

Facebook Messenger Conversations between Florian Jaeger and Celeste Kidd

Florian Jaeger
03/06/2007; 10:59 AM

it was short but nice chatting with you the other day. you should have come to that other party. we continued for a long time (hence also no 8:30 breakfast...at that time i was still in coma land)

Celeste Kidd
03/07/2007; 12:40 AM

I wanted to come, and ordinarily I would have, but what with my not yet being officially accepted into Rochester yet, I didn't want to make myself look like I enjoyed myself too much too often, you know? I'm a bit of an insomniac, so I do stay up and out all night on occasion, but usually I use that extra time for work. I'd like to talk to you more about Rochester. I really loved it, but I'm not sure I got a good sense of what it's like to live in the area. I know you're fairly new, but like that party you went to, where was that? What do you do when you're not working in the area?

Florian Jaeger
03/07/2007; 10:54 AM

hehe. I understand that, but you should not be worried about that type of stuff. at least no with me and i think other people here either.

you questions about rochester are good. but, as you said, i haven't been here for too long.

I feel currently most people in the dept are early risers and early sleepers (but it seems to be changing, if the people who said they wanna come next year will come). nevertheless there's plenty of social stuff going on, and, of course, there's plenty outside the dept. the party i went to was just by friends outside of the dept – it went on all night and was a lot of fun. i guess these things come and go – rochester used to be the place for legendary parties (with lots of nudity, etc.[smiley emoji], and ^{Redacted} who just graduated came back to throw one more of those parties the other weekend. i haven't figured out yet, how much of that will be going on in the dept, but i saw that there is a large crowd of fun peeps in Rachacha (most people at that last party were not from the dept).

there are also a couple of decent bars, some lounge-like places, and apparently some ok clubs. since i've been crazy-busy i haven't seen them yet. did you talk to ^{edacte} from linguistics

^{Redacted}

– she's been clubbing a lot, i think.

i think it's hard for me to judge how it would be for you, b/c of this whole stupid professor thing (you wouldn't believe how differently i'm suddenly being treated by most people – which makes is somewhat harder to get to know peeps).

ay, maybe this helps. it would be great to have you here. ^{Redacted} and have been talking about the same things – so, you won't be alone in your need to party [smiley emoji].

oh, i gotta run, but one more thing (just b/c i never thought about it before i came here). in the winter there's all that outdoor stuff that people do here. i went cross-county skiing a few weeks ago (it took 15 minutes to get to a really beautiful spot) and i enjoyed it a lot. ok, so that this isn't a praise to rachacha – it ain't california, [wink emoji], but so far I enjoy living here,

florian

Celeste Kidd
03/08/2007; 8:32 AM

I can see how a professorship could lead to one being treated differently than before. You're also young though, and I think I react to that socially over occupational status. (I'm still terribly impressed, of course!) You feel that people are more reserved with you now?

What is the place you're originally from like? I actually got a very strange sort of homey vibe from Rochester, which is odd considering I'm from New Orleans. New Orleans is an up-all-night, more music and food than you will ever need, lots to do and see sort of city. But it's also small and everyone knows everyone else. I think that last aspect is what Rochester had that reminded me of there. The snow is very un-New Orleans, but since it's new to me, it's somewhat of a novelty and not that much of a deterrent against moving.

I could see enjoying Rochester. It's the sort of place I wouldn't have pictures myself before – I've always been a big city sort of person – but I'm starting to be able to see myself living there. I applied because the people are genius, and at the open house I was delighted to discover that the same people I think are genius are also friendly. I think the people are a lot of what shapes an experience, so yes. So much to consider.

Florian Jaeger
No date or time stamp

Yeah, people are somewhat more reserved, but I'm trying to get rid of that – maybe I will have to dance in silly ways in front of the library (ah,

well, they may just think I'm nuts) [wink emoji]

when I got to Rochester I had a similar feeling like what you described.

"I could see enjoying Rochester. It's the sort of place I wouldn't have pictures myself before – I've always been a big city sort of person – but I'm starting to be able to see myself living there."

