

Professional Leave Report Cover Sheet

Name: James Rocha

Department: Philosophy

College: Arts & Humanities

Leave taken: ☒ Sabbatical Difference in Pay Professional Leave without Pay

Time Period: Fall
 ☒ Spring
 Academic Year
 Other

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FRESNO

Dear Interim Dean Chapman,

I am grateful to have been awarded the sabbatical, which I used during this Spring 2021 semester. The sabbatical has been invaluable to my research during this time period.

My primary objective was to work on my book on the various kinds of racism (including institutional, structural, and systemic). I am very happy to report that I have written three chapters of this book, and these three chapters have been rewritten and labored over intensely so that I can submit a proposal, which I also wrote during this period, to Routledge Press. I will submit that proposal shortly, before the Spring semester ends.

Additionally, I was asked to take over the co-editing of a book, *Philosophical Reflections on Black Mirror*. So, editing this book has taken up a good deal of time over the last few months, which the sabbatical enabled me to bring things on the book almost to completion.

During this sabbatical period, I wrote or co-wrote five papers. First, I wrote a paper on a Kantian approach to the ethical system presented on *The Mandalorian*. Second, with Mona Rocha (MCLL), I co-wrote a book chapter for *Dave Chappelle and Philosophy*. Third, I also co-wrote a paper (with Mona Rocha, MCLL) on Alan Moore's and Eddie Campbell's *From Hell*. Fourth, I co-wrote a paper (with Mona Rocha, MCLL) on Latinx monsters in science fiction and fantasy TV. Fifth and finally, I am now finishing up a book chapter on how racism is presented in the early black superhero comics by Stan Lee. Drafts of four of these five papers were completed and submitted to the respective editors during my sabbatical semester. The fifth paper will be submitted early in the summer, if not before Spring semester ends.

Finally, while I was relieved not to have to work on university service during the sabbatical as it provided more time for research, my professional service has expanded as I was asked to serve on the editorial board of a journal, *Slayage*, and I have accepted this honor. I was also asked to serve on a Master's Thesis at another university (DePaul), and I accepted this task as well.

Department of Philosophy

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In conclusion, I feel my sabbatical was a great success, and I will continue to work on my book on racism, I look forward to performing revisions on the five papers I wrote, I am excited for the co-edited volume to soon be complete, and I am starting my work as a member of a journal's editorial board for the first time in my career.

Sincerely,

James Rocha

James Rocha, Associate Professor
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California State University, Fresno

Department of Philosophy

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