

**FEMINIST LEGACIES/ FEMINIST FUTURES:
HYPATIA 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE
October 22-24, 2009**

Conference proposal submitted to the
Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities

Conference Organizers

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Abstract

Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy has been published as an independent journal of feminist philosophy since 1986; Volume 25 will appear in 2010. This significant anniversary falls in the second year of the five-year editorial term during which the *Hypatia* editorial office will be hosted by the Simpson Center for the Humanities at the University of Washington. The *Hypatia* Editors and Local Editorial Advisors propose to host a major conference in October 2009 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the journal and to explore the future of feminist philosophy as it has taken shape across a range of disciplines. The program will include a mix of invited keynote panels and open submissions, and will draw on all areas and traditions of feminist philosophy: it will include historical, continental, and analytic approaches to issues that range from ethics and political theory, to metaphysics and epistemology. We particularly encourage contributions that situate feminist philosophy in broad interdisciplinary contexts of feminist activism and scholarship. This is an opportunity, not only to honor the accomplishments of *Hypatia*, but also to assess emerging trajectories and envision future possibilities in the field of feminist philosophy, and to recognize the rich traditions of feminist scholarship that flourish at the University of Washington.

Conference overview

Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy has been published as an independent journal of feminist philosophy since 1986; Volume 25 will appear in 2010. This is a significant anniversary, and one that falls in the second year of the five-year editorial term during which the *Hypatia* editorial office will be hosted by the Simpson Center for the Humanities at the University of Washington. The *Hypatia* Editors and Local Editorial Advisors seek support for a major conference to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the journal next Fall: October 22-24, 2009. A conference at this juncture will allow us to showcase the work *Hypatia* has fostered in feminist philosophy, honoring its founders, editors, and contributors, as well as its intellectual legacies in the field of feminist philosophy. It is also an occasion for charting a course forward, building on the strengths of the journal and envisioning future possibilities for the development of feminist philosophy as it is taking shape across a range of disciplines.

To realize these jointly retrospective and forward-looking goals, we propose a 25th Anniversary conference program based on a mix of invited keynote panels and contributed papers selected from submissions generated by an open Call for Papers. Here is the intellectual and historical rationale that informs these plans.

Themes for Keynote Panels. We envision six keynote panels that capture the founding history of *Hypatia* as a journal, the range of interests and topics addressed in early issues by contributors whose work in feminist philosophy was formative of the field and continues to be influential, the interdisciplinary contexts in which this work has taken shape, and emerging directions in feminist philosophy that build on this legacy.

For the opening panel (Thursday evening, October 22), we will invite the past editors of *Hypatia* to provide a retrospective appraisal of the sources of intellectual and activist inspiration, as well as the disciplinary and institutional conditions, that have shaped the journal through its twenty-five year history. Questions we will propose as a point of departure include: What was the impetus for publishing the three special issues of *International Women's Studies Forum* (published in 1983, 1984, and 1985) out of which *Hypatia* was born, and what made possible its founding as an independent journal? How have conditions changed for doing feminist philosophy, and what difference has *Hypatia* made in changing them? How has the heterodox vision of feminist philosophy that inspired *Hypatia* changed over the years? We will ask the past editors to recommend the format for this panel, and we will arrange with the *Feminist Philosophy Oral History Project* (Nancy Tuana and Joan Callahan) to record the session.