- yeah, when I was deciding between places i talked with lots of people who had lived here and everyone loved it. i was skeptical (and still am) because I really am a big city kind of person (Berlin, Chicago, SF are some of my favorite cities). People seem to have been right in that the community has a good friendly vibe and that there's lots going on for Rachacha not really being that big. I'm still missing some things, but I kinda feel that's just because I haven't meet the right people yet to hang out with later at night.

"I applied because the people are genius, and at the open house I was delighted to discover that the same people I think are genius are also friendly."

- that was pretty much the same for me. i loved the intellectual vibes in the department, no doubt. the other places i was interviewing with also had amazingly gifted students and faculty, but there is also the scientific attitude that I like about the work that is coming out of rochester. I also felt that advisors here care about their students, that students get jobs, etc. that all made me see the department as a whole, rather than one or two people doing their thing. I wanted to work interdisciplinary and although almost all of the places i went to were BCS departments, I didn't really see the type of respect and collaboration among the members of the dept as much as I've seen in rochester. well, these are at least my impressions so far [smiley emoji]. obviously, i am far from being unbiased, since I DID come here [smiley emoji].

just a final word about the city. I don't wanna lie. it seems it's an ok place to live, sometimes fun, maybe even mostly fun when one has a car and after knowing the place a bit more, but it was really the dept that i came for. i would have never not gone to cities like boston or chicago because i love the CITY rochester so, i guess, for me it sums up to that the price i have to pay for having the chance of being in this department is a pretty small one because the city has enough to offer and a good feel to it (btw, i assume everyone told you about the fact that R has an amazing music scene, if you like jazz, classic, etc, and a decent one for other music tastes? b/c of the eastman school).

maybe this helps. sorry that i wrote about i i i , but i can only give you my impressions [smiley emoji]

florian

Celeste Kidd
03/08/2007; 1:00 PM

It's good to hear about you you you. I wanted your impression of the area, so you you you is exactly what I was after. Thanks, Florian!

Totally different direction, but are you going to CUNY in La Jolla? It's so close to where I am, but I'm debating whether I have the time and the \$70. ^{Redacted} and a lot of the graduate students at USC I know are planning to.

Florian Jaeger
03/08/2007; 5:41 PM

i'll be there for the whole week before the conference and it's gonna be fun. so, yes, i'll be enjoying the sun and lots of other people are gonna come early, too.

let me know if you wanna go – we should meet for drinks [smiley emoji]

florian

Celeste Kidd
03/09/2017; 1:00 AM

Well, now I gotta go! And, yes, drinks should be had. You can't beat Southern California for the weather! Who else from Rochester is coming? That is uber exciting.

Florian Jaeger
03/09/2007; 12:12 PM

i think ^{Redacted} – the peopls that i know will come earlier are friends from stanford though (the ling dept there turned psycholinguistics over the last two years – at least the students).

my cell is ^{Redacted} i'll be there monday the latest [smiley emoji]

Celeste Kidd
03/10/2007; 8:01 AM

That's super exciting! My cell is ^{Redacted} As in this Monday? Or next Monday? I'm actually with cousins in New York right now. Spring break and all. I'll be back next Sunday though.

Florian Jaeger

no, i meant the monday before cuny [smiley emoji]. i gotta work occasionally, you know (I try to avoid it though). enjoy the city! so,

03/10/2007; 10:20 AM

you're coming to cuny, right?

Celeste Kidd
03/10/2007; 5:47PM

i thought so, but who knows! maybe you work while you travel. i am planning on coming to as much of it as possible. i'll definitely be in the area. i have some classes, when when i'm not in classes, i'll be around the actual event. exciting!

Celeste Kidd
03/24/2007; 8:58 PM

Hey, Florian! You're coming into town Monday, yeah? What do you have planned? My friend Redacted is in town from Redacted and we were going to go out for dinner Monday or Tuesday night. We hadn't picked an exact time yet, but she's going home Wednesday, so one of those two nights. Interested in joining us?

