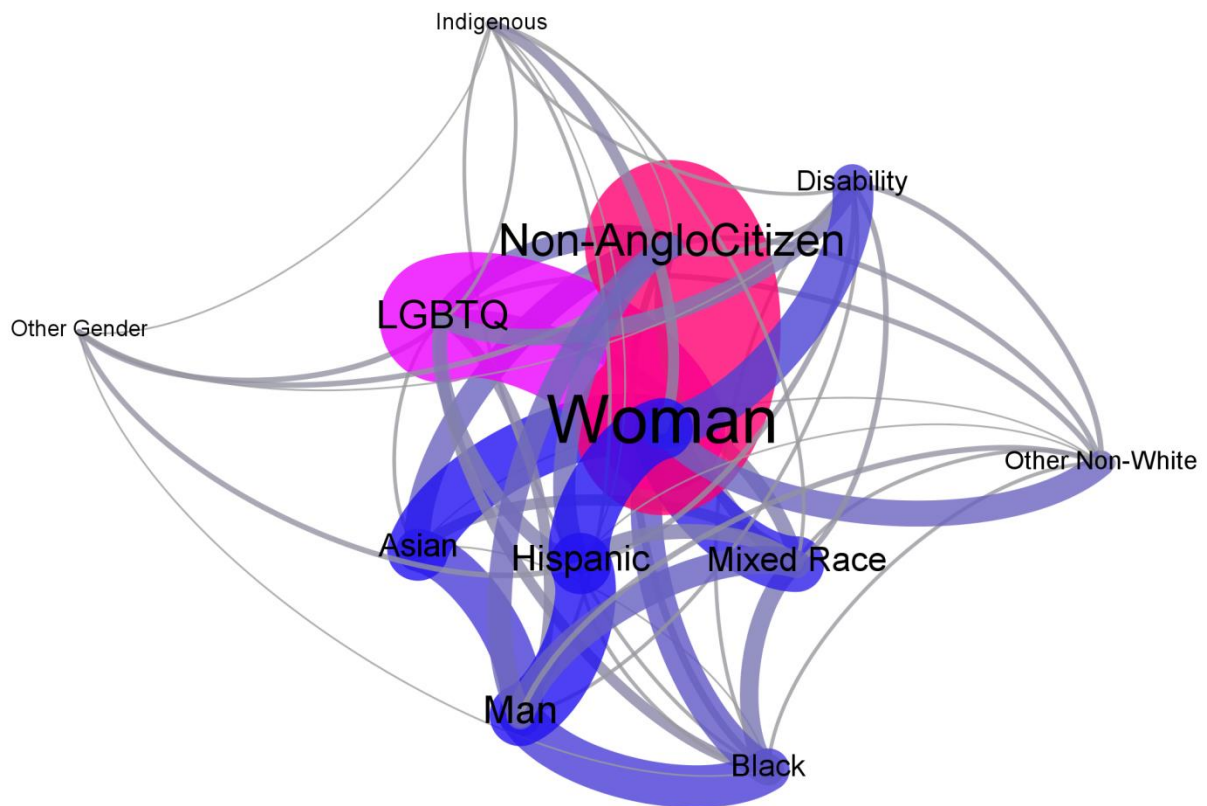


Relational Mapping of Minorities in Philosophy

by Andrew Higgins (aahiggi@gmail.com)¹

The figure below represents a network of minority group membership in philosophy. This was generated from information in [The UPDirectory](#) which, as of 12/21/14, had a list of 860 philosophers in the directory. Insofar as this directory is representative, this information provides an invaluable perspective into the social network of professional philosophy. These graphs show the frequency of each minority (= label size) along with how often two groups overlap (= edge width/color). So, from these graphs we get a picture of the demographics of the field, both in terms of the numbers of minority philosophers and which groups are most interrelated. For example, we see that most of these philosophers are women, and significantly more LGBTQ women than men. Below the graph, you can also see various other bits of info on minorities in philosophy, along with more details pictures of philosophy's sub-disciplines.



Network Details: Nodes = group labels; edges (lines) = co-occurrence of two labels in a single biography; edge width & color reflect the frequency of this co-occurrence, and label size indicates the number of philosophers identifying with this label (larger = more). Graph layout is based on the ForceAtlas algorithm (10x repulsion; .1x attraction; 4x expansion).

