

Philosophy Department Diversity Report

May 2010

Background

Our ongoing plan has been to keep track of potential philosophy diversity candidates and to cultivate contacts that may be able to help us find and attract such candidates. The department has pursued this plan with some success in recent years.

The department hopes to add another person to the philosophy faculty. In addition to the curricular and load-related reasons for adding a fourth position, another philosopher could make the department more diverse in gender, race, and/or course offerings.

Potential Candidates

We have continued to identify and keep our eyes on promising Christian philosophers who are women and/or people from under-represented backgrounds. As a department we have discussed:

Teri Merrick

Teri is currently teaching at Asuza Pacific University. Her areas of specialization are Kant, Frege, and philosophy of mathematics. Her work in the modern era would complement the specializations of the current members of Westmont's department well. She would be a great example of a woman working successfully in a technical area of analytic philosophy.

Karen Chan

Karen is a PhD candidate at University of Notre Dame. Her research areas are ethics and medieval philosophy. None of the current members of Westmont's department is an historian, so Karen's specialization in medieval philosophy could be a valuable addition. She is on the job market this year.

Contacts

The department has kept diversity contacts and potential candidates in mind while planning next year's Erasmus Lectures. We have discussed a number of people whom we could invite and with whom we could cultivate connections.

Teri Merrick, mentioned above

Ruchika Mishra, one of Mark Nelson's PhD students, who now lives in the Bay Area and has just finished a postdoc in clinical bioethics. She is Indian (and a secular Hindu) who has done interesting work on fetal sex-selection in India, and other issues of bioethics and cross-cultural ethics.

Marta Sanudo-Velasquez, who did a PhD in ethics (on Alisdair MacIntyre) from KU Leuven, and is now teaching ethics and social philosophy at a university in Monterrey (Mexico). She's a live wire and would have things to say about, for example, business ethics in Latin America.

Of these three, Teri Merrick would probably be easiest to invite. She is also the one most likely herself to be a candidate for a position at Westmont. The department will continue this discussion when it comes time to make arrangements for Erasmus Lectures next year.