Florian Jaeger
03/27/2007; 5:45 AM

hey celeste,

i just got back from (many many) drinks. tomorrow i'll work and then probably go for a desert hike with peeps, but it would be nice to have dinner if we're back in time. i'll charge my cell now so that we can call each other at least 15 times tomorrow to agree on a place where to eat. [smiley emoji].

are you enjoying SD so far?

flo

Celeste Kidd
03/28/2007; 11:10 PM

Hi, Evil Dr. Jaeger!

It was very pleasant talking with you last night. Redacted and I both had fun, and I'm looking forward to CUNY tomorrow. It looks like I'm going to need to spend tonight working, but I'll be in the area again no later than tomorrow night, so call anytime. I'm trying to convince people from USC to go so they can split a hotel room with me and save me a drive back. So far, no luck, but we'll see.

I hope I wasn't too off last night, but I'm afraid I probably was. I haven't been sleeping much in an effort to catch up on missed work. That was probably more obvious than I meant to be.

I know I brought up your writing last night, but I meant to say I think that it's very cool that you have it on your website. Especially in the

nerdy-chic randomized format. Respect ;)

Florian Jaeger
03/29/2007; 4:23 AM

Hey Celeste,

na, you weren't off at all, as far as I can tell. I really enjoyed spending time with you. I was pretty tired myself (lots of 3h-nighters, and this will be another one; we just came back from exploring SD), but i didn't want to just stop, because it was nice [smiley emoji].

I haven't written much lately (non-academic), so i had completely forgotten about the stuff on my website. it's mostly for me and some of my friends. you talking about your work as a journalist made me think about friends of mine who are writing much more and how much I like to read their stuff. I thought it was interesting to hear about your work (and your not-so-random thoughts on that blogger). i hope i'll get to hear more about that. i like you're style of being all over the place and just doing your thing. i find that to be really rare. respect to you [wink emoji].

oi, i'm tired. but, hey, if you need a place to stay you should chat with peeps at the conference. there may be some free couches. I think maybe maybe Redacted may have some free space, too (i'll try to ask her tomorrow; she's already in dream-land, i believe).

Celeste Kidd
No date/time stamp

Ooh, what did you explore in San Diego? Three-hour nighters are often fun. I'm afraid tonight is going to be a no-hour nighter, which is really too bad, but will be fine. I'll sleep a lot on Sunday.

I'm glad you like all-over-the-placeness, because I'm afraid that part of me isn't suppressible. You're rather all-over-the-place yourself, and I too like that in a person. Even before I saw your LSA talk, your name kept coming up. You know this already, but you have a great name. You haven't by chance read Cat's Cradle by Don DeLillo, have you?

That journalist. Redacted has a vanity site here: Redacted The LA Times article that was the first in-print version of the story she circulated orally is here: Redacted She is clearly charming, and her presentation is spectacular, but if you look closely, you'll notice she's got no credentials before blogging. Her work for Wired, NPR, the LA Times, CNN, all came from blogging. She was a

late comer to the mentioned blog, Redacted
which generally reposts information already out there. Her explanation
for having come from no where is that she was travelling around
Guatamala because dangerous people were after her. The craziest part
is that no one questions.

I too haven't written much in the way of creative things lately. I hope to
again soon, I have 170 pages of a novel manuscript but, like me, it's all
over the place. I'll finish it one day. Everyone says that though, right?
But I totally mean it. [wink emoji]

Florian Jaeger

No date/time stamp

oi, now i gotta sleep. thanks for the info. and i hope that you all-over-
the-placeness won't stop and is unsurpressable. those are the best ones.
[smiley emoji]

i've read cat's in the cradle, but it's been some years. i remember that i
really liked it, but no details right now (you know, the age eats on the
brain]. send me your manuscript when it's ready to take the world in
storm. ha, you could read it to me in rachacha, while i lie lazily on the
couch (you have to pace around occasionally in front of the fire place
for the more agitated parts if there are any). what a service, a reading
would be amazing (or we do it instead of the movie club – that way you
get an audience [smiley emoji]

night for now

Celeste Kidd

No date/time stamp

hah, what age? vonnegut novels tend to not stick to the brain, i find, so i
don't think it's you. i frequently can't tie the appropriate title to a
vonnegut plot.

