

APPLICATION CHECKLIST
Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Grant

Deadline February 11th

Please print and complete this checklist and attach it as the cover page of your grant application.

Faculty information

Name: Lisa Heldke

Dept: Philosophy

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Rank: 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 attached as last page of application**
- ☐ **Nine (9) copies of completed application and budget (including this checklist) to be submitted to the John S. Kendall Center for Engaged Learning (SSC 119)**

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. **Yes**

Philosophers at Table: A Book Project Description

In the summer of 2010, I received an invitation from Reaktion Press (an imprint of the University of Chicago) to write a small book for a more mainstream audience on the topic of the role of food in the history of philosophy. I enlisted a co-author, Raymond D. Boisvert, from Siena College in New York. We are currently finalizing a prospectus, and are in negotiations with the press about the details of the project we have designed. I am applying for an RSC grant in order to support my collaborative work with Boisvert on the project over the summer.

Purpose. Food is everywhere. It goes without saying that it is both essential for survival and central to social and cultural life. Today the “everywhereness” of food has become a topic of considerable discussion: celebrity chefs, obesity epidemics, genetically modified plants and animals, neutraceuticals, food scares, community gardens, molecular gastronomes and hungry people fill our media.

It is more difficult to indicate how philosophy is everywhere. In part this is because, as Mary Midgley notes, philosophy is like plumbing; its significance goes mostly unnoticed—until something goes wrong. Philosophical issues run through our everyday world like the plumbing system of a major skyscraper. As things “go wrong” in that world, philosophy has experienced a surge in mainstream interest and attention; witness the popularity of phenomena such as the Socrates Cafés; philosophical blogs and websites like Askphilosophers and Philosophy Bites; and philosophical books both serious and light-hearted (including the *Plato and a Platypus* series and series on philosophy and popular culture).

When we pay attention to food, we investigate a philosophical topic not unlike plumbing. Penetrate its surface and find a proliferation of philosophical issues. Ask “what’s for dinner?” for instance, and unleash a host of questions that force us to think about our most basic orientations and beliefs. What is it to be a person? What are my obligations to others? What is the importance of beauty? What is the role for pleasure and enjoyment in our lives?

Philosophers at Table will examine the history of philosophy, to show why, where and how philosophers *have* taken food seriously—and (crucially) why and where they have not done so. The work will enter a field that is becoming quite crowded with both academic and non-academic works on food, including a small, but not-inconsiderable number of works specifically in philosophy. Our work will contribute to this field by focusing intentionally on the matter of why historical western philosophers have tended to dismiss or downplay the centrality of food in human lives.

Feasibility. My scholarly career has largely focused on food-related topics. This particular project is actually one I’ve had in the back of my mind for some years; the invitation (and the opportunity to work with a collaborator who is a superb historian of philosophy) provided just the catalyst I needed to move the project to the top of my agenda.

We will have a firm prospectus by the end of the semester. Over the summer, we would like to meet to hammer out the details of who will do which chapters. I hope we will each complete at least one chapter during the summer months. We are anticipating completing the project by summer of 2013. Thus, this RSC grant would fund a portion of the project.

Project Design. The book will be approximately 60 thousand words, and will be divided into four chapters, with a substantial introduction. I will collaborate with Boisvert, in person, in the summer. We are hammering out the details of where and how to do that, and are negotiating between two options, one of which would organize our meeting in Eugene, Oregon, where Ray will be present at a conference (and where I have other colleagues and former students), and the other of which would involve meeting in Albany, New York, where Boisvert lives. We will spend about four days together, working out details of the project. Other than that, I will work alone.

