

***STUDENT AWARDS FOR RESEARCH AND CREATIVITY
(SARC) APPLICATION***

Application for Summer 2022 Award DUE BY 5pm, Friday, March 11, 2022

Application Instructions:

1. Identify a faculty sponsor of your research or creative project who will write a letter of recommendation in support of the application. Letter of Recommendation must be submitted by 5pm, Friday, March 11, 2022.
2. Submit application and supporting documentation online at: <https://www.csuchico.edu/ued/student-awards/index.shtml>

****IMPORTANT****

Applications or references submitted after Friday, 5:00pm, on the day of the deadline will not be considered.

Full Name: Allison Bernardi

Cumulative GPA: [REDACTED]

CSU ID #: [REDACTED] **Major(s):** Humanities and Anthropology **Expected Graduation Date:** [REDACTED]

Mailing Address: [REDACTED] **City:** [REDACTED] **State:** [REDACTED]

Zip Code: [REDACTED] **Local Phone:** [REDACTED]

Research/Creative Project Title: Identity in Flux: Exploring Cultural and Culinary Identity through Street Food Traditions in Mexico City and Los Angeles

Award Requested (choose one): Summer Award, Undergraduate **Amount requested:** \$2500

- Spring Award, Undergraduate (\$850 maximum award)
- Spring Award, Graduate (\$1700 maximum award)
- Summer Award, Undergraduate (\$2500 maximum award)
- Summer Award, Graduate (\$5000 maximum award)
- Fall Award, Undergraduate (\$850 maximum award)
- Fall Award, Graduate (\$1700 maximum award)

Will applicant be funded by any other source during the period of the project?
(If yes, details and amounts should be specified in the narrative description.)

Has applicant received a SARC award before?
(If yes, faculty sponsor must request and receive special permission prior to the
submission of application)

Has applicant applied for a SARC award before?

Chico State email address:

Faculty Sponsor name:

Faculty Sponsor email address:

Applicant Signature:

Date: 3/11/2022

Explanation of the Work

My name is Allison Bernardi and I am currently a junior at Chico State pursuing two degrees: one in Anthropology and another in Humanities. I am also pursuing two Honors programs: the Honors in General Education and Honors in Humanities. I am seeking funding from SARC to complete research for my Honors and Humanities year-long thesis project, which will compare street food traditions of Los Angeles and Mexico City. Street food is a unique culinary and cultural phenomenon; it provides a platform to push the boundaries of cultural identity — constantly reinventing culinary identity through shifting regional resources and fusion with other cultures — all while staying accessible to a wide audience. Studying and comparing the street food cultures of Mexico City and Los Angeles, two street food capitals, allows for a wealth of knowledge to be gained on the idea of culinary and cultural identity in flux. The project will require me to spend approximately two weeks in Los Angeles and one month in Mexico City. The purpose of this travel is twofold: first, I plan to visit essential food archives held at the Archivo General de la Nación in Mexico City and at USC in Los Angeles. In these two archives, I would collect information on immigration trends, food traditions, and biographies. The information gathered from these archives will be instrumental in guiding the second element of this project, the field work.

The field work component of the project will be ethnographic in nature, drawing upon my background in anthropology. I will conduct interviews with workers and owners of street food fronts, as well as patrons of these informal establishments. In Los Angeles, I plan to spend concerted time visiting the following locations: Kogi, La Estrella Truck, Los Cinco Puntos, and Malo. In Mexico City, I plan to visit Coyoacán, a borough within Mexico City known for its density of street vendors selling *al pastor*, a dish with roots in Lebanese immigration¹. I also will spend time in the historic center of Mexico City, where the largest and oldest market, *Mercado de la Merced*, resides; offering both goods and produce for sale as well as vendors selling street food. I have studied Spanish for four years and combined with my background in anthropological theory, I feel confident in my ability to conduct interviews. The findings from my ethnographic and archival research would provide the basis for my Honors thesis, a 50-page

1. Katy Watson, "Sharwarma: Taco Al Pastor's Culinary Ancestor," BBC News (BBC, September 2, 2015), <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-33993719>.

paper in which I will attempt to provide a significant contribution to the understanding of street food culture in Mexico City and Los Angeles. Due to the nature of this project, my budget may fluctuate slightly due to the nature of travel expenses. Below is my estimated budget and set of explanations for each expense.