cat's cradle is the one with the religion, bokonism, that says that neither
family nor nationality nor ethnicity nor any other grouping matters
except for ones that are naturally occurring. those people that you run
into over and over again throughout your life. they form a "karass." i
don't, of course, really think the universe works like that, but it's funny
to imagine that it does.

i'll only read if i get to take a turn on the couch while you read and
pace. [wink emoji] sweet dreams! see you tomorrow.

Florian Jaeger

i like that idea of the karass (great name, too, isn't it?) there is

03/29/2007; 5:46 PM

something about it (of course, rationally explicable, but sometimes it's better to dwell in the marvels of this world).

as for the reading – it's a deal. couching and pacing will be conducting by turn-taking. negotiations will happen on the fly and cooperatively. occasionally a distractor will enter the system and compete for couch or reading resources. we will then see how we react to that system change.

right. or we just enjoy the laziness. i find that the reading idea goes really well with a winter night and a fire. alternatively lazy porching out in humid summer evenings...

Celeste Kidd

03/29/2007; 11:32 PM

Hahaha...yeah. I think we should make the distractor a signing primate to make it extra distracting. Or just the fire. Or porch. Those work too. Enjoying laziness sounds appealing right now.

Rochacha seems like it could be very cool. The idea of not rushing back and forth all the time is intriguing but foreign. Not spending hours in cars every day would be very very nice. And not tutoring all the time.

My brain feels numb, but I have only one paper left! Then? Party.

Florian Jaeger

No date/time stamp

so when will you come to san diego again [smiley emoji]? tonight i will work and then hang out with a friend, but maybe i'll see you at the conference tomorrow? or are you coming only for the party [smiley emoji]?

Celeste Kidd

No date/time stamp

hah! no, i'm not only coming to the party. [wink emoji]

i'll be at the conference bright and early tomorrow morning. i meant to come out tonight, but one of the papers took longer than i was expecting it to. everyone at usc knows i'm leaving now and is on me to finish things that otherwise really could wait.

are you excited/nervous/both for your talk saturday?

totally unrelated, but have you read any/much ginsberg? one of your poems reminded me of him. what do you read? all ling or some other stuff too? i'm always looking for good book recommendations, ling and otherwise. have any? i know you liked phil lieberman's reptilian brain book so, you know, besides that one. [wink emoji]

Florian Jaeger
03/30/2017: 2:58 AM

heya,

i don't know ginsberg, but we can read that, too. tell me about the poem that you were thinking of. recently i've finally managed to read more ling stuff again (the last time before that was when i decided to get a feel for american literature, lots of kurt, philip roth, nicolas baker, don delillo, etc. plus random other stuff.) currently I'm reading some chinese books, and some german stuff (e.g. morbus fonticulli). i like books about chance, apparent arbitrariness of life (paul auster), sex (the sexual life of catherine m., venus trap, p's complaint, the human stain), politics, and then my dad often sends me good stuff he found somewhere (i just started something called war and death, i believe – really interesting so far, i can look up the authors once i'll be back).

all my books from latvia have just arrived in customs (i got a call the other day), so i'm gonna have access to all my old books [smiley emoji].
nicccccce

Celeste Kidd
03/30/2007; 5:33 AM

“Sighted: deep sea diver on shallow waters.” We should totally read Ginsberg. It's kind of a cliché to say so, but “Howl” is one of my all-time favorite poems. So good that I risk saying that it's my favorite at risk of sounding clichéd.

Philip Roth and Don DeLillo are awesome. I haven't read any Nicolas Baker or Morbus Fonticulli or Paul Auster, but now I'll have to. [wink emoji] I was on a Lu Xun kick for a while.