Three panels, distributed through the two main days of the conference, will be devoted to broad areas of philosophical interest that are represented in early volumes of *Hypatia* and that prefigure much subsequent work in feminist philosophy. Reviewing the contents of these early volumes, their interdisciplinarity is especially striking, as is the vigor of feminist engagement with the full range of topics and subfields that make up disciplinary philosophy. Articles published in *Hypatia's* first decade include critical reflection on Freud and Hegel, a rich set of offerings on the philosophy of Simone de Beauvoir and a special issue on *French Feminist Philosophy* (1989); an essay by Luce Irigaray, "Is the Subject of Science Sexed?", that appears in a special issue on *Feminism and Science* (1987), alongside contributions by feminist scientists, and historians and philosophers of science, whose work has defined feminist science studies as a vigorous field of its own (for example, Ruth Hubbard, Evelyn Fox Keller, Sandra Harding, Helen Longino). A special issue on the *History of Women in Philosophy* (1989) brings together a set of essays that were among the first to recapture pivotal contributions made by women to intellectual traditions that had long been presumed to be a male preserve. Throughout this period there is also a persistent focus on bringing philosophical concepts and tools of analysis to bear on contemporary issues of concern to feminists. *Hypatia* contributors through the 1980s and early 1990s develop probing critiques of the dominant sex/gender norms that define motherhood and sexuality, romantic love and marriage, the conventions of sexist humor and feminine beauty. They present feminist analyses of affirmative action, political liberalism and the welfare state; they explore the possibilities and pitfalls of a "gynecentric aesthetic" and they laid the foundations for what has become a robust field of feminist ethics, articulating an "ethic of care" and examining the implications of feminist perspectives for biomedical ethics in the arenas of nursing practice, the politics of reproduction, and disability theory. In an essay that that appeared in the first special *Hypatia* issue of *IWSF*, Christine DiStefano (at the University of Washington) combines historical and contemporary normative concerns in an analysis of the masculinist ideology embodied in the conception of "Hobbesian man."

Many of these issues continue to be central to feminist philosophy as represented in *Hypatia*, although often substantially reframed and refined. Lynn Hankinson Nelson and Wylie co-edited a special issue on *Feminist Science Studies* (2004) that takes, as its point of departure, fifteen years of intensive work on questions about objectivity, the role of values in science, and feminist methodologies catalyzed by the pair of special issues on *Feminism and Science* that *Hypatia* published in the late 1980s. Recent special issues on *Maternal Bodies* (2006), *Heterosexism*

(2007), and *Love and Work* (2002) build on themes engaged by contributors to the early discussions of *Motherhood and Sexuality* (1986) and *Feminism and the Body* (1991). Feminist political theorists take up new questions about democratic theory (2007), and address topics such as *Just War* (2008) that have roots in work that appeared in special issues on *Feminism and Peace* (1994) and *Citizenship* (1997); feminist ethicists expand on Wendell's early proposal of a "Feminist Theory of Disability" (1989), in a double issue on *Feminism and Disability* (2001, 2002). Crucially, the scope of the engagement between feminism and philosophy has been enriched in the last decade by intersectional analyses of the kind developed in a double issue on multicultural and postcolonial feminisms, *Border Crossings* (1998), and, subsequently, in special issues on *Indigenous Women in the Americas* (2003), and *Race and Whiteness* (2007).

The challenge of doing justice to the vibrant feminist scholarship that appeared in the early issues of *Hypatia*, much less to the rich, proliferating lines of inquiry it has inspired, is indeed daunting! Given the diversity of interests represented in *Hypatia* we did not feel we could identify specific topics or issues around which to organize the program so we propose, instead, three panels that map onto broad subfields and traditions within philosophy: one on feminist approaches to value theory (ethics, aesthetics, political philosophy); a second on feminist analyses of rationality, science, and "epistemic humility" (metaphysics, epistemology, and philosophy of science); and a third that cross-cuts these thematically, bringing together feminists working within continental traditions of philosophy. Feminist scholarship has been instrumental in problematizing the distinctions between these subfields and styles of philosophy; most of the prospective participants we identify transgress not only internal divisions but also the boundaries that separate philosophy from neighboring fields. Nonetheless, these broad areas represent points of feminist engagement with philosophy that were salient when *Hypatia* was taking shape as a journal and that are, we believe, capacious enough to allow invited panelists to reflect on the sources of inspiration and provocation that have shaped their work in feminist philosophy.

For the final session on the first day of the conference (Friday, October 23), we propose a keynote panel designed to put the development of feminist philosophy—intellectually and institutionally—into a broader interdisciplinary context. We envision a panel comprised of feminist colleagues drawn from a range of fields in the humanities and social sciences at the University of Washington who can provide a comparative perspective on feminist philosophy. We will invite them to reflect on how feminist scholarship has developed in their field, and to consider potential synergies between their work and emerging trajectories of feminist inquiry in philosophy.