Research Expenses	
Item	Amount
Transportation to Los Angeles	\$100.00
Transportation costs in Los Angeles	\$150.00
Accommodations in L.A. Hostel	\$700.00
Flight to Mexico City	\$400.00
Accommodations in Mexico City: Hostel	\$575.00
Food Expenses: LA	\$150.00
Food Expenses: Mexico City	\$200.00
Total	\$2,275.00

Transportation Expenses, Los Angeles: I calculated this using the gas mileage that my car gets and the distance to travel from Chico to Los Angeles. Additional gas would be used for driving around the city visiting archives and food trucks and a small amount for additional parking costs is included here.

Accommodations in Los Angeles.: This would be the estimated cost of a hostel in Los Angeles for two weeks. Accommodations of this nature range from \$500-\$900 for two weeks. Prices vary from \$40 to \$75 a night.

Food Expenses in Los Angeles: The expenses noted here are those solely for the purpose of my project, and reflect an approximate amount for food purchase at the food trucks and street food vendors for my project. All other sustenance will be purchased with my own funds. Street food in Los Angeles varies from \$2 to \$15.

Roundtrip flight to Mexico City: This flight would be out of LAX during the summer of 2022. The cost of flights during this time varies from \$250 to \$500 and reflects an economy-class ticket.

Accommodations in Mexico City: I would be staying in an International Youth Hostel in Mexico City where prices vary from \$11 to \$20 USD a night.

Food Expenses in Mexico City: As with Los Angeles, this figure reflects food purchased from street food vendors solely for my research project. Street food in Mexico varies from \$1 to \$5 USD.

Student Contribution to Project Design and Execution

The idea for this project was conceived in collaboration with Dr. Laura Nice (Humanities) and Professor Heather Altfeld (Honors/Humanities). All research gathered will be independently mine. Professor Altfeld will serve as my faculty advisor both for the SARC and for my thesis.

Broader Impact of the Work

My project is grounded in research I have already conducted on street food. In, *Que Vivan Los Tamales!: Food and the Making of Mexican Identity*, Pilcher delves into themes such as nation building, modernization of cuisine, and national cuisines through a global lens². *Los Angeles Street Food: A History from Tamaleros to Taco Trucks*, provides a basic outline of the

2. Jeffrey M Pilcher. *Que Vivan Los Tamales! : Food and the Making of Mexican Identity*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1998.

history of street food in Los Angeles³. *Eating Culture: An Anthropological Guide to Food*, offers an anthropological understanding to the way individuals think about the significance of food⁴. Through my interdisciplinary research project, I wish to build on the writings of these authors, writing about how exactly street food interweaves ideas of culture and identity.

Expected Benefits to Student

The funding for completion of this project is specifically predicated on my future intention to apply to a Ph.D. program. I aim to apply in Fall of 2022 to Ph.D. programs that focus on interdisciplinary research. For example, History of Human Consciousness program at UC Santa Cruz offers a humanities-centered program with links to the social sciences. The SARC grant would allow for me to work on research pertinent to both the humanities and anthropology, therefore strengthening my Fall graduate school applications.

The research from my project would be presented in full in Spring of 2023 as a part of the Honors Thesis presentation, and I intend to send the completed work out for consideration by interdisciplinary journals by Summer of 2023.

3. Farley Elliott. *Los Angeles Street Food : A History from Tamaleros to Taco Trucks*.

Charleston, SC: American Palate, 2021.

4. Gillian Crowther. *Eating Culture : An Anthropological Guide to Food*. North York, Ontario, Canada: University of Toronto Press, 2013.

Bibliography

Crowther, Gillian. *Eating Culture : An Anthropological Guide to Food*. North York, Ontario, Canada: University of Toronto Press, 2013.

Elliott, Farley. *Los Angeles Street Food : A History from Tamaleros to Taco Trucks*. Charleston, SC: American Palate, 2021.

Pilcher, Jeffrey M. *Que Vivan Los Tamales! : Food and the Making of Mexican Identity*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1998.

Watson, Katy. "Sharwarma: Taco Al Pastor's Culinary Ancestor." BBC News. BBC, September 2, 2015. <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-33993719>.