Small Grant Application

Visit http://www.apaonline.org/?grantfund to submit.
Submission Deadline: June 30, 2018

**Contact Information**

Primary Contact Name: M. Laurel-Leigh Meierdiercks

Email Address: laurelleigh@mail.usf.edu

APA Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No Only APA members may submit grant applications. Membership will be verified.

**Funding Information**

Fiscal Agent: Cameron Wright

Fiscal Agent Contact Name: Cameron Wright

Mailing Address: 8402 Cerro Circle Apt. 226, Tampa, FL 33617

Email Address: cmwright2@mail.usf.edu Phone Number: 813-999-6074

Total Funding Amount Requested: $2,700 Proposals over $5,000 normally are not funded.

**Project Information**

Project Title: PGSO Conference 2019: Non-Western Perspectives

Abstract: Abstract may be used by APA in publicity materials related to funded grants. Maximum 150 words.

This conference aims to give voice to philosophical traditions that have largely been excluded from the Western canon. Philosophical traditions from East Asia, South Asia, the Middle East and Africa, as well as indigenous peoples from the Americas are all welcome. The conference is also open to thinking from the African diaspora and immigrants to the West. Papers may be comparative, bridging the divide between West and non-West, or they may focus on often ignored links between Western philosophy and non-Western philosophy. We also encourage submissions that focus on non-Western philosophical traditions on their own terms. We will accept papers dealing with topics in any of the major fields of philosophy. The focus is on broadening and diversifying the notion of philosophy so that those contributions which have been overlooked in the academy of the US and Europe can be heard.

**Steering Committee**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institutional Affiliation</th>
<th>APA Member?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M. Laurel-Leigh Meierdiercks</td>
<td>University of South Florida</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No</td>
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<td>Cameron Wright</td>
<td>University of South Florida</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No</td>
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<td>Samuel Badger</td>
<td>University of South Florida</td>
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Attach a brief CV (maximum two pages) for each person listed, highlighting activities relevant to the project.
**Project Purpose**

*Provide a brief account of the project’s purpose, explaining its benefits for the profession and/or how it involves community outreach. Attach additional pages as necessary.*

The graduate students in the philosophy department at the University of South Florida organize and host an annual philosophy conference on a topic of our choice. The annual conference involves invited keynotes or distinguished speakers and student paper presentations. We take open submissions from graduate and undergraduate students, though most of our presenters are graduate students. Over the past few years the graduate students have been trying to focus our conference on philosophies, philosophers, and issues often excluded from the philosophical canon. We have worked to introduce these ideas and debates to the broader student body, both USF students as a whole and the students from our own classes specifically. We hope that this effort contributes to a more informed, reflective attitude among our students. Last year we hosted a conference on the topics of resistance and love, focusing on the challenges of marginalized communities. This coming year we are planning on a conference focused on non-Western philosophy, and Western philosophy engaged with non-Western thought. We want these different traditions to be able to speak on their own terms and for those voices to be heard at our university.

**Project Status**

*Describe the groundwork already laid for the project or, in the case of projects involving community outreach, the relationships already developed in the community. Attach additional pages as necessary.*

The Philosophy Graduate Student Organization has selected a committee to plan the conference and we, the committee, have decided on a topic for the conference. We have also requested a location and the appropriate funding from our institution. Next, we will write up and distribute the call for papers, as well as reach out to our desired guest speakers. Our philosophy conferences have been growing for the past decade in terms of outreach, bringing speakers from across the country. We have hosted distinguished speakers such as Daniel Garber, Jose Medina, Paul Loeb, Mark Wrathall and Elena Ruiz. We plan to invite interesting speakers for this coming conference and build on our outreach to the wider student body at USF.
Project Plan and Timeline
*Attach additional pages as necessary.*

May 2018 - Determine committee, determine topic, request location.

Summer 2018 - Propose, discuss possible invited speakers

Fall 2018 - Write and distribute call for papers, invite proposed distinguished speakers.

January/ February 2019 - Read paper proposals, make selections for speakers at the conference and send confirmations.

Early spring 2019 - Discuss and set up locations for dinner, vendors for food and drinks, and travel/ lodging for guest speakers.

Mid-late Spring 2019 - Host conference.

Outreach Plan
*Describe how the project will be advertised to the larger philosophical and/or lay public. Attach additional pages as necessary.*

We plan on distributing our call for papers via PhilPapers, the APA, and Daily Nous, as well as sending them to departments in the US and abroad. Additionally, we will have a facebook group for our conference and use it to gain more visibility. Any departments on our own campus which might have some interest in the topics, like religious studies, the humanities, history and anthropology will be informed about our call for papers as well. We will put up fliers around our own campus, and suggest students in our department contribute papers if they have anything on the topic. Lucien Monson, a colleague of ours, is helping to organize the conference and will be working as a research fellow in Fudan University, Shanghai. With the topic of the conference in mind, we would love to bring voices from outside the United States if possible.
Accessibility Plan
If the proposal involves public lectures, performances, presentations, or films, describe how the project will be accessible for disabled persons, including deaf/hard of hearing and blind/visually impaired individuals. Attach additional pages as necessary.