¹ I'm a recent graduate of University of Illinois, specializing in metaphysics and digital humanities, and currently working at Heartland Community College. You can see similar graphs based on data from PhilPapers, PhilJobs, PhilSurvey, and the SEP at [my website](#).

Labels: Labels were shortened to save room; below you can see the exact meaning of each label.

Asian: Asian

Black: Black

Indigenous: Indigenous/Native

Hispanic: Latina/o/Hispanic

LGBTQ: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Queer

Man: Man

Mixed Race: Multi-racial

Non-AngloCitizen: Not a Citizen of an Anglophone Country

Other Gender: Other Gender

Other Non-White: Two categories were combined: Other Non-White Race & Other Non-White Self-Identification

Disability: Person with a Disability

Woman: Woman

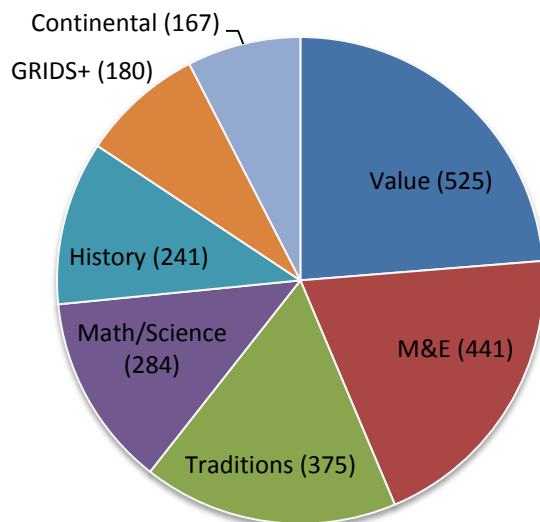
Results: In this table you'll see the number of philosophers identifying with each group.

Woman: 758	Multi-Racial: 45
Non-Anglo Citizen: 110	Black: 42
Man: 86	Disability: 26
LGBTQ: 78	Other Non-White: 19
Latina/o/Hispanic: 74	Indigenous: 9
Asian: 60	Other Gender: 6

Upshots: Insofar as this group of philosophers is representative, we see...

- Very few gay men represented (6 M + LGBTQ vs. 72 W + LGBTQ)
- Among racial minorities women slightly outnumber men (Asian: 23m/32w; Black: 23m/17w; Latina/o 33m/33w)
- Very few men with disabilities (2m vs. 22w)
- Roughly equal LGBTQ representation in Anglophone and non-Anglophone countries.
- Anglophone philosophers are less likely to identify with a racial minority (32% vs. 23%)

Minority Philosophers by Sub-Discipline

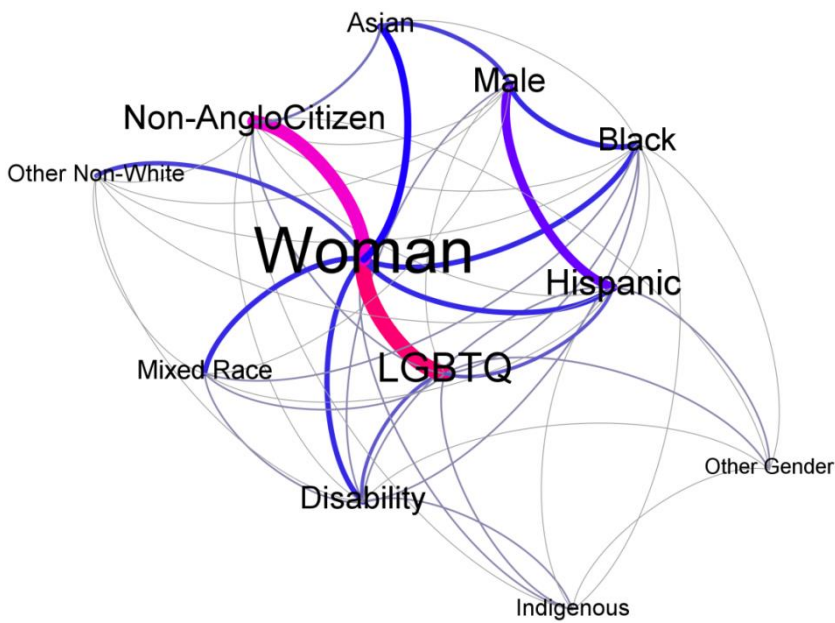


This chart shows the number of minority philosophers who identify with sub-disciplines within these seven general areas (note that the whole pie is >100%, due to individuals falling into 2+ categories). Naturally, we should ask, how do these numbers compare with philosophy in general? Well, when compared with data from PhilJobs (AOS categories), PhilPapers (article categories), and the SEP (citation network), **minorities in philosophy are more likely to work in Traditions or GRIDS+, and less likely to work in History or Math/Science.**

