



Australasian
Association of
Philosophy

POSTGRADUATE STUDENT GUIDE

2020

Welcome!

This is the Postgraduate Student Guide, produced by the Australasian Association of Philosophy Postgraduate Committee. It includes useful information, links, and resources intended for postgraduate philosophy students in Australasia (Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore). This guide will be especially helpful for those of you starting your postgraduate degree, although it will also be useful for those who are already enrolled in postgraduate programs or visiting from overseas. This guide is designed by students for students. There are a number of useful resources out there for postgraduate philosophy students, but many of them are hard to find and spread out among different websites. By producing 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 both comprehensive and concise. It covers a range of topics, including: the Australasian Association of Philosophy, the Postgraduate Committee, the profession, publishing, and many more. Each year this guide is updated by the incoming Postgraduate Committee, so let us know if you have any suggestions by emailing the current Committee Convenor at danny.wardle@adelaide.edu.au

We hope you enjoy the guide.

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1 THE AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHILOSOPHY

1.1 *About the AAP*

Usually referred to as the AAP, 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 an annual conference and producing two philosophy journals – the Australasian Journal of Philosophy (AJP) and the Australasian Philosophical Review (APR). 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 supports philosophy in the Australasian region and offers opportunities for professional development and engagement. Normally \$130, graduate students can usually join the AAP for only \$65. This also gets you to a substantial discount on conference registration and includes free copies of the AJP and APR, 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](#).

1.2 *AAP Conference*

Given the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19, the 2020 AAP Conference has been *cancelled*. The Presidential Address will now be delivered in 2021. The current President, Professor Neil Levy, will stay on in that role for an additional year.

The AAP will look at alternative ways to engage and support members during this period. AAP members will be updated on these plans and activities going forward.

2 AAP POSTGRADUATE COMMITTEE

2.1 *About Us*

The Postgraduate Committee is an Operating Committee of the AAP, 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.

The committee is made up of between 5 and 10 members. Each year, the committee is elected at an Annual General Meeting held at the Australasian Postgraduate Philosophy Conference (see section 2.2) 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, developing guides, establishing databases, and coming up with ideas to improve the postgraduate philosophy experience.

Leading the committee is the convenor. The committee convenor'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 convenor serves for 12 months (although they may nominate to continue as convenor for an additional year) with an additional 6–12 months spent as outgoing committee convenor to ensure a smooth transition between convenors.

2.2 *Australasian Postgraduate Philosophy Conference*

Every year, there is an Australasian Postgraduate Philosophy Conference (APPC). This conference usually goes for a few days, and mainly consists in postgraduate students presenting material from their 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.

Each year, the APPC also includes the Postgraduate Committee Annual General Meeting (AGM), at which conference participants discuss how things have gone in the past year, present ideas for how to improve things in the next year, and elect a new committee.

Due to the uncertainties around planning and travel presented by COVID-19, the 2020 APPC will be hosted online via Zoom. The conference date is September 19-20. The Postgraduate Committee has decided that this would be the best way of ensuring that many people can participate without compromising public health. If you are interested in attending or presenting at the APPC, please fill out the form on our conference website [here](#).

Ordinarily, the 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 Postgraduate Committee who take into account a number of factors, including what cities the APPC has previously been hosted. Selection for a host university is based on a range of criteria; alongside the strength of the applications, we consider previous years' locations, and the location of the current year's AAP.

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 hosting the APPC in the future, please email us to get more details on the process.



Danny Wardle (*Convenor*)

Danny is completing an MPhil thesis on the metaphysics of persistence at the University of Adelaide. He's interested in how the metaphysics of persistence intersects with issues regarding counting sortals, quantum mechanics, and social ontology.



Edmund Handby

Edmund is a PhD Candidate in the School of Politics and International Relations at the Australian National University. His thesis draws on semantic externalism as a way of modeling and understanding conceptual change.



Lucia C. Neco

Lucia is a biologist, Masters in Animal Behavior and PhD Candidate in Philosophy of Biology at La Trobe University, Australia. She is interested in how to make more sense of the concepts used in science. Specifically, her thesis discusses the application of concepts in social behavior.