The building we have chosen is a more modern building which has elevators and wheelchair accessible ramps. Additionally, it has audio sound systems we can use for hard of hearing. This past year, some of us printed out our papers to pass out, including some with large font, for those who have difficulty seeing and hearing. We will do the same this coming year to ensure that everyone in the audience is able to follow the paper topics.

Evaluation Plan
Describe how the project will be assessed at its completion with an eye to what worked and what could be improved. Attach additional pages as necessary.

There are a couple of metrics which we will evaluate the success of our event by -
(1) Most or all of the invited speakers will be able to attend in person without difficulty
(2) The papers chosen will be of good quality and will produce engaging discussion
(3) Attendance at the conference will increase from the previous year
(4) There will be no significant technical difficulties or disruptions in delivering the talks
(5) Students will express interest in further events on these topics

Website Plan
If the proposal includes the creation of a website, complete the following items:
Where will the website be hosted? On our university department page and on facebook
Website URL (if known): ________________________________________________________________
Funding Plan
Describe how the project will be supported financially. Indicate other sources of funding, including funding sought and funding received/confirmed. If applicable, explain how the project will be funded after the APA grant term ends.

We are expecting some funding from the university to help cover costs at the event. Student government provides funding for events on campus that are hosted by student organizations, like the Philosophy Graduate Student Organization. Every year we submit a proposed budget and the university responds with an approved budget.

For the Spring 2018 conference, our funding from the university was $2,500. The Spring 2018 conference was highly attended, bringing in more than 300 students and numerous visitors to the university. Despite this success, when we presented the university with our proposed budget for the Spring 2019 conference, we were informed that the university was cutting back student event funding. The approved budget they have given us is only $1,300 - over $1,000 less than last year’s budget. This will force cutbacks to the conference that will inhibit its continued growth. In previous years our department has worked to raise extra money to cover shortfalls, but these are fairly limited sources which do not go as far as we need. Additionally, professors and students have spent their own money or put up their own homes to host visiting scholars.

$1,300 is nowhere near the amount of money needed to run this conference, and the deficit is no longer something that the graduate students can fundraise. Student Government is in talks with the university about increasing the funding in future years, but in the meantime we are unsure how the conference will continue without funding like the APA’s.

Budget
In third column, mark amounts requested but not confirmed with an asterisk (*).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Expense</th>
<th>Budget Amount</th>
<th>Amount confirmed or requested* from other sources</th>
<th>Amount requested from APA</th>
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4,000 1300 2,700

Proposals requesting more than $5,000 normally are not funded.
Monica Laurel-Leigh Meierdiercks  
FAO #244  
University of South Florida  
4202 East Fowler Ave  
Tampa, FL 33620  
laurelleigh@mail.usf.edu

Education:
Ph.D., University of South Florida  
GPA- 3.84/4.0  
August 2016- Present

M.T.S., Emory University  
GPA- 3.7/4.0  
August 2014- May 2016

B.A., Philosophy, Katholieke Universitat Leuven  
Graduated Cum Laude  
August 2012- June 2013

B.A., Religious Studies, Florida Southern College  
GPA- 3.6/4.0  
Graduated Cum Laude  
August 2009- May 2012

Hudson Valley Community College GPA-  
GPA- 4.0/4.0  
June 2006- June 2009

Teaching Experience:
Adjunct Instructor  
Introduction to Ethics (Fall and Spring)  
Florida Southern College, Lakeland, FL  
August 2017- May 2018

Graduate Assistant  
Introduction to Philosophy (Fall and Spring)  
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL  
August 2017- May 2018

Teaching Assistant  
William James: Psychology and Religious Experience,  
Dr. John Snarey, Candler School of Theology  
January 2016- May 2016

Teaching Assistant  
Psychology of Religion,  
Dr. John Snarey, Candler School of Theology  
August 2015- December 2015

P.A.S.S. (Peer Assisted Study Session) Instructor  
New Testament,  
Dr. Sara Harding, Florida Southern College  
January 2012- May 2012
Honors and Distinctions:

University Graduate Fellowship, 
University of South Florida August 2016- May 2017
Buckner Medal, Award for academic accomplishment in philosophy, 
Florida Southern College April 2012
Phi Sigma Tau, Academic honors society in philosophy, 
Florida Southern College 
Theta Chi Beta, Academic honors society in religion, 
Florida Southern College 
Theta Alpha Kappa, Academic honors society in religion, 
Florida Southern College

Publications, Presentations, and Theses

“Evolution of the Eye” Special presentation for Darwin Day. Hosted by the Philosophy Department of the University of South Florida. March 2018


Community Involvement:

President, Philosophy Graduate Student Organization 
University of South Florida June 2018-Present
Treasurer, Philosophy Graduate Student Organization 
University of South Florida June 2017- May 2018

Language Proficiencies:

English- Native/Proficient
German- Intermediate
Dutch (Flemish)- Intermediate
EDUCATION

PhD. student in Philosophy, University of South Florida (started Spring 2017)
M.A. in Philosophy, San Francisco State University (Graduated: Spring 2014)
B.A. in Philosophy, University of California, Santa Cruz (Graduated: 2009).
Study Abroad in the Philosophy Department, Delhi University, India (Fall 2008).
Foothill Community College, Los Altos, CA (Fall 2005 - Spring 2006).

