

## Call for Papers

### The 2nd Conference of the Asian Association for Women Philosophers (AAWP) The 2019 Biannual Conference: “Gender, Power and Dignity in Theory and Practice”

Kyoto University will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> biannual conference of the AAWP.

#### **Details:**

Date: August 22-24, 2019.

Venue: International Science Innovation Building at Kyoto University, Symposium Hall (5F).

#### **Background:**

The AAWP was conceived in 2016, following an initial proposal by professor Kim Heisook of Ewha Womans University (university president since 2017), to which women philosophy professors from universities in Korea, China, Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines, and the United States responded. The inaugural conference was held in 2017 at Ewha Womans University (Seoul). The theme for the first conference was “Asian Women Philosophers.” Not only did this conference provide a unique opportunity for Asian women philosophers to autonomously run their own conference, but it also helped the participants reciprocally energize their academic activities, while building a foundation for gender equality within the academy. In total, around twenty women philosophers from the above listed countries were able to attend.

The second AAWP conference, to be held at Kyoto University, will have the theme of “Gender, Power and Dignity in Theory and Practice.” Alongside a consideration of gender theory in the East and the West, participants in this conference will philosophically examine actual gender related problems within the various cultures and societies of Asia.

**Submission deadline:** May 20, 2019

#### **Submission guidelines:**

- Please submit abstracts (200 words) to [aawp2019@gmail.com](mailto:aawp2019@gmail.com).
- All submissions must be in .doc, .docx or .pdf formats and should be prepared for review.
- Please include in your email the following details: (i) author’s name; (ii) paper title; (iii) institutional affiliation; and (iv) contact information.
- Responses to submissions will be sent by **June 30, 2019**.

#### **Purpose of the 2nd Conference of the AAWP:**

This organization has the unique mission of getting women philosophers together in order to explore the pressing issues of our time. In the case of Japan, the host country for the 2<sup>nd</sup> conference, a great deal of sociological, literary and historical research has already been undertaken on the topics related to gender and feminism. When it comes to philosophy, however, there is a stark absence of preceding research. One reason for this state of affairs may be the small ratio of female philosophy researchers within Japanese universities, such that the very idea of taking up the “existence of women” as a subject of investigation is less likely to occur. (The

ratio of women researchers who specialize in philosophy stands at 19.1%, according to publicly available data on the home page of the Statistics Bureau of Japan). The aim of this conference, therefore, is to establish a friendly, collegial environment for predominantly Asian women philosophy researchers to reflect upon – both as researchers and as gendered individuals in modern society – their own existence as women.

During the course of the conference, Asian researchers will have an opportunity to conduct dialogue with each other, considering different problems, societies, environments, and perspectives, and in light of these contexts to re-examine the situations within their own respective societies (e.g., why it has been difficult to increase the number of women philosophy researchers within Japan, and why younger women philosophy researchers have more difficulty in securing regular employment, etc.).

The theme of this conference, “Gender, Power and Dignity”, is to be interpreted broadly, such that it potentially incorporates within it questions of gender, power and dignity relationships, the power structures of society, or the special capabilities of women. For this reason, we also wish to incorporate the perspectives of female researchers from disciplines outside of philosophy, such as law, sociology and so on. Therefore, this conference should also serve as a forum for interdisciplinary discussion.

Theorists such as Beauvoir, Irigaray, Kristeva, Butler, Scott are frequently referred to in scholarly literature on gender and feminism. However, the question remains as to whether, for example, the problems of gender that emerged within the context of Japanese history and culture could be adequately explained only through western theories. In order to properly investigate the gender problems of Asian societies, it seems that it is necessary to re-consider the traditional thinking of Asia, and, on the basis of this re-consideration, work to interpret anew these western theories. Female researchers from Korea and China who have taught in western universities will be taking charge of presenting this form of comparative research.

The conference also deals with both the theoretical and practical dimensions of the #metoo movement, which, in recent years, has not only demonstrated the reality of the power imbalance and dignity between different genders, but also shows the violence that this power imbalance has inflicted upon victims of the power structure, along with its social implications.

Finally, the conference also deals with the issue of power and dignity with regard to the situation of the job market for young female professionals. We will work to have graduate students engage with the conference, exploring new perspectives of the younger generation on gender issues, as well as the difficult situations they experience in their lives in general and within the professional world in particular.

We also plan to invite male scholars to share female scholars’ works and foster positive dialogue between scholars of different genders.

### **Organizing Committee:**

Advisory: Heisook KIM (President of Ewha Womans University)

Board Members:

Mayuko UEHARA (Kyoto University, Executive Director) [Contact](#)  
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