



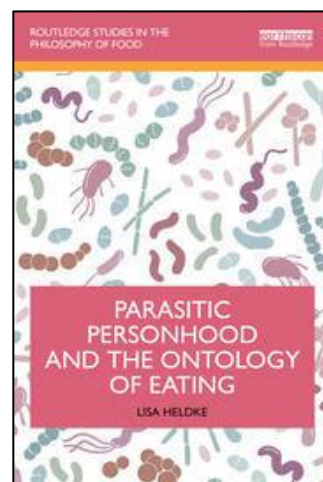
EDEN Etica, Diritto, Economia Normativa
Seminario
**Food and Personhood:
The Ontological Significance of Food and Eating**

In occasione della pubblicazione del volume di Lisa Heldke,
Parasitic Personhood and the Ontology of Eating (Routledge, 2025)

15 dicembre 2025, ore 10:30-13:00, Biblioteca di Politeia

Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Festa del Perdono 7 [Ingresso B, piano -1]

This book explores “parasitic personhood,” an alternative to atomistic individualism that acknowledges the biological individual as a network of persistent biological relationships (a “holobiont”) and draws insight from the astonishing frequency and variety of parasitic feeding relationships. What happens to our conception of personhood if we consider parasitism as more than just a threat to our health? Parasitism is a remarkably common form of life; however, we tend to think of parasites only as dangerous pestilential organisms that should be eliminated. What if parasitism—in particular, persistent eating relationships that threaten to destabilize host organisms—were instead the model in terms of which we understood what it means to be a person? In advocating for parasitic personhood, this book joins a history of efforts to uproot atomistic individualism, the remarkably durable understanding of personhood that is aptly portrayed by its most well-known eighteenth-century model, the billiard ball: smoothly self-contained, with relationships decidedly external to it. The parasitic alternative conceives persons as collections of organisms in relationships that are, by turns and all at once, essential, precarious, definitive, destabilizing, stable, and shifting. The book asks: in what does parasitic personhood consist? It goes on to examine some implications of this conception of personhood: how is moral agency constituted for the parasitic person, and how does parasitic personhood expand our understanding of aesthetic engagement and appreciation? This book will absorb anyone who is interested in thinking about the metaphysical significance of their need to eat and their reliance on myriad other organisms to enable them to do so.



Programma

- 10:15 Registrazione partecipanti
- 10:30 Presiede e introduce: **Andrea Borghini** (Università degli Studi di Milano)
- 10:45 **Lisa Heldke** (Gustavus Adolphus College)
- 11:30 Ne discutono con l'Autrice:
Nicola Perullo (Rettore, Università di Scienze Gastronomiche - Pollenzo)
Nicola Piras (Full Researcher, University of Minho)
Maddalena Castellani (PhD Student, Università di Scienze Gastronomiche - Pollenzo)
- 12:30 Q&A

Coordinamento scientifico: Stefano Bacin, Giulia Bistagnino, Emilio D'Orazio, Francesco Ferraro, Nicola Riva.

Segreteria organizzativa: Michelangelo Bestazzi, Andrea Borghini, Elena Bossini, Sara Madera Gomez,
Nicola Piras, Marta Vilardo.

Il seminario si terrà in presenza. La partecipazione è libera, fino ad esaurimento posti e previa iscrizione a:

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