer Marusic and Rachael Wiseman as Associate Editors of the *BJHP*; Andrew Huddleston, Sandra Laugier, Catarina Dutilh Novaes

and Robert Wicks as members of the EB; Susanne Bobzien, Michael Gill and Mariá Jimena Solé as members of the AB.

Let me conclude this part of the report by thanking all of you who have helped, in one way or another, over the last year (and indeed over the period of my editorship) in the running of the *BJHP* – especially, in reviewing articles, without which, of course, the journal could not flourish at all.

As noted, this is my final year as *BJHP* Editor, so this is also my last report. Having joined the editorial team as an Associate Editor in 2008, I took over as Acting Editor in Autumn 2010, when John Rogers was ill, and officially became Editor in Spring 2011. The first thing I did, with the help of our publisher, Taylor and Francis, was establish the online system, ScholarOne Manuscripts, that we now use for all submissions. To keep track of the papers we accepted, I have kept a separate list with the relevant details. As it happens, we recently accepted the 300th paper (excluding those for special issues) under my editorship, and we have now just filled the last issue scheduled for this year, so this is an appropriate time to send you that list as well, so that you can see what we have published. As most of you know, I have been especially concerned with broadening out the range of what we publish, moving ever further away (I hope) from focusing on what I called the Big Seven of Early Modern Philosophy (to which half the journal was devoted in its first 20 years). So I have been keeping a running tally of the accepted papers, and as you can see from the figures at the very end of the document attached, from Volume 21 onwards only 18% (as opposed to 50%) of the journal now deals with the Big Seven. (That figure remains about the same once we take the special issues into consideration. The figures are skewed by the special issue on mental powers in *EMP*: it would have been less than 18% otherwise.) As you will also see from the names listed at the end, we now publish on a wide range of different philosophers, and if I have a legacy as *BJHP* Editor, this is what I hope it will be. We still need to do far more, in my opinion, in covering ‘non-Western’ and other less well-represented authors and traditions of philosophy, but we have started to make progress here, too. Further details can be found in the editorial I wrote for 26.1 (January 2018):

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09608788.2018.1423735>

When I took over as Editor, I resolved to read every paper before accepting it for publication, and while there are always some that I struggle to understand, in their details, or be fully inspired or convinced by, in their content or motivation, it has been an extremely rewarding experience. I have always tried to be open-minded about what counts as ‘history of philosophy’ (or at the very least, as making a contribution to the field), but at the same time I have expected the highest standards of clarity and argumentation and that the papers we publish – as a general journal for history of philosophy – are accessible and of interest to more than the scholars with the relevant specialism. If anyone wants to see just what interesting and high-quality articles we have published, they need only look at the winners of the annual John Rogers Prize, which we established in 2011 in honour of the founding editor of the *BJHP*. The winner of the Rogers Prize for 2019 was announced in the editorial for 28.2:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09608788.2020.1738136>

As far as the special issues are concerned, these were introduced (in 2014) as the most proactive way to broaden the range of what we cover, both thematically and in terms of the philosophers and traditions discussed. In commissioning articles or issuing a call for papers on a theme or area, we can set the agenda. The attached document listing our special issues

and their contents shows what we have achieved. We still get asked if we are interested in publishing a collection of papers devoted to the interpretation of a key text written by one of the Big Seven to mark some anniversary, and we have to say that this is not what the special issues were introduced to do. Indeed, we have rejected all proposals to focus a special issue on a single philosopher, whether 'Big' or not. Having guest editors is also a good way to get others involved in the *BJHP* and give them experience of editing, and I have especially enjoyed working with them in building up a truly excellent set of special issues.

