

Sustainability

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Food For Thought



November 13, 2017 | Dave Herrera

Dr. Lisa Heldke speaks on our food systems and human consumption as a parasitic relationship.

On October 26, Concordia College welcomed Gustavus professor Dr. Lisa Heldke, where she argued that it is impossible to have ethical eating. Her argument stemmed from the fact that we will always be eating live things. Instead, Dr. Heldke asks and encourages us to think of human eating as a parasitical relationship with the world. She mentions that the scientific definition of parasitic relationships concludes that these relationships are neither good or bad, they just are. Just like us eating is not good, or bad, but necessary.

When thinking about food, Dr. Heldke also encourages us to not only think about where food comes from, but the relationship it has to other things. Organic corn flakes, for example, are not just corn flakes. They come

from a plant that grows from soil that was watered for a long time. Therefore, we must think of why we choose certain labels. Is it because we care? Or is it because we want our hands to feel clean?

Lastly, Helke mentions a quote from Michel Serres where he says “there is no world without parasites.” So we must embrace our parasitic tendencies with a “big picture” outlook where we are not afraid to get our hands dirty with research and background of where food comes from.

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Dr. Lisa Heldke's presentation (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ny07Miyt2uQ>)

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