

Dear MtQ Network Members,

We hope this finds you all thriving at the start of the summer! We're writing today to let you know about some wonderful events and calls for participation in projects to do with Quartet. If you'd like us to advertise your event, please let us know!

All the very best,  
Ana and Eva from [\(Women\) In Parenthesis](#)

1. Call for Participation: **WIP "Work-in-Progress" online series**, October 2024- June 2025.
2. [Durham Collections Fellowships year 2024-2025](#). These are competitive one-month fellowships which would enable visitors to use the Midgley Archive. Honarariums of £2000 are available and PhD bursaries of £600.
3. **Lund 'Somerville Quartet' conference**, 13-16<sup>th</sup> June 2025, organized by project partners Jonas Hansson and Frits Gåvertsson, abstract and deadlines for CFP below. Would be fabulous to see a big gang of us.
4. CFP **Towards the History of a Heterodox Tradition in Analytic Philosophy: Transformative, Humanistic, Conversational**, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan, March 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 2025, description below.
5. Call for Participation: The *AIRE Attentive Inquiry Reclaiming Environment* Project is looking for female Murdoch scholars who are interested in **recording an unpublished Murdoch poem**, description below.
6. A researcher in the US has been in touch to ask if anyone in the network is in a position to dicuss the **history and reception of Anscombe's reply to Foot on abortion** in *The Oxford Review*. Please contact Rachael Wiseman ([rachael.wiseman@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:rachael.wiseman@liverpool.ac.uk)) if you are keen to take this discussion forward.
7. Yasuhiro Yotsumoto, the Japanese poet who took part in the Midgley Project "Notes from a Biscuit Tin" in 2020 along with Istvan Zardai, will be at a **poetry event in Newcastle** on 27 August 2024. Free admission, Literary and Philosophical Society, 6pm-8pm (doors open at 5.30pm)

### **Call for Participation: WIP "Work-in-Progress Series"**

It's wonderful to see the growing numbers of researchers working on the Quartet on MtQ! We very much hope that the map is coming in useful and helps you to find like-minded researchers near you. In order to get to know each other better, to foster collaborations and give each other feedback, we would like to run a "Work in Progress Series" on topics within the scope of interest of the [\(Women\) In Parenthesis](#) project, i.e. on Elizabeth Anscombe, Philippa Foot, Mary Midgley and Iris Murdoch, either individually or in connection to each other, or on people and projects within their vicinity such as Dorothy Emmet, Mary Warnock, Julius Kovesi etc.

We're planning to hold the meetings on Zoom, at 3pm UK time and for one and a half hours. They will start in October and will continue every two months during the academic year. The day of the week and the exact dates are yet to be decided. We warmly invite you to present your work, share ideas, put forward plans for future research, etc. If you're interested, please get in touch with Ana Barandalla [anabarandalla@me.com](mailto:anabarandalla@me.com) by the end of 31 August 2024, so we can work out an initial schedule. We very much hope to see many of you online soon!

All the best,  
Ana

### **The Somerville Group: Influences, impact, and legacy**

Lund University, Lund, Sweden  
13-16 June 2025

Recently there has been a surge of interest in the so-called 'Somerville group', or 'quartet'—i.e. a group of philosophers including Gertrude Elizabeth Margaret Anscombe, Iris Murdoch, Mary Midgley and Philippa Foot. This conference aims to act as a platform for showcasing research about the Somerville philosophers, either as a group or as individuals in order to aid in the collective undertaking of surveying the state-of-the-art of current research and outline how to move forward. Topics might include, but are not limited to: the Somerville philosophers' predecessors and contemporaries, their influence and legacy, their usage of historical, or genealogical, modes of argument and use of history, their contributions—either individually or as a group—to moral philosophy, philosophy of mind, metaphysics, and other sub-fields of philosophical inquiry, as well as interventions in the ongoing debate about the benefits and potential pitfalls involved in regarding the four as a group. We also welcome contributions pertaining to the Somerville philosophers by scholars from outside philosophy and the history of philosophy such as for example intellectual history, gender studies, and comparative literature. Please forward abstracts of up to 300 words by 1 March 2025 as well as any inquiries, including inquiries concerning accommodation, to Frits Gävertsson ([frits.gavertsson@kultur.lu.se](mailto:frits.gavertsson@kultur.lu.se)).