When compared to the number of articles archived by PhilPapers, we see this:

	PhilPapers	Minorities
Continental	7.1%	7.5%
Value	26.8%	23.7%
M&E	19.6%	19.9%
Traditions	3.7%	16.9%
Math/Science	22.8%	12.8%
History	18.5%	10.9%
GRIDS+	1.4%	8.1%

Below you'll see graphs for each major sub-discipline in philosophy. I've included the more particular AOSs for these groups, along with specific minority categories that are notably higher or lower, as a percentage of the sub-discipline, in each AOS group. At first glance, these graphs all basically look the same, so the purpose of the high/low info is to highlight aspects of these sub-disciplines that would not be obvious from the pictures.



Continental

Contemporary Continental Philosophy, Continental Philosophy, Critical Theory, Existentialism, Hermeneutics, Phenomenology, Post-Structuralism, Psychoanalytic Theory, Speculative Realism

High: Black, Disability, Hispanic, Man, Other Gender, Other Non-White

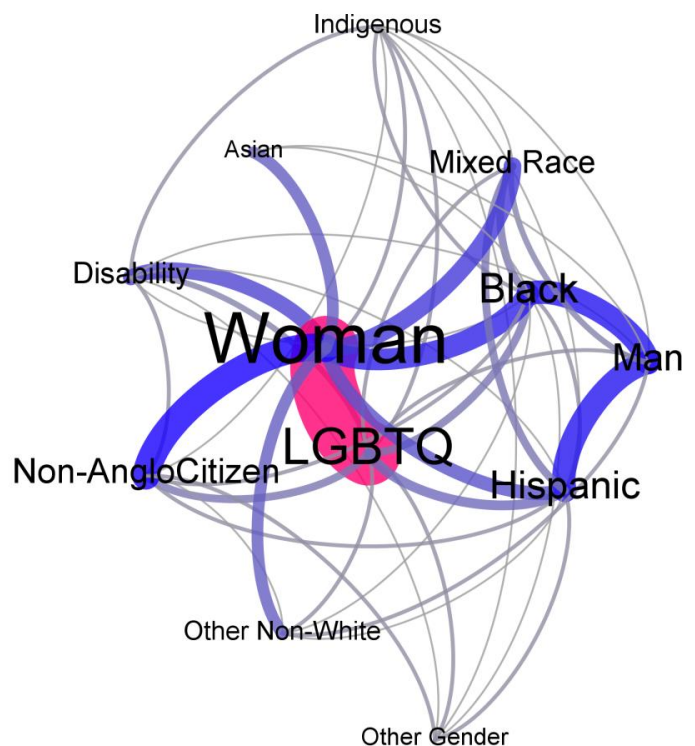
Low: Multi-racial, Woman

GRIDS+

Philosophy of Gender, Race, Intersectionality, Disability, & Sexuality

High: Black, Disability, Hispanic, LGBTQ, Man, Multi-Racial, Other Gender

Low: Asian, Non-Anglophone Citizen, Woman

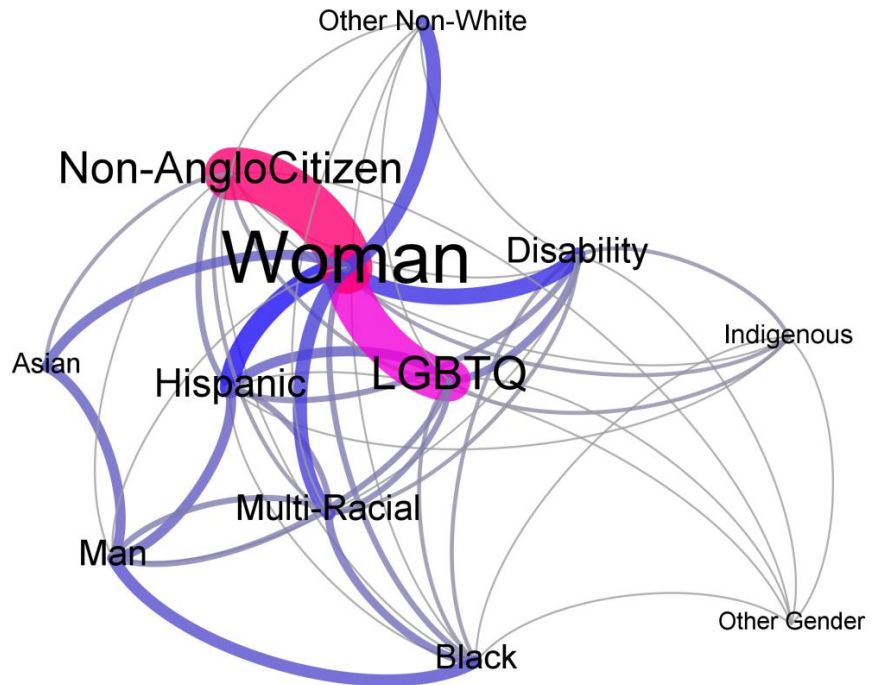


History

Ancient Greek & Roman, Medieval & Renaissance, Early Modern, 19th & 20th Century

High: Woman

Low: Asian, Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, Man, Other Gender

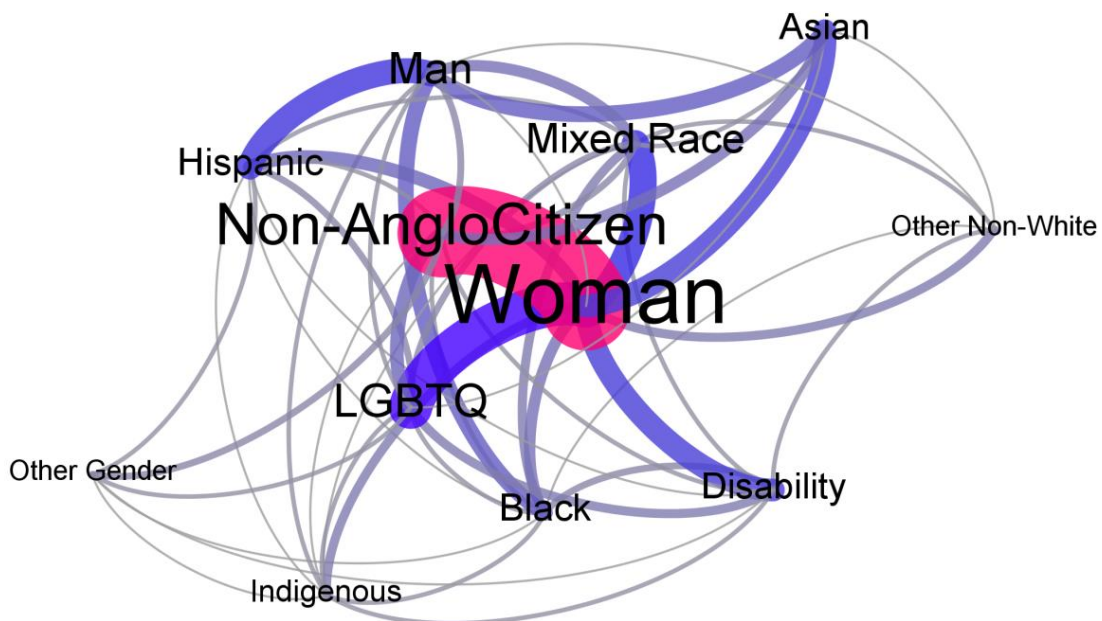


Logic, Math & Science

Decision, Game, & Rational Choice Theory, Logic, Philosophy of Logic, Biology, Cognitive Science, Computing, Information, Technology, Mathematics, Medicine, Neuroscience, Physics, Probability, Science, & Social Science

