PES 2017 Program Chair’s Report

1. First, I want to extend my sincere thanks to the 2017 Program Committee for their dedication, time, and care in reviewing the paper submissions and alternative session proposals.

   Committee members:
   Nick Burbules, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
   Cristina Cammarano, Salisbury University
   Sarah DesRoches, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
   Mario di Paolantonio, York University
   Michael Gunzenhauser, University of Pittsburgh
   Sophie Haroutunian-Gordon, Northwestern University
   Naomi Hodgson, Liverpool Hope University
   Liz Jackson, University of Hong Kong
   Clarence Joldersma, Calvin College
   Rob Kunzman, Indiana University
   Tyson Lewis, University of Northern Texas
   Cris Mayo, West Virginia University
   Paula McAvoy, University of Wisconsin
   Peter J. Nelsen, Appalachian State University
   Rebecca Taylor, Emory University
   Winston Thompson, University of New Hampshire
   Joris Vlieghe, Liverpool Hope University
   Bryan Warnick, Ohio State University

   Each member reviewed 12-13 papers and 4-5 alternative session proposals, and their feedback was immensely helpful in making what are sometimes difficult decisions about which submissions to include on the program and which had to be declined.

   Thanks also to Jacqueline Barreiro, our Graduate Assistant, for her technological and organizational skills, and to Natasha Levinson and Ryan Ozar for their help, especially in the early stages of the process, and for sharing their Google Drive archive of documents and templates.

   2. This year we received 113 submissions in total: 73 full paper submissions and 40 alternative session proposals. The number of full papers was smaller than in recent years, but it was interesting to note an increase in the number of co-authored paper submissions.

   In order to keep the acceptance rate at about 40% we accepted 28 papers for concurrent sessions and 3 papers for general sessions (for a total of 39 paper presenters, including co-authors). We accepted 25 alternative sessions (themed panels and authors/editors/translators meet critics sessions) and 10 works-in-progress, some of which had originally been paper submissions but which the reviewers thought better suited to a WIP session.
3. Regarding representation on the program, we have 163 individuals from 17 countries as presenters, respondents and/or chairs. (Several people appear in more than one role.) Of this total, there are 76 women and 87 men.

4. In addition to the reviewed papers and alternative sessions, the program includes the following special sessions:

   a. the 2-day Preconference Institute: Critical Thought, Social Justice: The Disruption of Dominant Political Discourse and the Disruption of Philosophy of Education, generously sponsored by Educational Theory and hosted by Chris Higgins (editor of Educational Theory) and Kal Alston (Chair of the Committee on Race and Ethnicity);

   b. the plenary session, Creating a Welcoming Climate at PES: Engaging the Proposed Safe Environment/Anti-Harassment Policy, co-sponsored by COSW and CoRE (Chairs: Natasha Levinson and Kal Alston);

   c. the Mentoring Breakfast hosted by the Jobs for Philosophers of Education and Membership Committees (Chairs: Cara Furman and Winston Thompson);

   d. the Kneller Lecture, Historical Understanding and The Blemish of Extraordinary Moral Legacies, by Georgia Warnke, from the University of California Riverside;

   e. the Presidential Session devoted to the launch of the first two papers in COPA’s White Papers series: Transgender Student Advocacy and Support: Evolving Ethics in a Time of Devolving Policy, by Cris Mayo, Aidan Key, and Scott Gust; and How Should Educators Think about School Shootings? by Bryan Warnick, with community members responding.

5. In closing, my sincere thanks to Lonna Smith for her support, attention to detail, and insider knowledge of conference organizing, hotel contracts, etc.; to Josh Corngold for keeping us all on track and afloat (literally and figuratively); to Debby Kerdeman for her leadership and for inviting me to serve as program chair; and to Sam Rocha for his good humour and responsiveness in posting numerous drafts of the program, updates, etc., and for dragging me into the 21st-century world of Twitter and Facebook.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Chinnery