Mentoring in the Philosophy Department: Summary of Policy and Practice

The Philosophy Department has operated a mentoring scheme for junior faculty since September 2012. The mentor meets regularly with the junior faculty member, gives feedback on papers and projects, and advises on research choices and the important task of building an academic profile and reputation. The mentor also advises on the proper way of preparing for Columbia’s various reviews of junior faculty. When the mentor is on leave, a replacement is appointed to avoid gaps. The current assignment of mentors to Columbia-employed junior faculty is as follows:

Tamar Lando: Achille Varzi
Justin Clarke-Doane: Katja Vogt
Kathryn Tabb: Patricia Kitcher.

Since September 2015, we have instituted additional secondary mentors for junior faculty. This is not only because a second source of advice is sometimes desirable, but also because so many junior faculty in philosophy (and certainly all those listed above) have two areas of specialization, and the two areas are rarely if ever covered by any single tenured faculty member. Thus Lando works both in logic and epistemology; Clarke-Doane on ethics and on modality; and Tabb works on both history of philosophy and on general philosophy of science and medicine. The mentors listed above are experts in the first of each of these pairs of specialization. For the second mentors in each case, we are assigning Christopher Peacocke for Lando in epistemology; Achille Varzi for Clarke-Doane on modality; and Philip Kitcher for Tabb on general philosophy of science and medicine.

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