

## Application for a Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Grant

Eric Dugdale, Dept. of Classics: edugdale@gustavus.edu, February 2012

### Previously supported work

I received grants from the RSC Fund in 2002, 2006, 2008 and 2010. The first two resulted in book publications by Cambridge University Press (Sophocles' *Electra* and *Greek Theatre in Context*). The project funded by the 2008 RSC grant resulted in a chapter published in the volume *Institutio*, edited by Licia Landi (Pensa Editore 2011), 227-36. I am still seeking to place the article that resulted from the 2010 grant.

### Description of project

I am applying for a grant to fund the research for a study of *Molora*, a recent adaptation of the Orestes myth by South African playwright Yael Farber premiered at the Barbican Theatre in London in April 2008. The play sets the *Oresteia* in the context of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It presents the process of bearing collective witness to lived experience as central to resolving age-old cycles of violence; it sets democratic free speech and multivalence against the suppression of speech by totalitarian regimes. This play reflects shifting attitudes towards classical works in the new millennium: no longer seen as exercising a hegemonic grip, they are now called upon as valuable partners in a two-way exchange of stories. In fact, it is precisely in their departure from the original script that retellings such as *Molora* derive much of their potency. In the terms of Augusto Boal's analysis of drama (*Theatre of the Oppressed* 1974), they operate not as Hegelian closed texts whose subject-matter is drawn from the ancient past, but as Brechtian open texts dealing with contemporary issues, in which the past does not determine the future, in which myth is as alterable as the world in which it is rooted. Thus plays such as *Molora* offer an expanded understanding of the relevance of Greek drama as political drama.

### Project design

I am seeking funding to support the gathering of materials for this study, which will be the first its kind (scholarship on *Molora* has, so far, been limited to passing references to the play in larger studies). I have already done some preparatory work for this project. I gave a paper at the Classical Association of the Middle West and South conference in April. I also gave an invited lecture at the National Law School of India in December. The event was hosted by the Law School's Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP) and moderated by Prof. Avinash Govindjee (Head of Public Law, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa). In this lecture, I focused on the play's rejection of retaliatory justice and procedural justice in favor of reconciliation.

However, the most important part of the research still needs to be done. It involves collecting materials about performances of the play, especially its celebrated premiere at the Barbican Theatre in London, directed by Farber herself. These include reviews, artistic statements, playbills and production materials including photographs and film. Many of these are assembled in the Archive of Performances

**Application for a Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Grant**

Eric Dugdale, Dept. of Classics: edugdale@gustavus.edu, February 2012

of Greek and Roman Drama at the University of Oxford, the only resource of its kind. It collects materials from modern productions of ancient drama, and its archives will direct me to other available materials (e.g. at the Barbican Theatre, the National Theatre, and King's College, London). A fortnight at the APGRD will also allow me to discuss my project with leading scholars in the field of ancient drama (David Wiles, Amanda Wrigley, Fiona Macintosh, James Morwood, and Eric Handley), several of whom have seen the play in performance. I will then write up the article upon my return to Minnesota, and plan to submit it to the journal *Comparative Drama*.

The project will also enrich student learning in courses at Gustavus, in CLA 103 (*Greek and Roman Theatre*) and GRE 302 (*Greek Tragedy*). The former course has a major performance component, culminating in the Festival of Dionysus, and I plan to use *Molona* as one of the plays that we will be studying and workshoping.

**Budget**

Return airfare Minneapolis – London	\$1000
Travel within the U.K. (train, subway)	\$100
Lodging in Oxford and London (2 weeks)	\$800
Photocopying and other media reproduction expenses	\$200
<u>Subtotal:</u>	<u>\$2100</u>
Faculty stipend at rank of Associate Professor	\$600
<b><u>TOTAL:</u></b>	<b><u>\$2700</u></b>

Eric K. Dugdale  
(02/04/12)

## **Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Grant** **Deadline February 10<sup>th</sup>**

Please complete this checklist and attach it as the cover page of your grant application,  
whether you submit electronically or via hard copy.

### **Faculty Information**

---

Name: Eric Dugdale

Dept: Classics

Email: edugdale@gustavus.edu

Rank: Associate Professor

### **Checklist**

---

**Description of previous projects (and outcomes) funded by RSC grants**

**Complete project description, including separate statements of:**

- 1. Purpose.** What are the intellectual, conceptual, or artistic issues? How does your work fit into other endeavors being done in this field?
- 2. Feasibility.** What qualifications do you bring to this project? What have you done/will you do to prepare for this project? What is the time period, i.e. summer, summer and academic year, academic year only? Is the work's scope commensurate with the time period of the project?
- 3. Project Design.** This should include a specific description of the project design and activities, including location, staff, schedules or itineraries, and desired outcomes.

**RSC Budget Proposal Form**

**If successful, my proposal can be used as an example to assist future faculty applications. This decision will not in any way influence the evaluation of my application. Check box to give permission.**

### **Submission instructions**

---

*Electronic* — Submit a single document containing the entire application to [rsc-proposals@gustavus.edu](mailto:rsc-proposals@gustavus.edu).

*Paper* — Submit one (1) copy of completed application to the John S. Kendall Center for Engaged Learning (SSC 119).

- Directions:
1. Enter your **Name**
  2. Enter the **Stipend Costs**
  3. Enter the **Project Costs** (both individual costs and **Total Project Cost**)
  4. Enter **Total Amount Requested** (Total Project Cost + Stipend)

**NAME ERIC DUGDALE**

**STIPEND** (Please check one box to indicate your distribution preference)

*Note: The RSC grant will fund up to 1,500 towards **Project Costs**. If your project costs will exceed this amount, you may opt to apply a portion (or all) of your stipend to cover these additional costs. If this option is your preference, please select "Partial Amount".*

**Full Amount** (\$700- assistant professor; \$600-associate professor; \$500-full professor)

**Partial Amount** (apply a portion of the full amount to project costs)

*Partial Amount: Please indicate the amount that you would like to apply towards project costs (\$ 600 ) and the remaining stipend after this deduction (\$ 0)*

**PROJECT COSTS:** List each item individually with its cost. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

***I. Equipment (e.g. transcription machine, camera, digital recorder— but not computer hardware)***

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

***II. Materials (e.g. books, printing, software, lab supplies)***

1. Photocopying and other media reproduction expenses: \$200
- 2.
- 3.

***III. Personnel (e.g. typist, transcriptionist, student assistant)***

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

***IV. Travel (cannot include conference travel, see <http://gustavus.edu/finance/travel.php> for allowable expenses)***

1. Return airfare Minneapolis – London: \$1000
2. Travel within the U.K. (train, subway): \$100
3. Lodging in Oxford and London (2 weeks): \$800

**Project Costs Amount**

***I. Equipment***

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

***II. Materials***

1. \$200
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

***III. Personnel***

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

***IV. Travel***

1. \$1000
2. \$100
3. \$800

**TOTAL PROJECT COSTS**

**\$ 2100**

**TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED (Total Project Costs + Stipend)**

**\$ 2700**

*(Note: The RSC grant will fund up to an amount equal to your Full Stipend + 1,500 for Project Costs)*