That's extremely cool that your dad sends you books. Where is he living? This is embarrassing, but I'm fairly sure my dad only reads magazines. I have a super-action dad. He's always jumping out of/off things. He races dirt bikes right now. He was an attorney pre-Katrina, but he stayed in New Orleans and there's not much going on there. Mom's a musician, but they're very much separated.

When were you in Latvia? Immediately pre-Stanford? Earlier?

Celeste Kidd
04/01/2007; 11:51 AM

I don't know how comfy I'd feel at Rochester at this point. I'll go whenever I feel like I can do the best work, but I feel like it's slightly more difficult of a decision now, which is the opposite of what I was hoping CUNY would be. I don't know. I'm not at all uptight, but I do like to know how things are upfront. You could have said goodbye at

least. I'll sleep on it and maybe feel better tomorrow, but right now I'm totally weirded out. I'm going to go back to OC now.

Celeste Kidd
04/01/2017; 8:58 PM

I think before you talk to Redacted or anyone at Redacted you should consult with Redacted or another close friend. As I was driving home, I was realizing just how bad that discussion with Redacted could be for you. Discovery either by accident or admission, could be very bad for you. Something happening in secret is treated very differently than something happening out in the open.

I do feel you, as far as wanting to be honest with yourself and everyone else, but I think you might not be thinking of the big picture. And you're in such a good position right now.

I understand that you're not going to listen to me, but I became worried that I had pushed you to talk to Redacted to prove something. I don't want to be responsible for bad things that result. And I really think bad things are likely to result. So I'm retracting my earlier neutrality on the issue and saying I really don't think you should say anything. I don't think you should be doing anything to put your position at risk, but as you pointed out earlier, you're apparently willing to put more at risk than I am.

Talk to Redacted or someone else you trust first please. Before you decide whether to talk to people at Roach. And perhaps in regards to the whole issue in general. I got the impression that he cared about your well-being a great deal and would be safe to speak with. Plus he knows you and your tendencies like I don't.

I'm saying this because I like you, I feel for you, and I don't want to see anything bad happen to you. Your work is genius and you deserve to be where you are. You may be putting that at risk for a potentially short-term rush.

I was selfish earlier and was thinking only of my issue. Your issue is entirely different from my issue. The two got mixed up earlier when we talked because they overlap. But yes. You talking to Redacted is, when I thought about it, not likely in your best interest.

Their user agreement is better for personal security reasons. Facebook and USC's suck. That's just for future reference.

Celeste Kidd
04/03/2007; 12:16 AM

Hey, Florian.

I'm a little more chill now a day later. A lot less nervous about things in general. Still totally on the fence about everything, but yes. I can't see the future and there are going to be risks I'm taking at wherever I go. I'm very good about separating myself from drama, so any that might ensue I'm confident wouldn't affect me.

That thing you mentioned, about taking classes at MIT, could that be something I could guarantee in advance of coming to Rochester? And do you think I could get in everything I'd need in a semester? Still trying to work things out in my head. Would I need to secure outside funding for that or would Rochester cover me during a semester elsewhere? Also, summers, what sorts of opportunities are there for working at labs outside the U.S.?

Florian Jaeger
04/03/2007; 9:24 PM

Hey Celeste,

oi, I'm back in the Rachacha hood! i slept for 12 hours. actually, i fell asleep on the phone (so, I am being told) and i felt like shit when i woke up. better now. what else? well, yesterday night, after about 48h of no sleep i drank a lot of beer, realized at 10:52 at a party that my laundry was still at the laundry place (closes at 11pm), ran over there, made it in, got my laundry, walk towards the door when the lights go off...great. i got locked in. and the best part about it: the two people who left while i was in there passed by me (I greeted them) about 50cm away from me. what the fuck!?! i have awesome ninja powers. first i thought it locked automatically, but then i found out that the very people who walked by me when came INto the laundry place were the ones who locked me in.... stupid? maybe. luckily i found this number in small print hidden on 1!! sign in the place and luckily (being the kind of guy who has sun shining out of his ass) i called that one on my dying cell phone (rather than all the WRONG number that were being posted in big font all over the place). so they got me out.