AREA OF CONCENTRATION

19th Century German philosophy, Continental Philosophy, Philosophy of Race, Feminism, Political/Social philosophy, Philosophy of History.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Bioethics. Instructor, Philosophy Department, University of South Florida, Fall 2018
Science and Society. Instructor, Philosophy Department, University of South Florida, Fall 2018
Phil 110: Introduction to Critical Thinking. Instructor, Philosophy Department, San Francisco State University. Fall 2013.
Phil 105: Introduction to Philosophy and Religion. Instructor, Philosophy Department, San Francisco State University. Spring 2013.
Phil 101: Introduction to Philosophy. Instructor, Philosophy Department (Business, Behavioral and Social Sciences), Modesto Junior College. Fall 2015-Summer 2018 (including online). Also Gavilan College. Spring 2016-Spring 2018 (including online)
Phil 111: Ethics. Instructor, Philosophy Department (Business, Behavioral and Social Sciences), Modesto Junior College. Fall 2017.
Phil 436: Islamic Political Philosophy. Teaching Assistant, Philosophy Department, San Francisco State University. Spring Semester 2013.
Phil 516: Islamic Philosophy. Teaching Assistant, Philosophy Department, San Francisco State University. Fall Semester 2012, and Spring Semester 2014.
WGS 150: Women and Gender in U.S. History and Society. Graduate Assistant, Women and Gender Studies Department, San Francisco State University, Fall semester 2012.
Phil 101: Introduction to Philosophy. Teaching Assistant, Philosophy Department, San Francisco State University, Fall Semester 2011 and Spring Semester 2014.

PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS


“Shelter and Power – Regulating the Bodies of the Homeless” Foucault Madness Conference, California State University San Marcos, September 2014

"An Other for Every Town: Framing the Homeless Population" Branding the “Other”: Biopolitics, Memory, and Identity in Cultural Representations, University of New Mexico, April 2015

"Decolonization as Overcoming Conceptual Dualism in Fanon", Louisiana State University Philosophy Conference 2015, Louisiana State University, April 2015

“Conceptual Dualism of Colonialism”, Asociación de Filosofía y Liberación / México, Asociación Filosófica de México, Chiapas, Mexico, November 2016

“Decolonization as Epistemic Revolution in Fanon”, Resistance and Love After Foundationalism Conference. University of South Florida, April 2018

AWARDS AND GRANTS
Cal Grant recipient, Spring 2012 and Spring 2013

MASTER'S THESIS

Title: Social Alienation and the Mastery of Reason

Abstract:

McDowell argues that we are initiated into a space of reasons and develop a mastery of its use to make judgments about the world. My master's thesis takes McDowell's account of the space of reasons and looks at the way people come to reason about the world in distinct ways. I use Marx's notion of social alienation and Hegel's passage on "Lordship and Bondage" to show how workers are compelled to use reason to practically engage with the world, while their employers are freed to reason outside of such confines. This shows that even if people are operating with the same set of concepts to make judgments of the world, their experiences of the same situations or objects may differ radically based on the kinds of concepts and intuitions they operate with in their everyday life.

Committee:
Dr Mohammed Azadpur (chair) and Dr David Landy
Cameron McConnell Wright

Department of Philosophy
University of South Florida
4202 East Fowler Ave. FAO 244
Tampa, FL 33620

Tel: (813) 999-6074
Email: cmwright2@mail.usf.edu

Education:

2015-Present
University of South Florida. Philosophy

2010-2013
Bachelor of Arts, University of South Alabama.
Major: Philosophy. Minor: Geography

Position:

Graduate Teaching Assistant
Department of Philosophy, University of South Florida

Research Interests:

South Asian Philosophy/Hindu & Buddhist Philosophy
Environmental Philosophy
Spinoza

Teaching Experience:

Fall 2018
Critical Thinking - Instructor

Fall 2017
Critical Thinking – Instructor

Spring 2017
Intro to Philosophy – Teaching Assistant

Fall 2016
Early Modern Philosophy – Teaching Assistant
Critical Thinking – Grader

Spring 2016
Intro to Philosophy (online) – Teaching Assistant
Paper Presentations:

“Soteriology and Time in the Sarvastivada Buddhist Theory of dharma.”

Service:

Co-Vice President, Philosophy Graduate Student Organization (PGSO), University of South Florida – 2018-2019

Vice President, Philosophy Graduate Student Organization (PGSO), USF – 2017-2018


Session Chair, 11th Annual PGSO Graduate Student Conference. April 13, 2018

Memberships:

American Philosophical Association
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy