WFAP Proposal: Words & Power

Whilst many historical contributions to "liberation" philosophy[1] (the philosophies of race, gender, sexuality, disability, etc) have come from outside analytic philosophy, more recent works have either heavily employed analytic methodology or simply been a work of analytic philosophy. In particular, philosophy of language has played an invaluable role by providing new tools for understanding oppression and disadvantage. Concepts such as hermeneutical injustice and conceptual engineering, whilst clear and distinct products of the analytic tradition, are becoming invaluable assets to liberation philosophy. Moreover, the use of these concepts in practical philosophy is driving innovation in the theoretical domain. Old debates, such as Internalism vs Externalism about meaning, are being driven back into the foreground in order to facilitate the needs of applied philosophy.

This proposal focuses on three areas: liberation philosophy, philosophy of language, and the intersection of the two. Consequently it takes a very broad-scoped look at a number of surprisingly interconnected fields in philosophy. A practical consequence of this is a very topically diverse program, whilst still remaining "on a theme". This is advantageous so as to provide papers of interest to a wider range of people. The proposal involves works both from very applied liberation philosophy and from highly theoretical philosophy of language, and everything in between. The consequence is a broad but topically connected program that fulfills both a function of social engagement, as well a thorough and rigorous exploration of theoretical, analytic philosophy.

Reading Suggestions:

"Core" texts are marked with a *

Liberation Philosophy
- Sara Bernstein, the metaphysics of intersectionality (https://philpapers.org/rec/BERTMO-45)
- Sally Haslanger, what are our intuitions: philosophical analysis and social kinds (https://philpapers.org/rec/HASPAA)
- Mari Mikkola, Sex in Medicine: what stands in the way of credibility? (https://philpapers.org/rec/MIKSIM-2)
- Havi Carel & Ian James Kid, Epistemic Injustice and Illness (https://philpapers.org/rec/KIDEIA-4)
- Quayshawn Spencer:
  - A radical solution to the race problem (https://philpapers.org/rec/SPEARS)

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[1] I avoid the term "critical theory" as, at least conversationally, it implies a "continental" as opposed to an "analytic" methodology.

- - Race Realism I: Are Biological Races Real (https://philpapers.org/rec/SPERRI-2)
    - Race Realism II: Are Folk Races Real? (https://philpapers.org/rec/SPERRI)
  - Jeffers, Haslanger, Spencer, Glasgow; Four Views about Race *
    (https://philpapers.org/rec/GLAWIR)
  - Alice MacLachlan, Closet Doors and Stage Lights: On the Goods of Out
    (https://philpapers.org/rec/MACCDA-7)
  - Elizabeth Barnes, The Minority Body (https://philpapers.org/rec/BARTMB-3) *

Philosophy of Language
  - Jennifer Saul, Lying, misleading, and what is said (https://philpapers.org/rec/SAULMA-3)
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  - Gillian Russell, True in virtue of Meaning (https://philpapers.org/rec/RUSTIV)
  - Saul Kripke, Naiming & Necessity (https://philpapers.org/rec/KRINAN) *
    - Quentin Smith, Kripke, Marcus and the Origin of the New Theory of Reference
      (https://philpapers.org/rec/SMIMKA) *
  - James McGilvray, Meanings Are Syntactically Individuated and Found in the Head
    (https://philpapers.org/rec/MCGMAS)
  - Richard Kimberly Heck, Use and Meaning (https://philpapers.org/rec/HECUAM)
  - Imogen Dickie, Understanding Singular Terms (https://philpapers.org/rec/DICUST)
  - Plunkett & Cappelen, A Guided Tour of Conceptual Engineering and Conceputal Ethics
    (https://philpapers.org/rec/CAPAGT) *
  - Stephen Koch, The Externalist Challenge to Conceptual Engineering
    (https://philpapers.org/rec/KOCTEC)
  - Sarah Sawyer, Truth and Objectivity in Conceptual Engineering
    (https://philpapers.org/rec/SAWTAO-2)

Intersection
  - Mirander Fricker:
    - Epistemic Injustice: The Power and Ethics of Knowing *
      (https://philpapers.org/rec/FRIEIP)
    - Epistemic Justice as a condition on Political Freedom
      (https://philpapers.org/rec/FRIEJA)
  - Adèle Mercier, A Perverse case of Contingent A Prior: On the logic of Emasculating
    Language. (https://philpapers.org/rec/MERAPC-3)
  - Alessandra Tanesini, Arrogance, polarisation, and arguing to win
    (https://philpapers.org/rec/TANAPA-6)
  - Mari Mikkola, On the apparant antagonism between feminist and mainstream
    metaphysics. (https://philpapers.org/rec/MIKOTA-2)
  - Jennifer Saul, What is happening to our norms about racist speech?
    (https://philpapers.org/rec/SAUWIH)
  - Joshua Habgood-Coote, Fake News, Conceptual Engineering, and Linguistic Resistance
    (https://philpapers.org/rec/HABFNC)

- Sally Haslanger, Resisting Reality: Social Construction and Social Critique (https://philpapers.org/rec/HASRRS) *

Possible Invited Speakers:

Assuming the conference is held virtually, any of the above would be acceptable.

If the conference would be in person, the following ar some Europe based speakers appropriate for the topic:
- Jennifer Saul (Sheffield)
- Sarah Sawyer (Sussex)
- Mari Mikkola (Oxford)
- Joshua Habgood-Coote (Bristol)
- Closer to home, Delia Belleri (Vienna)