great story, heh? [smiley emoji]

so, now to your questions (btw, I asked the rochester authorities today about certain student-faculty relations and I am in no danger):

as for taking classes elsewhere: no we do not GUARANTEE that you can go to MIT, but what we all agree on is that, if it makes sense for

your education, you can visit other places during your grad career (and what a career it would be!) at rochester. I think you could do everything you need in a summer school and maybe – if you feel like it – have a semester at ucla, stanford, or mit (for example). of course, they have to agree, too, but that is how it is [smiley emoji] (and probably not a problem). we just wanna make sure that linguistics is what you need. obviously, we will first try to provide it to you here in rochester, but for some things it'll make most sense to visit another place.

as for funding such visits: usually (in our field) the place you visit funds them. this can require an application for a fee waiver, or it could be pretty informal (when i went to mit from stanford, it was just a short statement). extra funding for visits can come from your advisor (who needs to agree anyway), and we had cases like that before. also, many of the students here apply for additional funding (not because they need it, but because it is prestigious) and we have a high success rate. such money often allows you to visit other places. from what i have heard, it is not that much of a hassle to set up a visit elsewhere, and when i did it, it was actually super easy (you'll get to know peeps in the field and they just say “sure, come over, I sponsor you” – it doesn't really cost them anything).

what you do during your summer is your business, i think. we pay you a 12month stipend, so there may be some tax implications if you earn more, but as a US citizen you could probably work outside of the US as much as you want to. Rochester has excellent connections to many labs in other countries (I have some, too, to varying extents in france, england, holland, belgium, and germany [smiley emoji]). what were you thinking of? our CLS helps students to fund summer schools and things like that that go beyond our curriculum, and there is money from your advisor, and, of course, NSF grants etc. (again, crucially our success rate in those is pretty high).

I hope those answers help. maybe you need more specifics. I could ask dick about some of the details. what do you think?

hope you're mighty fine and if the above sounds complicated, i blame it on my non-native speaker skills. several students today ask me about whether you're coming here because they, too, think that it would be a great fit and they'd be looking forward to having you here. we're also discussing how to provide more linguistics and already have some ideas that will be implemented soon. so i think, the whole formal linguistics package will actually improve further (the people are already good, but

we will also make it easier to take the classes you need).

flo

Celeste Kidd
No date/time stamp

I'm glad you got back to Rochacha okay and that your laundry debacle didn't end in disaster.

I agree that Rochester could be a very good fit. I think the more I realize that, the more concerned I become about the location. The idea of five years where it is cold and isolated... is very scary to me all of a sudden when it wasn't before. I'm not making my decision based on that, but now that the time is approaching for all reservations to be addressed, that one is becoming more real. I'll figure that one out on my own. I've just always been centered around big cities – New Orleans, San Francisco, Los Angeles. It'd be an adjustment for sure. I've spent less than 5 hours in snow.

Regarding summer schools, I'd also like to go wherever is best for my education. I would just like to know I can go elsewhere at some point if it makes sense. MIT or MPI would be all-new and all-new is very attractive to me. I talked to Redacted last night for two hours – I'd had a glass of wine and was sobering up as we spoke, so hopefully I wasn't weird – and he alleviated a lot of my concerns about the viability of working/studying elsewhere if what I need isn't available at Rochester.

I really just want to produce good work. I'm trying to figure out where I can do the best work. I'm trying to make sure I pick a place where I have not just genius people and resources around, but also where I feel comfortable. And part of my feeling comfortable is feeling like things are somewhat flexible. I'll bust my ass – I'm not afraid of work – but I don't want to feel too restricted and stuck. I know myself and I'd become moody and unproductive in that sort of situation.

I have no doubts about the people at Rochester or the quality of resources available at this point. I'm just working through all the details now. Trying to figure out how I'd adjust to small college town life.

