



Australasian Society for Continental Philosophy

**Australasian Society for Continental Philosophy
Annual General Meeting 2022 (University of Melbourne), 30 November 2022**

Chair's Report

Prepared by Dimitris Vardoulakis

1. Acknowledgement of country

The ASCP acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which this conference takes place—the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation—and pays its respects to Indigenous Elders past, present and emerging. Sovereignty has never been ceded. It always was and always will be, Aboriginal land.

2. The work of the Executive in 2022 (overview)

The Executive met regularly. We had a dual focus: policy development and the establishment of the processes for the new way of conducting our annual conference as part of the Congress organized by the Council of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) for the first time this year. I would like to acknowledge in particular the hard work by our Secretary, Marilyn Stendera, who organized the times and zoom links for the minutes, and took minutes. The Executive worked in a productive and collegial manner.

The challenges of Covid the past couple of years have also brought opportunities and the collegial and collaborative environment in the ASCP executive has enabled us to take advantage of them. I urge anyone who is interested to contribute at this exciting time to please get in touch directly with the chair or with the executive at ascp.executive@gmail.com to inquire about a suitable role for you in the Executive or in a Committee (as a member can participate in committees without being a member of the Executive). There has never been a better time to make a contribution to the field of Continental Philosophy in Australia by joining the Executive of the ASCP.

3. Policies

There are two main reasons for the development of policies accompanied by action plans. First, they allow for the ASCP to take clear positions on a number of areas of responsibility as defined by its constitution. And, second, the policies and actions plans will facilitate continuity when there is a change of Officers in their respective areas.

We developed 3 policies accompanied by action plans for their implementation. The policies are available online (<https://ascp.org.au/executive/governing-documents>) and they were also appended to the agenda for the AGM. Thank you to the corresponding officers who took the lead in policy development: Brigid Martin for the Communications Policy as well as for establishing Community Guidelines for Communication via the ASCP list and social media; Fiona Jenkins for the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy; and Joe Hughes for the Conference Policy. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions on the policies as a separate agenda item during the AGM. There will be further policy development in other areas during 2023.

4. New initiatives (EDI lunch and Pint-Sized Philosophy)

I would like to thank Tom Corbin (ECR Officer) and Fiona Jenkins (EDI Officer) for two new initiatives starting at this conference: the Pint-Sized Philosophy organized by Tom, and the EDI lunch organized by Fiona.

5. Website update

A big thank you to James Garrett who led the update of the ASCP website, maintained it with a minimum of fuss, and provided his technical expertise in developing it further during the year.

6. Congress conference (2022)

The members of the conference committee this year were Tom Corbin, Joe Hughes, Marilyn Stendera, and Dimitris Vardoulakis. Charles Barbour as Treasurer also helped significantly, and the entire Executive of the ASCP contributed by responding to issues and concerns raised at Executive meetings. We thank all of them for their significant contribution in the successful organizing of the conference.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of numerous volunteers whose help during the conference has been instrumental: Van Cenhrang, Joel Duggan, Sybilla George, Cindy (Xinyan) Huang, Porter Mattinson, Edyrn Mudie, Lauren Pederson-Hor, Jocelyn Saunders, Julia Sekulic, Nandini Shah, Kiara (Shuyi) Wang.

We are grateful to CHASS, and especially its president, Dan Woodman, and its executive officer, Sally Daly, for being the instigators of this year's Congress. Organizing the ASCP conference under the Congress umbrella gave us complete autonomy to make scheduling decisions, but it was not without its challenges. For example, it was tricky to negotiate rooms for the third day of the conference, given that we were sharing the same building with TASA, which result in parallel sessions 8 and 9 having fewer papers (which also meant that more papers were moved to earlier parallel sessions).

The ASCP acknowledges a \$10k grant from the Melbourne Convention Bureau that made a significant contribution to this year's ASCP conference. This is the first time that the ASCP has received government support to hold its conference. We would also like to acknowledge the support of the Critical Antiquities workshop, especially Ben Brown and Tristan Bradshaw, who co-funded Prof Giulia Sissa's trip to Australia; and the ARC grant DP220103633 "The Journal in Theory" (CIs: Justin Clemens, Tom Ford, and Joe Hughes) for sponsoring Prof Claire Colebrook's trip to Australia.

This is the first time in its history that the ASCP Executive was directly responsible for the running of the Society's annual conference, as in the past the norm was to outsource the organizing of the conference to the University hosting it. Besides the immediate organizational actions and decisions this entailed, it provided for an opportunity to set up processes for future conferences organized by the ASCP executive, such as the establishment of abstract submission and registration portals, and the development of templates for the timetable and the conference booklet.

Now that responsibility for the running of the ASCP conference rests with the ASCP Executive, there is certainly more work than before, but also greater opportunity to develop a more coherent identity for the conference that better represents the interests of our members.

