Editors’ Farewell Introduction

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There are disadvantages to a regularly rotating editorial team. Just as we begin to feel at ease in the work, it is over. Just as we finally discover a filing system that makes sense, we need to pack it up—virtually or otherwise—to pass on to the next team. And what has been slowly building into a passionate attachment to the journal, and to maintaining its strength and vitality, must then experience a break-up.

Yet there are important advantages as well, and not just to our overloaded desk space. Feminist philosophy is still a new entity. Its future is open; its development is still in process. The rotation of editorial leadership is a means of keeping this open-endedness alive in a real sense, not simply as an expression of a preference, but as an operating plan in action. We have a passionate attachment to this plan as well. We want the field to remain alive and to grow in directions and dimensions beyond our own capacity to chart or map out.

We hope this last issue of our editorial term showcases the pluralist philosophical approach we have endeavored to protect and nurture, including, as it does, papers that range in content from hard-nosed analytic philosophy to continental philosophy and philosophy of culture, engaging broadly with neuroscience, Foucault, Habermas, Nietzsche, and the debates over autonomy, epistemology, science, race, human kinds, and language. Yes, it is possible—even desirable, even urgent—that these broadly different arenas of the feminist philosophical world should be engaged in productive conversation with one another.

In the last five years, we have also endeavored to build on past successes and to create new mechanisms for Hypatia’s future success including, most important, a significant expansion of the journal’s online presence, from EarlyView access that makes new articles available within months of acceptance to Virtual Issues that showcase past Hypatia content, from videos and photos and other supplementary material linked to published articles, to the Animal Others online symposium and the 25th Anniversary conference discussion board. Our most recent venture has been to launch an exciting new platform for book reviews: Hypatia Reviews Online (HRO). We thank the members of an ad hoc Hypatia Online task force who helped us set priorities in this domain (Susan Brison, Kate Norlock, Jenny Saul, and Gwynne Taraska), and we hope that this new venue for the review of feminist work—which includes a growing archive of past reviews—will ensure that the flourishing mass of

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work in feminist philosophy being produced today receives a full measure of discussion and analysis.

As the philosophy profession begins slowly, slowly, to make inroads in addressing its “demographic challenges,” we recognize the significant contributions made by an emerging small but critical mass of women of color, disabled, and queer women, and have made it a priority to address issues of diversity and intersectionality in feminist philosophy. This has included expanding our reviewer base, revising the guidelines for reviewers, making explicit our commitments to diversity in the first description of Hypatia one reads on the website, encouraging the development of related special issues, and inaugurating a Diversity Essay Prize to promote the development of this work. Congratulations to Anna Carastathis for winning this prize and to Jen McWeeney for winning an Honorable Mention! We would especially like to publicly thank Mickaella Perina and Ofelia Schutte for all the work they did to select the prizewinner from an impressively strong set of submissions—one that was much larger than we had anticipated (and initially told them to expect). Ofelia also deserves our heartfelt thanks, along with Uma Narayan, Mariana Ortega, Kathryn Gines, and Kristie Dotson, for selflessly serving on our Hypatia Diversity Initiative Committee, helping us develop our understanding of how Hypatia is doing and how we can concretely improve in these areas. Their collective input was extremely helpful.

Of course, there are many more thanks and acknowledgments in order. It has been a pleasure working with Eric Piper and the editorial team at Wiley-Blackwell; they have been extraordinarily supportive, helping us navigate a complicated transition in the world of journals, and dramatically expanding the reach of Hypatia worldwide. Lori Gruen, who with Alison Wylie took on the challenge five years ago of making this transition, continues to contribute her vision and energy as a guest editor and member of the Associate Editors. Most important, the brilliant and efficient editorial office staff we have been fortunate to recruit at the University of Washington are truly, as Quine once pithily put it, “without whom not”: Managing Editors Gwynne Taraska, Janice Moskalik, Karen Emmerman, and Asia Ferrin, and Editorial Assistants Renée Byrd, Rachel Fredericks, and Elizabeth Scarbrough. Despite all odds, they managed the journal (and sometimes managed us!) with tact, efficiency, patience beyond all reason, and good sense, philosophical and otherwise. A key offsite member of this team has been our copy-editor, Julie Perkins, whose attention to the details that matter has improved our philosophical prose many times over. Our excellent Associate Editors, led by the ever-organized Heidi Grasswick, provided invaluable and wise input on a range of matters from Special Issue submissions to diversity initiatives and, most recently, on the reorganization of our several editorial and advisory boards. Our Special Issue editors, including Diana Tietjens Meyers, Marin Gillis and Inmaculada de Melo-Martín, Debra Bergoffen and Gail Weiss, Lori Gruen and Kari Weil, and Sally Scholz, took the load off our shoulders and produced first-rate issues, developing new areas of work that will influence the field for many years to come. The Special Issue editors we commissioned who will have issues out shortly—Kristie Dotson, Chris Cuomo and Nancy Tuana, and Kim Q. Hall—have been a pleasure and an inspiration to work with as well. We
know that their issues will be game changers in women of color feminist philosophy, gender and climate change research, and feminist disability philosophy.

Finally, there is one piece of internal business regarding our editorial team. Although we have truly worked as a team, with, sometimes, exhaustive democratic process and multiple consultations at every step, there is no question in the minds of Ann, Linda, and Sharyn that Alison Wylie has not only been the visionary leader for many of the journal’s recent innovations, but has also borne the brunt of the operation over these last five years. She has wrangled unheard of cooperation from the press, attended to all of the critical business and financial challenges that arose, managed the journal offices at the University of Washington with aplomb, and provided a high bar of intellectual standards and philosophical capacities. Alison is, as those who know her often say, a force of nature. This journal and we three will remain in her debt for some time to come.