Overview

Princeton's 2018 Compass workshop took place at Princeton University from February 9th through the 11th. The workshop featured a discussion session on the first night on facilitating discussions and philosophy more generally, and five paper sessions over the course of the two remaining days. The paper sessions were led by undergraduate students on papers in a variety of sub-disciplines within philosophy. Graduate mentors from Princeton University, Columbia University, and Rutgers University participated in the seminar discussions and all workshop events. The readings that were selected for discussion this year are listed below.

In addition to discussion sessions, the workshop featured two lunchtime advice sessions with faculty mentors on the following topics: (1) what does it mean to be a professional philosopher? (2) being a minority in philosophy, and (3) how to get the most out of your academic experience. We also hosted a coffee and tea session on applying to graduate school.

2018 Workshop Directors:
Alejandro Naranjo Sandoval & Claudia Yau

2018 Readings

Ishani Maitra: “Silencing Speech”
Rachana Kamtekar: “Social Justice and Happiness in the Republic”
J. L. A. Garcia: “The Heart of Racism”
Ruth Chang: “Hard Choices”
Ryan Preston-Roedder: “Faith in Humanity”

2018 Undergraduate Participants

Lorenzo Benitez (Cornell University)
Natalie Cernius (Harvard University)
Malley Chertkov (Wellesley College)
Yangqiu (Hazel) Deng (New York University)
Firdaus Gupte (New York University)
Lauren Harcarik (U Mass Amherst)
Héctor Hernández (Yale University)
Kylie Long (Cornell University)
Xinhui (Xin) Yong (New York University)

**2018 Faculty Mentors**

Elliot Paul (Columbia University)  
Sukaina Hirji (Virginia Tech)  
Emmalon Davis (The New School)  
Grace Helton (Princeton University)  
Rachana Kamtekar (Cornell University)  
Jessica Moss (New York University)  
Hendrik Lorenz (Princeton University)

**Participant Comments**

“This workshop was excellent. It was intellectually stimulating and it made me feel so much more comfortable speaking and engaging during workshops. I’ve been in classes for two days since the workshop, and already my participation in philosophy classes feels so different.”

“I LOVED it. Thank you /so/ much for allowing us to present our papers, and for giving us so much honest mentorship through the panels and even one-on-one.”

“I had a wonderful time at the workshop. I loved the discussions and the readings, and I really appreciated the mentoring from the Graduate student mentors and faculty. I felt really supported and encouraged to pursue Philosophy.”

“Truly one of the most rewarding experiences I've ever had.”

“I really enjoyed the weekend! The panels were informative, all ran smoothly, and I feel that I've gained key insight into the prospect of graduate school. The community-building aspect I believe is immensely valuable.”

“Compass was an incredible opportunity! The mentoring/advising part was really excellent: it was helpful to hear the ins and outs of applying to graduate school and being a graduate student in philosophy from both faculty and grad students. Having a better idea of the process really solidified my interest in applying.”

“The workshops were EXCELLENT. The grad students were so incredibly effective at reframing our discussions and keeping the conversation relevant but inspiring. I have a great academic environment at my college, but this surpassed it.”

“I loved how friendly and welcoming everyone was. I particular appreciated having mentors sitting in our paper discussions and allowing us to learn from them. Furthermore, the environment was so encouraging and uplifting that it inspired me in many ways.”