As far as our link with the BSHP is concerned, the most significant achievement over the last ten years has been the renegotiation of the contract with T&F, the publisher of the *BJHP*. This was something that Pauline Phemister (as Chair of the BSHP at the time) and I did in 2013. The BSHP now receives at least £16,000 a year in royalties (it was previously getting just £500). This has transformed the activities of the BSHP, which can now sponsor a wide range of events – and prizes. It benefits the *BJHP*, as workshops and conferences are supported that result in good papers being submitted to the journal. In particular, the BSHP now has a scheme whereby anyone editing a special issue gets funding to help run a conference or workshop that assists in producing the special issue. So we now have a wonderfully virtuous feedback loop: the *BJHP* generates income for the BSHP, whose activities in turn lead to high-quality and ground-breaking publications in the *BJHP*. And all the many events that are organized contribute to the broadening and diversifying of the work done in history of philosophy, from which not just the *BJHP* benefits. I know I speak for Pauline as well when I say that the renegotiation of the contract has by far been the most satisfying accomplishment of our time on the management committee of the BSHP. The contract needs to be renegotiated again now that Alix and Sacha are succeeding me as Editor (the contract is between the editor(s), the BSHP, and T&F), and extra money is essentially being asked for the editorial team, now that we have grown in expanding the range of what we publish. I am confident that we will come to an arrangement. T&F have given me excellent support throughout my time as Editor, and my sense is that they have valued the work we have done and the success of the *BJHP* as a journal.

As I prepare to hand over, I would like to thank the two departments of philosophy that gave me institutional support during my editorship. I took over the journal when I was at the University of York, and for most of my time there I was given a small but significant amount of teaching relief that didn't jeopardize my research leave entitlement. (The editorial expenses I received from T&F were essential in enabling some teaching buyout.) When I left York at the end of 2015 for a half-time post at the Humboldt University in Berlin (where my wife was appointed to an Alexander von Humboldt Professorship), I took the opportunity to move the *BJHP* to King's College London, accepting a 0.2 post there to enable me to run the journal. This move was facilitated by Rosa Antognazza, to whom I am especially grateful. For my second term as Editor (2016–20) it seemed appropriate to move the journal to the Department of Philosophy in the UK with the strongest expertise in history of philosophy. King's has provided the ideal environment for my work as Editor, and I am certain, as well, that being hosted by King's has enhanced the international profile of the *BJHP*.

In recent months, the University of Edinburgh has also been developing greater strength in history of philosophy, especially early modern philosophy, as illustrated in several recent appointments, including that of Jennifer Marusic, who we are delighted has accepted the post of Associate Editor of the *BJHP* to replace Pauline. With Alix at Edinburgh and Sacha at King's, the new editors will be able to draw on the combined expertise of the two strongest

departments of philosophy in the UK for history of philosophy. So this bodes extremely well for the future of the *BJHP*.

On 1 June this year I take up a new post as Regius Professor of Logic at the University of Aberdeen, a post that Aberdeen has generously allowed me to combine with my half-time post in Berlin. (I shall be teaching for one semester in each place.) Sadly, this means that I will shortly be leaving King's, but with my job as *BJHP* Editor nearly done, and the Editorial Office remaining at King's, with Sacha taking over as a co-editor, this will not affect the running of the *BJHP* for the rest of this year.

I have just read the nice review essay that James Harris wrote for the *BJHP* (out online soon) of Jonathan Rée's recent book, *Witcraft: The Invention of Philosophy in English*. 'Witcraft' was the English term that Ralph Lever used to render 'logic' in the second half of the sixteenth century as philosophers in Britain started writing philosophy in English rather than Latin. The term never caught on, but I rather regret this. The Regius Chair of Logic is the oldest chair of philosophy in the UK (together with the Regius Chair of Moral Philosophy), established by James IV of Scotland in 1505, so before Lever's work. I suspect I won't be able to rename the chair I take up, though there is something attractive about being Professor of Witcraft (a term into which one can all too easily read or hear an extra 'ch', making it an Egregius Chair). But the history reminds us that even a term such as 'logic' has changed in meaning and been variously translated and understood over the centuries. I am excited about my move to Aberdeen, which will help fill the gap in my life when I give up editing the *BJHP*, and thinking more about the history of logic (and 'logic') is something I will especially be doing, not least in relation to my growing interest in ancient Chinese witcraft.

Even in the midst of these terrible days of the coronavirus outbreak, with the worst days yet to come, it is clear that the world will be very different when it is finally over. (I have to confess that I have been prompted to write this report now just in case I, too, fall under the bug before I have properly handed over.) However, I am convinced that there will be an even greater need for history of philosophy ('philosophy' being taken in the broadest sense), as we seek to understand better the differences in thought and culture between the various countries of the world that the crisis has made more visible and heal the divisions that have been exacerbated.

Michael Beaney

29 March 2020