Serrin Rutledge-Prior

Serrin is an MPhil student in the School of Politics and International Relations at the Australian National University, writing a thesis on animal rights, legal standing and personhood. She once nearly missed a flight back home to Australia because she was so intent on visiting Jeremy Bentham, who was on holiday in New York at the time.



Asher Soryl

Asher is a PhD candidate in the Bioethics Centre at the University of Otago. His thesis concerns the prospective discipline of Welfare Biology which (among other things) studies the welfare of wild animals living in their natural environments. Asher would not plug himself into the experience machine, but prudentially recommends that others should.

Elizabeth Olsen

Victoria University of Wellington

Ambrose Wiley

Victoria University of Wellington

3 RESOURCES FOR POSTGRADUATES

3.1 *Thesis Advice*

We have listed some resources to help you plan and manage your time:

- [Thesis Whisperer](#) is a thesis advice blog.
- [Thinkwell](#) provides a range of resources for planning your thesis.
- [The Philosophers' Cocoon](#) is a blog aimed at early-career philosophers which contains useful posts about completing your thesis.

3.2 *Mailing Lists*

All Australasian graduate students should sign up to receive emails from the Aphil-l mailing list. This is the main Australasian philosophy mailing list and includes notices of conferences, workshops and job listings in the Australasian philosophy community.

To join, just click [here](#) 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 Aphil-l folder in your inbox, followed by creating a rule that sends all emails from this list into that folder.) The following regional lists may also be worth subscribing to:

Adelaide: [Saphil](#)

Sydney and surrounds: [Sydphil](#)

Canberra: [Philsoc-l](#)

Europe: [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-l@anu.edu.au). This will forward the email to everyone subscribed to that list.

3.3 *Other Associations*

A list of philosophy associations which are based in the Australasian region and associated with the AAP can be found [here](#).

3.4 *The Profession*

In addition to learning about philosophy as a 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.
- [PhilEvents](#) also lists lots of upcoming events, mostly conferences, which are worth checking out.
- [Conference Alerts](#) provides listings of lots of upcoming events, particularly outside of the US and Australia.
- [The Philosophy Paperboy](#) is a simple website which publishes a daily list of new papers in all areas of philosophy. It is a 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 has about 20-30 titles a day on average.

3.5 *Jobs*

- [PhilJobs](#) regularly posts job openings in professional philosophy.
- [UniJobs](#) is an Australian search tool that will also search for academic positions outside of philosophy, as well as administrative roles at universities.
- [ImaginePhD](#) is a free online career exploration and planning tool for PhD students and post-doctoral scholars in the humanities and social sciences.
- The AAP has put together a [document](#) about marketing your philosophy qualifications to prospective non-academic employers.

3.6 *Postgraduate Programs*

We have listed some resources for Master's students who are considering pursuing a PhD, whether that is in Australasia or abroad:

- The [Philosophical Gourmet Report](#) provides a ranking of graduate programs in the English-speaking world.
- Some [advice for Australasian students](#) from Mark Colyvan.
- [US-specific program advice](#) from Eric Schwitzgebel.
- [A guide for Australasians applying to US programs](#) from Alison Fernandes.

3.7 *Publishing*

The best advice you will receive in regards to publishing (when to publish, where to publish etc.) will likely come from your supervisors. We have listed some online resources that might be worth consulting:

- Neil McKinnon has written a [guide on publishing your philosophy](#).
- The American Philosophical Association (APA) runs an [ongoing survey of philosophy journals](#), including information about how long certain journals take to respond to authors.
- Brian Leiter has released the results of a poll ranking the [best 'general' philosophy journals](#).

3.8 *Teaching*

You may get opportunities to do some teaching during your postgraduate degree. Below are some resources that you may find useful when teaching philosophy students:

- [Teach Philosophy 101](#) is a comprehensive guide for teaching philosophy.
- Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) has developed a guide on [Best Practices for the Inclusive Philosophy Classroom](#).
- David Chalmers has developed a list of [guidelines for respectful, constructive, and inclusive philosophical discussion](#) that could be implemented in the classroom.
- The [Diversity Reading List](#) is a resource that may help you include works by authors in under-represented groups in your teaching.
- The [Philosothon](#) is an event that encourages school students in Australasia to investigate ethical and philosophical questions.