

**Support Request to the APA Board of Officers for the Interview Project,  
*Feminist Philosophers: In Their Own Words*  
*An Oral-Visual Reference Work***

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This is a request for additional funding for an ambitious oral-visual reference project originally funded by the APA in August 2004.

*Motivation for the work:* As members of the Board will know, feminist philosophy has been path-breaking in at least three ways. First, it has identified and examined the philosophical implications of gendered, classed, and ethnic biases of conventional philosophical questions, positions, and arguments. Second, as a result of this attention to issues such as gender and class, feminist philosophy has posed new philosophical questions and has transformed many of the traditional issues of philosophy. Third, feminist philosophy has introduced new subjects for philosophical consideration -- subjects such as the conflicts between rights-based and care-based approaches to morality; the expansion of maternal thinking to issues such as war and state welfare systems; the gendered, classed, and ethnic dimensions of various social institutions and practices, such as science, public education, law, and religion.

Delineating the origins of this wellspring of feminist thought provides helpful insights into the philosophical approaches of these theorists, as well as assists scholars in understanding the ways in which social movements (such as the civil rights, anti-war, and women's movements of the 1960s and 1970s) influenced academic scholarship. Our work in this project is to collect (in a digital medium) oral-visual intellectual histories and accessible overviews of the scholarship of those philosophers who first brought feminist perspectives to their work in philosophy. Many of these women are still teaching and writing; but some have retired, and others will do so over the next five years. Others are of advanced age and some are in declining health. This first generation of feminist philosophers is aging and it is crucial that we capture all that we can by and about these women while they are still with us.

*Nature of the work:* Over the last several years, we have been filming in-depth oral history interviews with the scholars who generated and initially sustained feminist philosophy in North America. The interviews include personal narratives, as well as accounts of the intellectual histories and philosophical contributions of these scholars. Questions seek to gain an understanding of the nature and extent of each woman's participation in the U.S. feminist movement of the 1970s and/or other activist movements, such as the civil rights and anti-war movements; what events/experiences/scholarship led her to bring a feminist perspective to her work in philosophy; how that perspective influenced her life work in philosophy in terms of research, teaching, and outreach activities; how her work has been received by the profession of philosophy; how she understands her contribution to feminist philosophy in particular and philosophy more generally; and how she finds philosophy and feminist philosophy today. The interviews are designed to provide a working knowledge of the

major components of each theorist's work in philosophy in a way that is accessible and pedagogically effective for undergraduates in philosophy as well as in other disciplines influenced by feminist philosophical scholarship (e.g. women's studies, social science, education, and other fields in the humanities).

*Progress to Date:* Since receiving support from the APA for our project, we have completed oral history interviews for the following twenty-two philosophers:

Linda Alcoff	Anita Allen	Sandra Bartky
Susan Bordo	Claudia Card	Lorraine Code
Marilyn Frye	Ann Garry	Carol Gould
Sandra Harding	Virginia Held	Sarah Hoagland
Alison Jaggar	Eva Kittay	Genevieve Lloyd
Maria Lugones	Mary Mahowald	Diana Meyers
Uma Narayan	Nel Noddings	Sally Ruddick
Ofelia Schutte		

Each of these interviews has been digitally filmed and is typically 6 hours in length. The full interviews will be archived in the main libraries of the University of Kentucky and Penn State University. In addition we are creating two-hour versions of the interviews on DVDs for use in classrooms.

We currently have completed or are nearing completion five of the two-hour DVDs designed for classroom use (Bartky, Bordo, Harding, Lugones, Ruddick). We are in the process of making these available to individuals and institutions. Other interviews are at various stages in the editing process. *We have enclosed a copy of the final version of the two-hour edited interview of Sandra Harding to provide you with a sample of our work.*

We have been able to accomplish this amount of work thanks both to the previous support we received from the American Philosophical Association, as well as generous support from the University of Kentucky and Penn State University. Both of us have used our yearly research and travel budgets to augment the funding from the APA rather than first spending all the funds we were provided from the APA. However, at this point, we have exhausted our APA funds and one of us is no longer eligible for research or travel support from her institution because of her medical disability status. Despite this status, Professor Callahan has been able to remain active on the project, participating as fully as ever in the interview filming and editing. Thus in order to continue working on this project, we are requesting additional funding from the APA.

We plan to spend the majority of our time over the next 4-5 years completing the editing process on the remaining seventeen interviews, but we would also like to include additional interviews with senior faculty. Among the scholars we hope to interview in the relatively near term are: Annette Baier, Judith Butler, Ann Ferguson, Anita Silvers, and Nancy Fraser.

*Requested Support and Other Funding:* We will be marketing our two-hour DVDs to individuals and institutions and expect within the next 3-5 years for the project to become self-sustaining, since all revenues from the sale of the two-hour DVDs will be used to fund future work on the project. We are thus requesting a grant of \$5,000 from the APA to sustain us during this interim period. Complete budget information is attached.

The support of the APA is acknowledged on all our products.

*Fiscal agent:* The Rock Ethics Institute at Penn State University will serve as the fiscal agent and will provide accounting and staff support for this grant.

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***Budget***

*Year One*

Travel between Lexington and State College 2 trips at \$300 per trip (housing and meals provided by PIs)	\$600.00
Interviews (two interviews paired in the same location to reduce costs)	\$1000.00
Supplies (film tapes, DVDs, etc)	\$200.00

*Year Two*

Travel between Lexington and State College 2 trips at \$300 per trip (housing and meals provided by PIs)	\$600.00
Interviews (two interviews paired in the same location to reduce costs)	\$1000.00
Supplies (film tapes, DVDs, etc)	\$200.00

*Year Three*

Travel between Lexington and State College 2 trips at \$300 per trip (housing and meals provided by PIs)	\$600.00
Supplies (film tapes, DVDs, etc)	\$100.00

*Year Four*

Travel between Lexington and State College 2 trips at \$300 per trip (housing and meals provided by PIs)	\$600.00
Supplies (film tapes, DVDs, etc)	\$100.00

**Total** **\$5000.00**