7. Thematic panels and streams

The ASCP is committed to catering for the research interests of its members. To this effect, we have invited participants to this year's conference to organize thematic panels or streams of panels. In addition, we have welcomed smaller, specialized associations who want to organize thematic panels or streams as part of the ASCP conference, such as the Hegel Society and the Spinoza Circle. We believe that being open to proposals for such thematic panels and supporting other societies contributes to a rich research culture in philosophy. We intend to continue with this approach in the future and ask our members to consider organizing a panel or stream on their research interests at the 2023 conference.

8. Collaboration with other associations

Another significant opportunity that presented itself by joining the Congress conference was to pursue collaborations with other associations that participated in the Congress. In particular, for the 2022 Conference we collaborated with the Australian Women's and Gender Studies Association (AWGSA) to have Professor Giulia Sissa as our joint keynote speaker. I would like to thank Juliet Watson, outgoing chair of the AWGSA, for making this collaboration possible.

9. John Dalton Bursary

The ASCP continues to support HDRs and ECRs to attend our conference. In 2022, the recipients of the John Dalton Bursary were Daniele Fulvi, Michael Hearn, Adam Owsinski, and Madeleine Shield. Each received \$500 toward travel and accommodation for the conference, as well as free registration. The financial health of the Society will allow us to continue this scheme.

10. Congress conference (2023)

The ASCP will participate again in the Congress organized by CHASS in 2023, which will be held at the University of Sydney. The ASCP conference will be held on 27 to 29 November. We have secured Yuk Hui (City University of Hong Kong) as one of the keynotes for 2023. Alexander Lefebvre from the University of Sydney has joined the Conference Committee as the direct contact with the University of Sydney. We encourage other ASCP members who want to be involved in the organizing of the conference to contact the Conference Officer, Joe Hughes.

I need to forewarn about a possible increase in conference registration and/ or membership fees for next year. The ASCP in 2022 had registration lower fees than in previous years, and some of the lower fees for any other Association that held a 3-day conference. This was possible because of the financial support we received (as outline in §6). However, we may not have the same level of financial support in 2023. We applied for financial support through the BESydney administered funds, but we were deemed ineligible, as was every other association that is part of the Congress, since BESydney determined that CHASS can apply on behalf of all Associations. We are determined to keep our fees as low as possible while ensuring that the Society remains in a health financial position.

11. Social Media

Many thanks to Brigid Martin (Communications Officer) who maintains the social media presence of the ASCP. We encourage members who organize talks, workshops or other events to post on our social media, or email Brigid to have the announcement posted on behalf of the ASCP. As part of our revitalised social media presence, the Executive decided to discontinue parts of the website that become outdated too quickly without continuous maintenance, such the page about members' new books. We encourage our members to post on FB or Twitter about new publications, and to contact the Executive if they would like these announcements to be shared by the ASCP's official accounts.

12. Collaboration with the Australasian Association for Philosophy (AAP)

As part of the continuing collaboration with the AAP, the ASCP was invited to participate in the celebrations of the centenary of the AAP, titled "Reflecting on the Past 100 years" (<https://aap.org.au/Reflecting100>). The celebrations at the Congress conference consist of a single stream workshop that will take place on 1 and 2 December. Many thanks to Robert Sinnerbrink (Deputy Chair) who organized a plenary panel "Revisiting the analytic/continental divide in the 21C" with the participation of Fiona Jenkins (Australian National University), Jack Reynolds (Deakin University) and Matheson Russell (University of Auckland). Thanks also to Genevieve Lloyd for delivering the keynote address "'Analytical'/'Continental': Beyond the Divide?" co-sponsored by the ASCP. The AAP offered free access to "Reflecting on the Past 100 years" to all ASCP members.

13. ASCP satellite panel at SPEP

Thanks to Daniel Brennan (International Officer) who organized this year's ASCP satellite panel at SPEP. The SPEP conference took place at Texas A&M, College Station, Texas, on 13–15 October.

14. ASCP book series

Sadly, Rowan & Littlefield decided to discontinue the book series affiliated with the ASCP. We would like to thank the series editors for their work over the years. There are currently no plans to revive the series with an alternative press.

15. New journal: *Philosophy, Politics and Critique*

The ASCP is pleased to announce it has a new affiliate journal, *Philosophy, Politics and Critique* (PPC). This is a new journal published by Edinburgh University Press (<https://www.euppublishing.com/loi/ppc>). Joe Hughes (Conference Officer) is Associate Editor representing the ASCP and will be responsible for the annual ASCP issue of the journal.

PPC has already advertised for 2 assistant editor positions that will be awarded to ECR members of the Society. This will give the two assistant editors the opportunity to develop their skills and influence the direction of the journal at its inception. The positions of assistant editors are for three years. There will be shorter placement positions for 2 HDRs members of the ASCP that will be advertised later in 2023.

All ASCP members will be given free access to the journal. We encourage our members to request that their libraries subscribe to the journal, and that they consider submitting articles.

16. Advisory Board

According to the Constitution (§7.4), the ASCP should have an Advisory Board. Given the increased workload and the emphasis on policy development and the conference, the Executive was unable to advance this in 2022. We plan to do so 2023.