

Conference and Publishing Workshop

Philosophy Department Placement Committee: Al Frankowski, Bonnie Mann, Rocio Zambrana, Naomi Zack (chair). Friday, March 4, 2011, 3-5PM, room TBA

1. Conferences

- Why Attend or Participate? To **join a wider professional community**, of the discipline and your specialization; meet new peers; make contact with leading members of the discipline/your specialization; get feedback on your own work; find out what is considered important in the areas that interest you and what is new; develop **professional and personal confidence** in a wider arena. Sometimes, conference **presentations may be published in conference proceedings**.
- Conference activities: presenting a paper(s), attending sessions, socializing, being seen, and becoming known for your work.
- Conference types
International, National, Regional, Specialization-based.
- How the culture of different conferences vary: **from impersonal and businesslike to informal and friendly**. In time you will get to know a group of people who do work similar to your own. They will attend your papers and you theirs and some will become colleagues and friends. This can happen in the context of large business-like conferences, as well as small informal ones.
- Mechanisms and Procedures.
Conferences are **usually announced** through professional societies, listservs such as philosophy@lists.edu or philosophy updates, a google group, which goes to philosophy@lists.edu. In addition, your friends and colleagues may pass information along. Often there is a call for papers, either in the form of abstracts, or papers themselves. See particular conference specifications. Pay attention to deadlines.
- Sometimes, **funds are available for graduate student travel to conferences**, from the conference organization, but more often, you will be expected to pay for your own conference transportation, food, and lodging.
For information about U of O Philosophy Department conference funding, see http://pages.uoregon.edu/uophil/graduate/placement_success/#trav

2. Publishing

- **A published article may start out as a class paper** that is submitted and accepted for a conference presentation that later becomes an article. Most published articles, including those in conference proceedings, are peer reviewed. Chapters in anthologies may be invited and accepted without peer review, but many are now peer reviewed.

Peer review is the highest standard for published articles. Your article is first accepted for review and then **reviewers recommend rejection, substantial changes, or minor changes.** If your article is accepted pending revision, you are given a deadline to re-submit your manuscript. If the manuscript is accepted, some months later, you will get a copyedited version of it. Here, you will be able to accept or reject suggested changes. After copyediting, some months later, you'll get page proofs to approve with minor changes, and some months after that your article will appear in print.

- **Other sources for articles may be your history paper or a chapter from your dissertation, revised as stand-alone pieces.**
- **Your dissertation is likely to be the basis for your first book.** The main difference is that a dissertation, as a student exercise, is often mostly exegetical and critical, presenting original ideas in the last chapter or conclusion; but a book with original ideas would clearly present those ideas as its theme(s).
- **It is harder to write a book than an article, but often easier to get a book published,** because book publishers are usually professionals who need new material, whereas journal editors are overworked academics who struggle under their own deadlines, to make decisions about more submissions than they need. Book editors are always on the lookout for new material, but journal editors are under pressure to process new material that is constantly being submitted.