### **Towards the History of a Heterodox Tradition in Analytic Philosophy: Transformative, Humanistic, Conversational**

Vita-Salute San Raffaele University  
Milan, March 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

#### **Description:**

A widespread impression is shared among scholars that a heterodox tradition can be found within contemporary analytic philosophy. It is reasonable to assume that such a tradition – characterized by family resemblances rather than by necessary and jointly sufficient conditions – exists and is well recognizable. However, its exact contours and nature are a matter of debate. This tradition is

often identified either by providing an open and incomplete list of authors – among them Cavell, Williams, Rorty, Bernstein, Margolis, Diamond, Murdoch, McDowell, MacIntyre, Wollheim, Brandom, Conant, the “later” Putnam, Foot, Winch, Midgley, Hampshire, Nussbaum, Mulhall, Shusterman, Price – or by concocting such labels as post-analytic philosophy, perfectionism, Wittgensteinian philosophy, post-Sellarsian thought, and philosophy as a humanistic discipline.

The present conference, organized in the context of a PRIN 2022 research project, originates from the conviction that, though useful, such labels do not allow one to write a comprehensive history of the heterodox tradition or to distinguish it from both the analytic mainstream and non-analytic or continental traditions. The conference is intended as a moment of reflection on the interpretative keys and methodological tools necessary to make such a history possible, as well as on significant case studies offered both by individual philosophers and wider currents of thought.

In a preliminary fashion, we propose as interpretative keys three main intertwined features that characterize the tradition under investigation:

a) **Transformative Analysis:** Philosophy is a distinctive kind of therapeutic activity, which does not consist in providing a reductive or connective analysis of concepts in the abstract, but rather aims at concretely transforming the subject engaged in the philosophical investigation.

b) **Humanistic Style:** The writing style has a genuine philosophical import and is no mere ornament. Form matters for philosophical content, as it does for other humanistic disciplines, in the measure in which the text addresses and challenges the reader rather than merely conveying a neutral message.

c) **Conversational Stance:** Conversations are constitutive of philosophical activity in at least two senses: philosophy involves personal dialogues rather than impersonal truths, and it constructs itself through the exchange with other disciplines (such as art criticism, literary criticism, film studies, psychoanalysis, and the cognitive sciences) and with non-analytic philosophical traditions (most notably pragmatism, hermeneutics, existentialism, post-structuralism, feminism, Hegelianism, and Marxism).

The call for proposals encourages a variety of approaches and contributions on these and other sub-topics, addressing scholars in the fields of history of philosophy, ethics, aesthetics, political theory, philosophy of language, film studies, comparative literature, North American studies, gender studies, intellectual history, history of ideas, and digital humanities.

After the conference, we will also explore the possibility of composing a collection of essays.

Please send your proposals (max. 300 words) and a short bio (max. 150 words) to [heterodoxconference@gmail.com](mailto:heterodoxconference@gmail.com) by November 1st, 2024. We will share the results of the selection process by November 15th.

**Calling all female Murdoch scholars!**

We hope this email finds you well. We are Lucy Elvis and Michela Dianetti from the University of Galway. We are currently working on a project funded by the Irish Research Council entitled *AIRE Attentive Inquiry Reclaiming Environment*. The project uses Iris Murdoch's novel *The Unicorn* as a provocation to attend to our thinking about home, nature, transformational experiences and suffering.

You can see some details about here:

<https://aireinquiryandenvironment.wordpress.com/>

The project has three phases:

- Communities of Inquiry reading groups
- An academic conference
- Public engagement through an exhibition and a *field guide to The Unicorn* (developed through phase one.)

We are contacting you to invite you to participate in creating a sound piece for the third phase of the project: an exhibition of new art and reproductions of archival material that examines Iris Murdoch's relationship with Ireland in the context of nature and the imagination.

We are incredibly excited to have been granted permission by the Iris Murdoch Archive to create a recording of an unpublished poem entitled *Music in Ireland*. For this, we are hoping that female and female-identifying Murdochians will lend us their voices by recording one of the drafts of the poem. This will become a sound work in which six lead voices are heard reading drafts of the poem which then layer with the voices of many different female Murdoch scholars to create a wall of sound that should be really beautiful.

This will involve recording yourself reading the poem using a free software that can be downloaded to most computers or as a voice note if you have a high-quality microphone on your smartphone.

We will need you to complete a recording and submit a release form by mid-August.

If you would like to take part, email [attention.y.t.t@gmail.com](mailto:attention.y.t.t@gmail.com) with the subject line:

'Music in Ireland- I'm in!' before August 5th.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Lucy and Michela