Finally, we propose to make the last session of the conference (late Saturday afternoon, October 24) a keynote panel comprised of younger scholars who will be invited to reflect on the conference and to identify key priorities and possibilities for future work in feminist philosophy. We will draw these panelists from among contributors who submit papers for concurrent sessions and recruit additional panelists as needed to realize a balance of areas and perspectives.

Focal Questions for Open Submission Contributions. The majority of contributions to the 25th Anniversary conference will be papers selected from a pool of submissions that we will solicit through wide circulation of an open call for papers (final CfP attached).

In the Call for Papers we invite submissions on any topic in feminist philosophy, and we emphasize the importance of combining retrospective reflection on the traditions of scholarship represented in *Hypatia* with a forward-looking focus on emerging lines of inquiry, neglected problems, and promising prospects for feminist philosophy. We will also send the Call for Papers to the guest editors of *Hypatia* special issues urging them to consider organizing thematic sessions on the topic of their special issue, or on related topics that are areas of especially active interest in feminist philosophy.

Summary and Follow-on Projects

We expect that this conference will bring together a diverse array of scholars engaged with feminist philosophical practice, including more senior scholars who have contributed to *Hypatia* in innumerable ways over the last 25 years, as well as younger scholars whose work reflects the impact of the multiple traditions of feminist philosophy that have been nurtured by the journal. Local colleagues from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds will find the proposed conference of interest, especially faculty and graduate students from across the College of Arts and Sciences who represent the range of disciplines in which feminist scholarship now thrives. We would hope, as well, to attract feminist graduate students and colleagues from Puget Sound area universities and colleges, as well as feminist scholar/activists who live and work in the Seattle region. While the focus is on *Hypatia*'s twenty-five year history and the development of feminist philosophy, our goal is to make these events an occasion to recognize and celebrate feminist scholarship at the University of Washington; with broad advertising and a keynote panel of local colleagues we hope to draw a campus-wide audience.

We also anticipate that this conference will be an important source of submissions for an Anniversary Special Issue of *Hypatia* which the editorial board has approved for the final issue of Volume 25 (Summer 2010; 25.4). While special issue submissions need not originate in the conference, we have scheduled the conference and set the special issue deadline so that conference participants can take advantage of discussion to finalize prospective journal submissions. This special issue is not a proceedings; submissions will go through the full journal review process which, for *Hypatia*, typically results in a 10-15% acceptance rate.

Finally, we expect that this conference will provide a unique opportunity to build the profile of *Hypatia Online*, the new interactive website we are developing, in collaboration with our publisher Wiley-Blackwell. This website will go live in the Fall of 2009 and will have the capacity to host interactive discussion boards, a 25th anniversary "virtual issue," podcasts, and other conference-related digital content. For news and updates on the 25th Anniversary Conference, check the website maintained by the editorial office:

http://depts.washington.edu/hypatia/anniversary_conference.shtml

June 15, 2009

HYPATIA 25th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Thursday, 10.22.09				
5.00pm-6.30pm	Keynote Panel: Hypatia Founders and Editors [Comm 120]			
6.30pm-8.00pm	Welcoming Reception [Simpson Center]			
Friday, 10.23.09				
9.00am-10.30am	Keynote Panel: Rationality, Science, and Epistemic Humility [HUB]			
10.30am-11.00am	<i>Refreshments</i>			
11.00am-12.30pm	Open Session [HUB]	Open Session [HUB]	Open Session [HUB]	Open Session [HUB]
12.30pm-1.30pm	<i>Lunch</i>			
1.30pm-3.00pm	Keynote Panel: Rethinking Value Theory [HUB]			
3.00pm-3.30pm	<i>Refreshments</i>			
3.30pm-5.00pm	Open Session [HUB]	Open Session [HUB]	Open Session [HUB]	Open Session [HUB]
5.00pm-6.30pm	Keynote Panel: Feminist Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Perspective [Kane Hall]			
6.30pm-8.30pm	Gala Reception [Walker Ames Room]			
Saturday, 10.24.09				
9.00am-10.30am	Keynote Panel: Continental Traditions [Comm 120]			
10.30am-11.00am	<i>Refreshments</i>			
11.00am-12.30pm	Open Session [Comm]	Open Session [Comm]	Open Session [Comm]	Open Session [Comm]
12.30pm-1.30pm	<i>Lunch</i>			
1.30pm-3.00pm	Open Session [Comm]	Open Session [Comm]	Open Session [Comm]	Open Session [Comm]
3.00pm-3.30pm	<i>Refreshments</i>			
3.30pm-5.00pm	Open Session [Comm]	Open Session [Comm]	Open Session [Comm]	Open Session [Comm]
5.00pm-6.30pm	Keynote Panel: Envisioning the Future of Feminist Philosophy [Comm 120]			
6.30pm-8.30pm	Dinner for Participants Ivor's Salmon House			

