Crones* in Training
A Fugacious Research Circle

"Philosophy like you give a fuck; philosophy like you don't give a fuck"

Public Description

*The term "Crone" is understood in a gender-neutral way. (Scroll to the bottom for my relevant conception of the term.) If this term seems exclusionary, lemme know. The invitee list includes a wide range of genders.

When & Where

- Redacted

Organiser

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Structure

- One person will present an idea, topic, or question *very briefly*. i.e., 8-10 minutes.
- This micro-presentation will be just long enough to articulate the basic topic/idea/question.
- We will then discuss it.
- There will also be some chat.

Some Potential Topics

Consider your coolest, most interesting, open-minded friend who does *not* have a PhD in philosophy.

- What questions might they find interesting?
- What questions does your (or their) unusual perspective, choices, or lifestyle raise?

This could be, for example:

- Autobiographical philosophy: Philosophy questions raised by a life experience.
- Marginalised philosophy & social contexts: Drugs, orgies, kink, mental health, obsession, ritual, the occult, tarot, countercultural community, polyamory, hot takes on ghosting & similar contemporary dating habits, self-harm(?), trauma, arguments, giving up, burn out, self-improvement, snobbery, solastalgia, protest, hot takes about the academy, gender, LGBTQ philosophy, asexuality, sex drive, divorce, parenting, pregnancy, work, class, social power, sex work, body image, relationship to body/food, experiences of fucking up morally or having character vices & flaws, meaning in life. [suggestions for other topics encouraged]

    - Especially where your ideas couldn't easily appear in a mainstream conference, i.e, because of autobiographical content, social position, prejudice against the topic, or your hot take, value judgement, or perspective, etc.
- So long as it's accessible to non-experts and/or the kinds of questions that non-experts might care about, then the group also welcomes:
    - Interesting threads in M&E, such as narrative, self-conceptions, language
    - Street, pop, or working class aesthetics.
    - Fascinating/relatable/marginalised questions about emotions, attention, relationships, etc.
- Any relevantly similar topics. Aim for interesting, marginalised topics & methods that don't normally have a space in analytic philosophy.
    - This includes multi-modal philosophy, such as philosophy through art, interactive 'facilitated workshops', etc.

<u>More Background</u>

Here are some *metaphilosophy* questions that interest me:

- How to do philosophy like you give a fuck whilst, also (in another sense) doing it like you don't.
- The nature of autobiographical philosophy: Distinctive challenges, opportunities, & methods
- Dreaming what academia could be: Creative & cool approaches to thinking together
- How to gather bad-asses together for badassery, without thereby being exclusionary. (This dull question is a perennial concern for me.)

But I don't want to spend time discussing the methodology directly. (i.e, how philosophy could be done differently).

- At this point, I just want to *Do The fucking Thing*.
- Hence this mini-research series

<u>Non-Judgementalness & Openness</u>

I'm interested in cultivating philosophical spaces that allow researchers to bring their "whole person" or "authentic self" to the table; and creating scholarly spaces that foregrounds marginalised topics, experiences, & perspectives.

- For that reason, it is important that participants are not overly judgemental or censorious.
- That can really kill a vibe, and prevent people from expressing themselves freely.
- If you tend to be censorious or judgemental, this is not a good group for you. Please don't attend.

Ideally, participants are already comfortable in conversations about sexual pleasure, drugs, etc.

- No need to disclose your own experiences, of course, but just 'be cool' about hearing about edgy, marginalised topics.
- That said, my '*be cool or opt yourself out'* edict does *not* extend to topics that people find triggering. We will figure out how to navigate potentially triggering topics (like ED, self-harm, addiction, & sexual violence) if the need arises. That is, we'll cross that bridge if we get to it.

The Presentation: Guidelines

We are a mixed group, coming from aesthetics, social philosophy of language, metaphysics, phil science, social epistemology, history of philosophy, psychology, etc.

- Thus, the 8-10 min "presentation" should not require expertise or background in a specific discipline.
- That is, the presentation should be accessible to any philosophy researcher, regardless of AOS.

Scruffy, embryonic, & weird work is appreciated.

- The presentation need not be polished or professional, or have an orthodox structure.
- The ideas should **not** be especially well-developed.
- This is an opportunity to present/discuss left-field, wild, edgy, or newly-formed ideas. i.e., the kind that typically don't get heard in academic talks.
    - Please don't spend this opportunity on some well-developed epicycle on modal epistemology, or whatever. I love that stuff, but not in this group.

Please think of this session as an opportunity to ignite fun and interesting conversations, and receive left-field ideas about your topic. As (socially privileged) researchers, we have ample opportunities to give & receive detailed, specialist feedback, especially criticisms, with sub-field experts.

This group is more focused on fostering the joy and fecundity of thinking together.

This means that–instead of a presentation–**feel free to just describe a thought-provoking scenario or ask a cool question.** We will then spend the entire session talking about it, and that would be dope.

Expectations/Preferences/Vision

- What I would love is for approximately the same eight-ish people to attend all the gatherings, to generate a community.
- But I cannot be bothered to schedule that in advance. I've done a lot of that. Scheduling is time consuming.
- So I'm inviting a bunch of people, and seeing what happens.

- But *ideally* I would like the same attendees to attend all four sessions, to build community.
- Upon sending the invite, if I haven't heard from you after a few weeks, I'll either send a follow up or simply remove you from the email list, depending on our prior closeness.

This is an "ideas incubator" for weird, marginalised, or edgy ideas. But, also, hopefully it might help to spark new innovations towards more creative, audacious, welcoming, or experimental scholarly gatherings.

FAQ

Will there be required reading?
No.

Will this group continue after four meetings?
Idk.

Why the Crone?
The crone has seen & done a lot. They have fucked up. They have created magic. They have worked on themselves.

The crone nurtures & protects the community. But I don't mean "protects" in the normal sense: i.e, stopping "bad" outsiders from harming "innocent" community members. Instead, I mean that the crone protects their community members from becoming dickheads, or from being too sheltered; or from not pushing themselves.

The crone protects people they love from settling for the status quo.

The crone gives a fuck. The crone doesn't give a fuck.



← Imagining what philosophy can be

(image credit)