Previous Work Supported by RSC Grants

2009-10: I used my RSC grant to support a different kind of endeavor during my sabbatical. In January 2010, I participated in a weeklong silent meditation retreat, "Lovingkindness for Scientists and Educators," at the Insight Meditation Society in Massachusetts. I used another portion to take an eight-week class on creative nonfiction essay writing, offered by the Loft in Minneapolis. I must say that both of these experiences were tremendously intellectually valuable for me; during the writing class, I began (and am VERY slowly working on) a collection of nonfiction essays, and as a result of the meditation retreat, not only did I enhance my own meditation practice, but I developed ways to incorporate it into my teaching life. I also came away with an idea for an essay I hope to write, about the relationship between lovingkindness meditation and a practice I call "radical listening," about which I've written previously.

2008-09: I was granted a Research, Scholarship and Creativity grant in the spring of 2008, for the academic year 2008-09. I wrote a solicited book chapter, entitled "Three Social Paradigms: Charity, Rights, and Coresponsibility," a conference paper presented at the Radical Philosophy Association conference in November of 2008, and an invited lecture presented in Hamburg, Germany.

2004-05: I received a grant to support work on an anthology, with the working title *Good Food*. During the grant period, I was in fact able to complete the anthology. It is still publisherless. I completed another anthology during that period, however, and it has been published. *The Atkins Diet and Philosophy* is a volume in Open Court's Philosophy and Popular Culture series. During the time of the grant, I also "escorted to publication" five papers I'd had in process.

2003: I received funding to support writing a paper utilizing the thought of W.E.B. DuBois to argue that predominantly white educational institutions ought to understand their challenge not primarily as a challenge to "diversify" their student body and staff, but as a call to cultivate a robust institutional climate of *anti-racism*. That paper, entitled "A DuBoisean Proposal for Persistently White Colleges," was presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, in Birmingham, Alabama, and published in the most recent issue of the *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*.

2000: I wrote a paper exploring theoretical connections between bisexual identities and transgender identities. I presented the paper as part of a panel discussion at the national Radical Philosophy Association conference. I also presented it at the 2001 National Women's Studies Association conference, and it was published in a collection of essays in radical philosophy.

1998: I received a grant to support the research for a paper, representing part of a chapter of my book, *Exotic Appetites: Ruminations of a Food Adventurer* (Routledge). I accomplished five specific things: 1) I finished the "Cooking Lesson" paper for which I was specifically given the grant. 2) I completed a draft of one chapter of the book manuscript, and roughed out an additional chapter. 3) I revised a third book chapter. 4) I "extracted" three papers from the book manuscript, to present at conferences. 5) I wrote a solicited paper on women and recipes.

1996: I received a grant to support my ongoing work on objectivity. During the period of the grant, I wrote a draft of an article entitled "Epistemological Backpacking: Two Essentials." I presented versions of that article at three conferences. I also revised a paper on the philosopher John Dewey, which was published in a volume entitled *Feminist Interpretations of John Dewey*.

1994: I received a grant to support work on early chapters of the book *Exotic Appetites* (then traveling under the name *Let's Eat Chinese*). During 1994-95, I wrote early drafts of several chapters of the manuscript.

1991-92: I wrote a pair of papers on cultural food colonialism, delivered at the World Conference of Philosophy in Nairobi. I began preliminary work on Plato's use of food in his dialogues, and wrote a paper, "Do You Really Know How to Cook?" which I delivered at two conferences. I worked to complete the manuscript for *Cooking, Eating, Thinking: Transformative Philosophies of Food*. That book was published in 1991 by Indiana University Press.

1989: I received a grant from this fund to support summer work on *Cooking, Eating, Thinking*. During the period of the grant itself, I drafted one of the introductory essays that appear in the anthology, and selected several of the original texts included in it.

Last Updated: November 2010

- 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 Lisa Heldke

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)

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. Books
- 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. Airfare (approx 500)
2. Lodging (4 nights @ approx 60)
3. Meals (4 days at per diem rate of 60)

Project Costs
Amount

I. Equipment

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

II. Materials

1. 500

- 2.
- 3.

III. Personnel

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

IV. Travel

1. 500

2. 240

3. 240

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

\$ 1480

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED (Total Project Costs + Stipend)

\$ 1980

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