HYPATIA TURNS TWENTY-FIVE!

25th Anniversary Conference: *Feminist Legacies / Feminist Futures*

October 22-24, 2009

Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington

CALL FOR CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PANELS

Hypatia has been published as an independent journal of feminist philosophy since 1986; Volume 25 will appear in 2010. In celebration of this significant anniversary the current editors of *Hypatia* will host a conference at the University of Washington in the Fall of 2009; this is an opportunity to honor the accomplishments of *Hypatia*—its founders, editors, and contributors—and to consider where feminist philosophy is headed in the next 25 years.

Keynote panelists confirmed to date: **Claudia Card** (Wisconsin), **Ann Garry** (California State-LA), **Sandra Harding** (UCLA), **Alison Jaggar** (Colorado), **Eva Feder Kittay** (Stony Brook), **Hilde Lindemann** (Michigan State), **Helen Longino** (Stanford), **Maria Lugones** (Binghamton), **Elizabeth Potter** (Mills), **Kelly Oliver** (Vanderbilt), **Linda Lopez McAlister** (South Florida), **Laurie Shrage** (Florida International), **Margaret Simons** (SIU-Edwardsville), **Jana Sawicki** (Williams)

Papers and panels are welcome on any topic in feminist philosophy addressed by contributors to *Hypatia* in its publication history. We particularly encourage topics that draw on retrospective assessments to envision future directions: what possibilities are taking shape; what lines of inquiry should be explored, given the trajectory of feminist philosophy evident in the articles, reviews, symposia and special issues published by *Hypatia* since the mid-1980s? You might, for example:

- identify a paper or debate published by *Hypatia* that especially influenced you (positively or negatively) and assess the implications of its insights, its lacunae, its impact, for future directions in feminist philosophy;
- if you are a *Hypatia* author, return to a paper you published in the journal and reflect on how thinking in this area has changed, what new directions are taking shape;
- consider how, and why, some topics that were prominent in early issues of *Hypatia* have continued to structure feminist philosophy while others have been reframed or set aside: how has work on these topics evolved and where can it be expected to go in the future?
- propose a panel on a particular topic in feminist philosophy, perhaps based on the topic of a *Hypatia* special issue, and discuss new directions taking shape in this area; panel topics might include, for example, postcolonial challenges, disability, ecofeminism, indigenous women, women's work, feminism and science, the history of women in specific philosophical traditions.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: June 15, 2009.

Submission guidelines: please email a 1-2 page (250-500 word) abstract for your proposed paper to the *Hypatia* editorial office, clearly identified as a 25th Anniversary conference submission. If you are proposing a panel, your 1-2 page abstract should provide an overview of the panel as a whole and you should include, as well, a list of confirmed presenters with titles and a brief description of their topics. Please send abstracts and proposals to: conf25@u.washington.edu.

We encourage conference presenters to submit manuscripts for consideration for the 25th Anniversary Special Issue: Fall 2010 (vol. 25.4). The deadline for special issue submissions is **November 16 2009**. For submission guidelines see: [http:// depts.washington.edu/hypatia/](http://depts.washington.edu/hypatia/)

Pacific SWIP will be meeting in conjunction with the 25th Anniversary conference. For their call for papers, see the PSWIP website site: <http://www.csus.edu/org/pswip>