High: Indigenous, Multi-Racial, Non-Anglophone Citizen

Low: Disability, Hispanic, LGBTQ, Man, Other Non-White

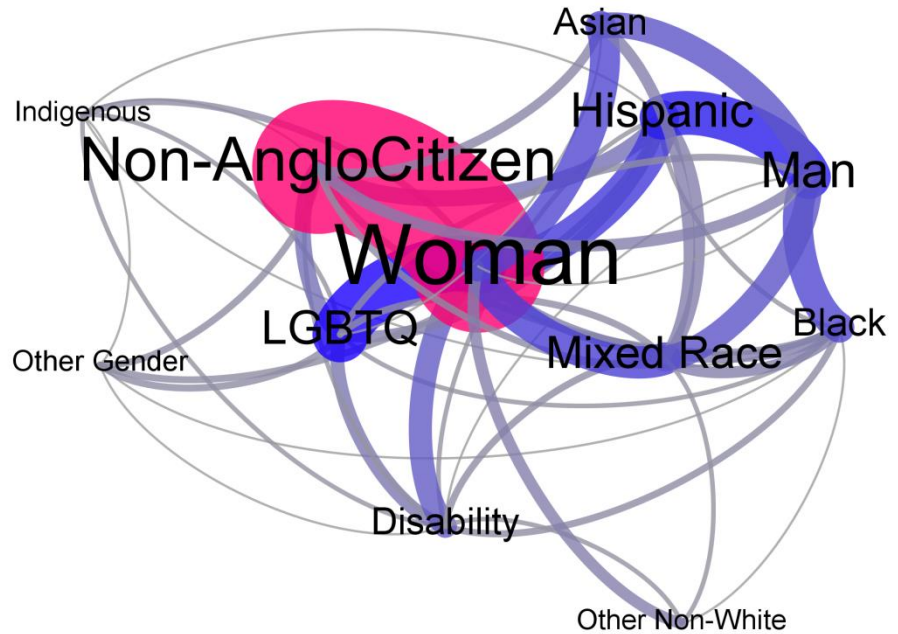


Metaphysics & Epistemology

Epistemology, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Action, Language, Mind, Psychology, Religion

High: Non-Anglophone
Citizen, Woman

Low: Black, Disability,
Indigenous, LGBTQ,
Other Non-White

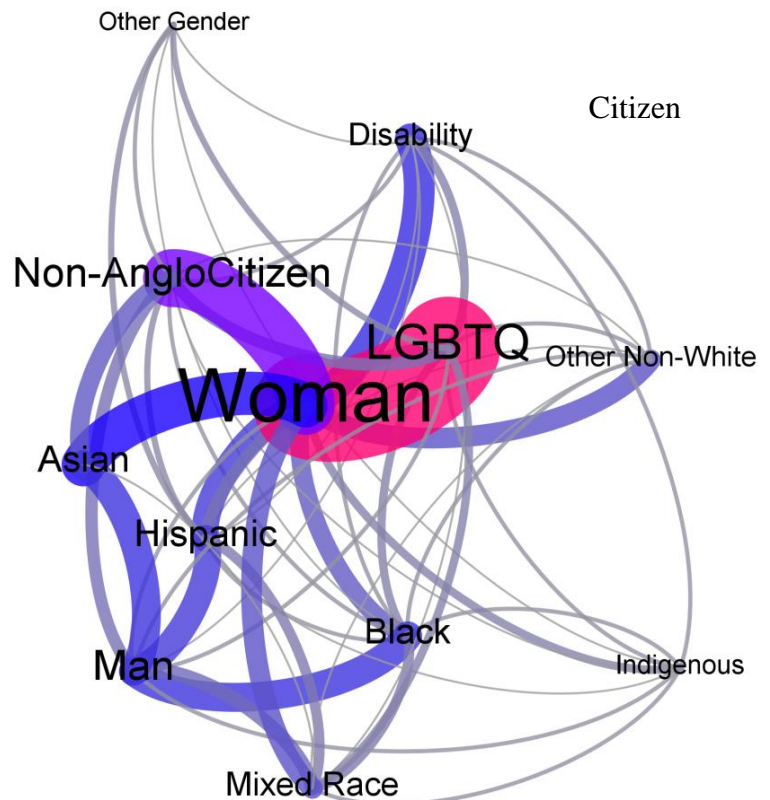


Traditions & Movements

African & Africana, African American, American Indian, Arabic, Asian, Comparative, Environmental, European, Feminist, Indigenous, Americas, Pragmatism

High: Asian, LGBTQ

Low: Multi-Racial, Non-Anglophone



Value Theory

Aesthetics, Philosophy of Art, Ethics, Applied Ethics, Bioethics, Child, Family, Parenting, & Reproduction Ethics, Meta-ethics, Moral Psychology, Normative Ethics, Philosophy of Education, Law, Love & Sex, Practical Reason, Social & Political

High: Asian

Low: Man, Other Gender