I'm working through it in my head now. Thanks for all your time and support so far, Florian. Seriously, you'd be been ridiculously helpful.

Celeste

Florian Jaeger
04/04/2007; 1:07 PM

“I’m allergic to cherries, vicodin, and latex. Discovered all that on the same night.” intriguing. I wanna hear THAT story some time.

how are you holding up?

Celeste Kidd
04/04/2007; 7:58 PM

Hi Florian.

I am allergic to those things, but I was joking about discovering that all on the same night. It’s funny trio of allergies to have. I’m actually allergic to pork too, but I’m a vegetarian by choice, so that one never comes up.

I’m still very much in the same place I was at the end of CUNY. I thought it would make it easier, seeing people again, but it’s making it harder. I narrowed it back down again -- I think -- to Roch and Penn.

Celeste

Florian Jaeger
No date/time stamp

you’re thinking too much [wink emoji] i’m pretty convinced that academically rochester is better for you (but it’s a really close call). so, if you still feeling drawn to penn, there may be something else that is also important. ignoring that may make you unhappy (and that would also interfere with you getting out of grad school what you hope to get out of it). it’s totally fair to follow those instincts. so, don’t torture yourself. if there were more peops that you felt you would do cool work with or things like that, then go to penn. you’ll get more variety here overall, i believe. and everybody says that dick is an amazing advisor. of course, i’d be looking forward to working on things together, too.

Celeste Kidd
04/05/2007; 2:24 AM

I can’t believe you of all people are accusing me of overthinking. That’s something I got teased for when I was a kid in Louisiana. You know careful thinking is why they like me at USC, right? [wink emoji] Let me copy-edit your next paper and then see if you feel like teasing me for thinking too much. A lot of thought makes me careful.

If I felt pulled toward Penn all the time, I’d go to Penn. But I don’t. I also feel pulled toward Rochester. And the fit, I also think, is good. And I have 0 reservations about working with Prof. Aslin. I’ve heard more nice things about him from more varied sources than any other

person by far.

My worry about the ling theory stuff stands, but after talking that out with you and Redacted at USC, I'm less concerned than I was about that. I have worries about Penn, too.

If I sounded like I was leaning Penn, it's because it's easier to picture myself at Penn. I know what my life would be like day-to-day in Philadelphia. Rochester is a lot more of a mystery to me, but that doesn't mean I want to go there less. It just means it takes some more thought. Where would I get groceries? And what would I cook? And would there be fresh strawberries available in November? (I'll miss California produce. At least half of my diet is fruit). Who would I hang out with? And will my cousins come visit? Will I be able to visit home often enough? If my brother comes to live with me, will he be happy where I am? If something happens to him, will I be able to live with myself having chosen to live so far away from him? All of those things, I know about Penn. I don't know about Rochester.

I'm having nightmares about watching New Orleans flood on monitors in the journalism school at USC. Rochester isn't much further from Philadelphia from New Orleans, and it's certainly closer than Los Angeles, but it's harder to get out of and into. I won't see my brother as often. These are all personal things I'm trying to work through.

I think I just need some time to figure things out. This morning, I thought I couldn't live in Rochester without going crazy. This afternoon, I wasn't sure. Tonight, it feels possible. I'm just weighing things. I'm talking about life things now and not the program, which I didn't really consider until Saturday. I didn't really consider life things seriously until this morning. It's because the decision is closer and feels more real.

