MAP
MINORITIES AND PHILOSOPHY

By the end of its second year, MAP had **80** chapters in the US, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Hungary. In this report, we describe some of the year's activities, impact, and difficulties. We consolidate a range of lessons learned across our chapters, noting trends and making suggestions where relevant.

Trends & Impact

1. **Increased inter-chapter collaboration:** We see a continued trend of successful inter-chapter collaborations. As MAP becomes a more established network, we encourage members of different chapters to work together on larger projects for sustained support and reach.. Such collaboration allows members to achieve novel and meaningful outcomes, and establishes connections between chapters that benefit both members and departments long-term.

2. **Increased work on inclusive pedagogy**: Several chapters successfully held inclusive pedagogy-themed workshops and other events. These do not only push for the inclusion of more diverse texts in e.g., reading lists or introductory classes but also review the teaching techniques that graduate students (often teaching assistants) use in their classrooms as educators.

3. **Public philosophy:** Chapters have shared both an increased interest and an increased development of MAP organized projects that reach into communities beyond the university campus. Some examples of such projects include philosophy in prisons and philosophy in elementary and middle schools. See below in the section "Our Plans" for more on collaborative and organizational efforts along these lines.

Problems & Solutions

1. **Undergraduate outreach:** Many chapters have attempted to incorporate undergraduate participation or have sought to provide support for undergraduate philosophy students. While there is interest in expanding a MAP community beyond the university's graduate philosophy students, many chapters have found it difficult to effectively balance support for both undergraduate and graduate students or to organize events that are attended by both communities. As MAP continues to evolve and expand, we have compiled a short list of suggestions in how your MAP chapter can effectively support an undergraduate-inclusive community.

Some suggested solutions:
- Make events specifically geared toward undergraduates, such as writing workshops on how to write a philosophy paper, information sessions about graduate school, and other mentorship programs.
- Encourage undergraduates to take on a leadership role in MAP.
  - This also can help relieve some of the burden on graduate student organizers.

- Locate undergraduate-specific resources on your university's campus and direct undergraduate MAP participants to apply for said resources.
  - In doing so, graduate MAP members can aid undergraduate students to take leadership roles in particular events they may otherwise not feel empowered to pursue.
  - In doing so MAP undergraduate members can find more sustained resources (financial or otherwise) that they have access to in virtue of their university membership.
- Reach out to your Undergraduate Philosophy Society (if one exists); students are often eager to have graduate student participation.

2. **Reinventing the Wheel:** We often see chapters struggling to come up with event ideas or solutions to what are, in fact, common problems. Our suggestion: Don't reinvent the wheel! We've compiled lists of all [events](#) that have happened since MAP's founding. You can also check out our Newsletters and previous End-Of-Year Reports for highlighted events and solutions to other common problems, respectively, [here](#).

Some suggested solutions:
- Collaborate with other chapters! (See also (3) below.)
  - This also helps increase attendance at events and spreads the burden on organizing.
- Check out [our](#) and other MAP Chapters' Facebooks for other ideas
- Share the knowledge! Let MAP International know which events have been most successful or if you have any suggested solutions for common problems.
  - Notify us of any [resources](#) you've compiled, such as a [Diversity Reading List](#) or a Best Practices Guide.

3. **Insufficient Organizer and Chapter Support Generally:** Many found it hard to organize successful MAP events on top of their many other obligations. We express solidarity with this difficulty: all too often, people from underrepresented groups contribute extra administrative time and effort, and running a MAP chapter can exacerbate this problem. This labor is typically uncompensated or undercompensated.

Some suggested solutions:
- Have 3-4 core members.
- Regularly schedule meetings and activities.
- Make more use of the website: there are many useful compiled resources.
- Build regional collectives. These can be formally run collectives, like MAP UK or the SoCal (Southern California) network of MAP chapters, or informal networks. These networks allow a diffusion and division of labor across more people and increase everyone's ability to cope with organizing demands.
  - Check out our [map](#) of all MAP chapters to see if there's a MAP chapter near you.
- Current organizers are encouraged to document all of their resources (e.g. meeting notes, funding applications, etc.) to sustain a chapter's history and make the eventual transition of leadership easier.

4. **Insufficient Organizer and Chapter Support for Public Philosophy:** This problem is redoubled for chapters doing significant public philosophy work. This work often involves navigating two different institutional structures (the public's own and the university's own), and increased teaching load (when

teaching off campus, e.g. a philosophy class taught in a local prison). Even if these programs survive initially, another setup will be necessary to ensure that these are sustainable, given the high turnover of graduate student populations. We propose providing organizer stipends directly or indirectly.

Some suggested solutions:
- Find extra-departmental campus resources.
  - Get involved with other organizations who are working on the same issues.
- Form regional ties so multiple chapters can share the financial burden, labor, and other resources.

Our Plans

1. **APA Presence** - APA Presence. MAP is planning to organize formal meetings at each of the major philosophy conferences (APA Eastern, Pacific, and Central). These will allow organizers to meet each other all at once and help set an organizational agenda for the International.

2. **Role of International** - There are some questions among MAP organizers about the role of MAP International in chapter organizing and events. In the coming academic year we will be attempting International support of multi-chapter initiatives, particularly the public philosophy initiatives being currently run or proposed by MAP chapters. Our role in this organization will be a topic of discussion at the APA meetings.

3. **International Pedagogy Challenge** - One important example of the role of the International is the International Pedagogy Challenge. Soon after the beginning of the academic year, we will ask chapters to volunteer to host an event, workshop, or department town hall on inclusive pedagogy to facilitate a simultaneous discipline-wide conversation about these practices, which we hope will amplify all of the chapters' previous individual one-off efforts.

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