

Report – Sandrew Travel Prize 2023-2024

Katerina Jennings

First-Year DPhil Candidate, Faculty of Philosophy



Thanks to the generous support of the Sandrew Travel Fund, I was able to take up Dr. Matthew Liao's invitation to join him at the New York University Centre for Bioethics for three weeks as a Visiting Researcher in March in order to further my DPhil project and begin work in earnest on my book, *Gender Ethics: The New Gender Debates*, due to be published by Polity Press in 2025. I was also able to take up an invitation to speak at the annual Midsouth Philosophy Conference, held this year at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee.

My DPhil in Philosophy project aims to address the wide gap between policy and the philosophical literature by providing a comprehensive account of how to handle the case of transgender individuals in sex-segregated spaces, such as U.S. prisons, single-sex schools, and international sport. It will determine whether the existence of those spaces is morally justified and, if so, what legislation should be in place to best adjudicate and manage those spaces.

As a Visiting Researcher at NYU, I was able to present a current section of my DPhil (and chapter of my book) that I've spent my first DPhil year thus far working on about transgender inclusion and fairness in sport to him for feedback, and he was hugely forthcoming and helpful to me with regards to advice on writing my first book on such a controversial topic in philosophy as well. The goal of the former chapter is to analyse the current regulations and bans put in place by international sporting regulations in the name of 'fairness', and to provide a structure for how I think these organisations should proceed. Matthew and I look forward to staying in touch as the project develops, as he's kindly offered to have me back at NYU at a later date of my choosing.

The goal of the other DPhil chapter I worked on while in the U.S. is to analyse the current segregation systems at play in prisons around the world and explore which, if any, requirements transgender individuals should have to meet to be placed in accordance with their self-determined gender identity. Following my previous work teaching philosophical ethics from within the U.S. prison system at the New York Rikers Island Correctional Facility (the largest prison complex in the U.S.), I was able to use my time in New York to return to study and contribute to the limited research available with regards to gender segregation in the American prison system as part of the Rikers Debate Project, an organisation I remain in touch with since I moved to the UK to begin my DPhil in 2023.

After spending some time in New York, I was able to travel to Memphis, Tennessee, to speak at the annual Midsouth Philosophy Conference, held this year at Rhodes College, where I spoke on a paper I'm working on entitled *Is it Fair for Transgender Women to Compete in Women's Sports?*. Speaking at this prestigious conference was great preparation for my upcoming DPhil Transfer of Status viva this Trinity Term 2024, during which I'll be presenting my research on the roles gender and inclusion play in the philosophy of sport to two members of the Faculty of Philosophy for review and discussion.

Following the conference, I've also stayed in touch with several academics I met at Rhodes, including the Chair of Philosophy, Rebecca Tuvel, who I've since been working with to aid her in an upcoming televised debate she has with famed philosopher and self-described gender-critical feminist Kathleen Stock at Cornell University. This will be instrumental in my future DPhil work on the subject of single-sex spaces and transgender inclusion.