Florian Jaeger
04/06/2007; 12:22 AM

yep, i understand where you're coming from (btw, i'd love you to edit my papers ;-): i miss california produce, good food, sun, beach, and lightless, too. at the end it is simple. i came here because of all the people i saw at different depts (including mit), this was the place with some of the most amazing thinkers i've seen and most of them are really nice. that's hard to come by and actually this was the only place where i felt that. i do share all of your concerns and i think you should weigh them carefully.

i promise you i will try to help you with linguistics (feel free to remind

me), in the unlikely case that you feel you won't get enough here, and i will generally try to give advice about what's sexy and hot in linguistics and cognitive science so that all of us here will work towards you having a great chance for a cool job doing the work you love. i think you would bring something to this place. don't underestimate yourself. you will contribute to this department and you will change parts of it. there will always be imperfections. so, i rather promise you that i will listen (and i think others here, too) to your suggestions and ideas. that way you have the fairest chance to get all the things you need to be a great scientist and a happy person [smiley emoji].

good luck with your decision. it's gonna be good in any case!

Celeste Kidd
No date/time stamp

thanks, florian. you're a great guy. [wink emoji]

Florian Jaeger
04/07/2007; 10:42 PM

yeah, great subject line. he? no, i wanna recommend a book to you that i just started reading, so it's a bit risky, but i think this could be outstanding. it's by a guy called vollmann and it's called "rising up and rising down." i've just read the first pages (about a visit to the Parisean catacombs) and it strikes me as different, as deep, but engaging.

how are you?

Celeste Kidd
04/08/2007; 12:30 AM

thanks, flo. i'll check it out. i'm good. writing a lot and doing a lot of thinking. the undergraduate research symposium is monday, so i'm busy prepping for that. how's rochacha?

Celeste Kidd
04/10/2007; 1:29 PM

Hm, interesting. I'm not so worried about Roch the place anymore. I'm back to the original debate between cog sci and ling. I know I need to decide. ASAP.

Florian Jaeger
04/11/2007 9:32 AM

hey kidd,

nice chatting last night. my voice is almost completely gone now, however [smiley emoji]. just wanted to say that I am also excited. we can do tons of cool research together and hang out on the front porch complaining about people who walk by.

florian

Celeste Kidd
No date/time stamp

hi, flo.

ditto. i'm about to head off to the usc undergrad symp. i won't forget to take a dorky picture. complaining on your porch = great idea. [wink emoji]

celeste

Celeste Kidd
04/12/2007; 2:21 PM

I hope better. If not now, I hope soon. [wink emoji]

I hope better. If not now, I hope soon. [wink emoji]

Celeste Kidd
04/27/2007; 3:26 PM

;D

Celeste Kidd
05/08/2017; 12:43 AM

Long time, no talk. How's tricks?

Florian Jaeger
05/08/2007; 2:26 AM

i am in nyc, girl. having a good time and a long-needed break with lots of sleep. will call once i'm back [smiley emoji]. hope you're mighty fine. oh, and I am still enjoying a few pages of ginsburg every day. i read quite a bit while sitting on the stairs on union sq. the other day.

Celeste Kidd
05/08/2007; 7:22 AM

Oooh, have fun, Florian! I have a lot of cousins in NYC. And childhood friends from New Orleans who have relocated. NYC is way fun. Have fun, keep getting sleep, and I can't wait to talk to you when you get back! I have just two finals left.

Florian Jaeger
06/10/2007 9:53 PM

Hey Celeste,

I'm looking forward to you being here. I'll have a friend over, however, until Friday. I made her book her flight earlier that day, so that I would have time to hang out with you, so Friday would be best for me. Is there any way for you to come here Friday? and stay until Saturday? I mean or longer, but you said you would go to providence. My other friend will only be here for a 2 days, too and she'll be leaving Fr 2pm.

If that's bad for you, we will somehow deal with imperfections in space time, sing a song, and decided that there's enough space and time for all of us. [smiley emoji]

Florian

florian

Celeste Kidd
No date/time stamp

Not a problem. I'll just leave way late Thursday, look at places during the day Friday, and hang out Friday night. Sound good? I'm always flexible with things like this ;)

Florian Jaeger
No date/time stamp

Ay, wonderfule. givve me-a calle, when you're here. my beds are your beds. my space is your space, etc. do NOT sleep in the car [wink emoji]. I will consider it an insult.

Celeste Kidd
No date/time stamp

Hahaha, thanks Flo! I'm looking forward to it.

