



Hypatia, A Journal of Feminist Philosophy
Editors' Report: July 2008 – December 2009
Executive Summary

<http://depts.washington.edu/hypatia>

2008 - 2009 Editors:

Lori Gruen, Wesleyan University (2008-2010)
Alison Wylie, University of Washington (host institution, 2008-2013)
Book review editor: Sharyn Clough, Oregon State University (2008-2013)

Overview of editorial team activities, 2007- 2009

- Publishing contract review: offers received from three presses in spring 2008; reviewed for support of editorial team priorities (instituting on-line submission/review; building web presence); Wiley-Blackwell selected and a five-year contract negotiated in summer 2008.
- Editorial office: moved from Michigan State University to the University of Washington in July 2008.
- Electronic submission/review: the *Hypatia* editorial process moved online with the launch of a *Hypatia* Manuscript Central site, an electronic submission and review system (December 2008).
- *Hypatia* 25th celebration: Volume 25 will appear in 2010, the culmination of close to 30 years of continuous publication. To mark this important anniversary we hosted a conference at the University of Washington in October 2009: "Feminist Legacies/Feminist Futures." Keynote session podcasts and streaming videos are available online. A special 25th anniversary issue is scheduled for 25.4 (Fall 2010), and will appear concurrently with a *Retrospective Virtual Issue*, based on nominations of ground-breaking articles published in *Hypatia*.

Submission and Review Activity

- Submissions: We reviewed just under 150 open submission manuscripts and 87 special issue submissions in the first year and a half of our editorship.
- Acceptance rates: *Hypatia* continues to be highly selective: our acceptance rate for manuscripts reviewed in 2008 and 2009 is under 15% for open submissions; we reject without review fewer than 5% of submissions.
- Referee support: Altogether 216 colleagues served as *Hypatia* referees in 2009, and with few exceptions provided us reports that were not only timely but extremely detailed and thoughtful.
- Decision times: In 2009 our average time to initial decision for open submission manuscripts was just over 13 weeks, and the time to decision for revised manuscripts was 9 weeks.

Special Issues

- Special issues published in 2008-2009: The special issues that were under way in July 2008 when the current editorial team's term began have been extremely successful. The Wiley-Blackwell report on downloads and the results of their e-campaign shows especially strong interest in "Transgender Studies and Feminism," edited by Talia Bettcher and Ann Garry (Summer 2009, 24.3).
- Special issues in process in 2009: Two special themed FEAST issues are planned, the first of which will appear as 25.1 (Winter 2010). A special issue on "Feminist Biotechnologies," edited by Marin Gillis and Inmaculada de Melo-Martin, has drawn fewer submissions than expected so will appear as a cluster in 25.3 (Summer 2010).
- Special issue proposals and review outcomes: Eight special issue proposals were reviewed in 2008-2009, two of which were accepted: "Ethics of Embodiment," guest edited by Debra Bergoffen and Gail Weiss (to appear as 26.3, Summer 2011); and "Animal Others," guest edited by Lori Gruen and Kari Weil (to appear as 27.3, Summer 2012).
- Submission/review policy and guidelines for special issues: The Editors instituted a special issue review policy and developed a detailed set of guidelines for guest editors in 2009; these are available online, on the Editorial Office website.

Three Initiatives

Hypatia Archive Project:

Editorial office files are regularly deposited in the *Hypatia* archive at SIU-Edwardsville (established by Peg Simons in the mid-1980s), but a great many other *Hypatia*-related files have never been systematically collected, and few are publically accessible. This is an important juncture at which to take stock of the existing SIU-E archive, and develop plans for building as complete and useable a set of *Hypatia* archives as we can. We envision this as a complement to Joan Callahan and Nancy Tuana's oral history project, "Feminist Philosophers: In Their Own Words." To move this project forward we propose to create an archive task force to help us do the following:

- Take stock of the current *Hypatia* archive at SIU-E and develop a plan for handling editorial office files, especially digital media files, as well as policy on confidentiality for review files;
- Develop a strategy for encouraging and coordinating the submission of hard copy archival material held by *Hypatia* founders, editors, affiliates, contributors to the existing SIU-E archive or elsewhere;
- Lay plans for an open access, online archive that will make key archival material publically available;
- Assess the potential for developing a web-based community history project.

HypatiaOnline:

In our proposal for the current editorial term we identified the development of a strong web presence for *Hypatia* as our top priority and propose that we approach this in several stages. In 2009 we purchased a domain name and server space to host *HypatiaOnline* ("hypatiaphilosophy.org" at JustHost.com), and created a *HypatiaOnline* section of the editorial office website which now hosts the 25th Anniversary conference proceedings, podcasts and streaming videos. We feel, however, that we need some expert advice about how to proceed and propose the creation of a task force of web-savvy *Hypatia* affiliates who can help us with the following:

- Identify the roles / functions that *HypatiaOnline* might usefully play, given the range of sites, blogs, and other online resources for feminist philosophers that already exist;
- Advise on whether there is a niche for a *Hypatia* discussion board that would complement rather than duplicate existing blogs, and consider more generally how best to mobilize online discussion of *Hypatia* special issues, features, and new books in print;
- Assess the potential for developing a work in progress site and/or a repository for feminist philosophy conference proceedings (like the PhilSci archive);
- Make suggestions about the format that an online *Hypatia* archive and, potentially, a community history project might take;
- Recommend priorities among these initiatives and give us logistical advice: what would be required to sustain these ventures, and who should be responsible for them.

Diversity initiatives:

Linda Alcoff has agreed to take the lead in establishing an advisory committee to advise on how *Hypatia* might best ensure that it is robustly and proactively inclusive. Initiatives on which we seek advice, or that are already in process of being implemented, include a commitment to:

- Draft a pro-diversity statement to be posted on the *Hypatia* website and in all *Hypatia* publications;
- Review the composition of the *Hypatia* Editorial and Advisory Boards, and to make it a priority, when electing board members, to recruit minority and underrepresented feminist colleagues;
- Actively recruit open submissions, special issue proposals, and thematic clusters of manuscripts that represent the interests and the work of minority and underrepresented feminist philosophers.

In addition, we are exploring the possibility of developing a *Hypatia* Diversity Fund, to be used to support an interlocking network of projects and initiatives:

- A diversity-fostering essay prize, proposed by Shari Clough and Naomi Zack at the 25th Anniversary conference;
- A workshop fund to foster innovative feminist philosophical work on diversity issues and support minority or underrepresented feminist scholars in developing projects that reflect their interests;
- A conference travel fund for emerging and independent feminist philosophers, especially those working on diversity issues;
- A publication subvention fund to help cover the permissions fees required to reprint *Hypatia* articles in anthologies that address diversity issues.