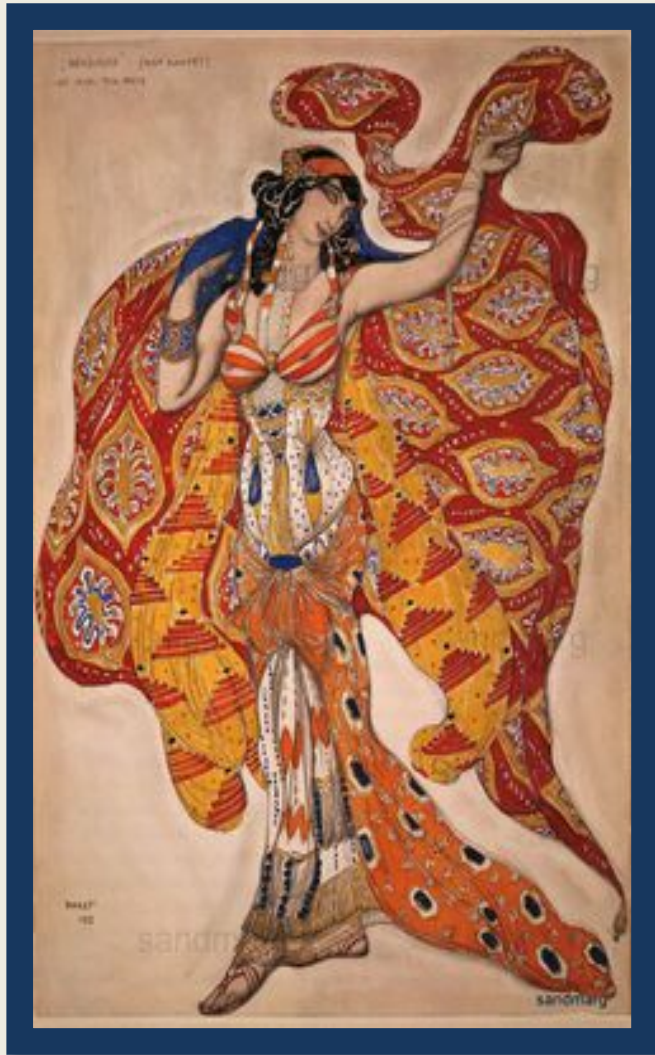


Centennial Filiations

Theory, Aesthetics and Politics of Literary
and Cinematic Fiction
March 26~27, 2015



Participants

Réda Bensmaïa
Tim Bewes
Vincent Debaene
Richard Golsan
Alice Kaplan
Giuseppina Mecchia
Pamela Pears
Gabriel Rockhill
Steven Ungar
Richard Watts
Christian Wood

Keynote Address

James Le Sueur

Presented by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of New Mexico with the generous support of the Carol Raymond Fund. Additional support provided by the Offices of the Dean and the Provost at UNM.

Organizer: Raji Vallury (rvallury@unm.edu)

Dedicated in loving memory to Philip Watts

The births of Luis Buñuel, Albert Camus, Aimé Césaire, Marguerite Duras, Emmanuel Roblès, Romain Gary, and Roland Barthes; revolutionary essays such as Freud's *The Interpretation of Dreams*, Bergson's *Introduction to Metaphysics* and Einstein's *Special and General Theories of Relativity*; the creation of the globe's first theatre devoted exclusively to the public screening of movies in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; France's landmark law separating Church and State; the publication of Proust's *Combray* and the outbreak of the First World War: these are the singular (world) events whose intersecting centennials punctuate the first decade and a half of 21st-century France. Together, they form a constellation of commemorative moments whose significations extend well beyond the Hexagon to other parts of the French-speaking world. Of special import in this regard is the year 2012, which marked the semi-centennial of Algeria's independence from France.

The conference *Centennial Filiations* seeks to map the subterranean relations among a contingent set of events and their far-reaching effects on the intellectual, critical, aesthetic, and political practices of France and the French-speaking world. Scholars are invited to present papers on any aspect of the theory, aesthetics, and politics of twentieth-century French and Francophone literature and cinema. They are welcome to interrogate any or all of the constitutive terms that determine the proposed field of inquiry in order to reevaluate the historical, political, and artistic legacies of twentieth-century France, or to reflect on the possible configurations of criticism, aesthetics, and politics in the 21st century.

As brief examples, aesthetics may be understood as a theory of artistic practices and genres, a science or history of art forms, a set of poetic and literary structures, a mode of sensory experience and perception, or a specific regime of intelligibility of a sphere of the sensible. Politics could be regarded as an engagement with the intellectual causes and debates that animate a particular nation at a given moment in history, or as the staging of an argument about freedom, equality, democracy, and emancipation. Filiation could be considered as a linear heritage, as a mobile thread weaving across heterogeneous spaces and times, or as an act of genealogical threading that marks a critical difference with respect to the present. Fiction might be analyzed through the lenses of different literary and cinematic traditions. It may be conceptualized in the Platonic sense of an illusory order of images opposed to the real essence of things and beings, the Aristotelian sense of a rationally ordered arrangement of actions, in the psychoanalytical sense of an imaginary structure of desire, in the Deleuzian sense of a machinic assemblage or a plane of composition of affects and percepts, or as what Jacques Rancière has described as a *dispositif*, an hierarchical distribution of bodies, their capacities and incapacities within a sphere of the perceptible.

Topics include, but are not limited to:

War, Inter-war, Post-War, or Cold War Politics
History and memory
Nation and Empire
Citizenship and Human Rights
Colony and Postcolony
Utopias and Dystopias
Ideologies of aesthetic forms
Fictional allegory
The politics of aesthetic detail
The politics of affects and percepts
Aesthetic dissociation
Image-Space-Time-Movement-Thought



Conference Programme

All panel sessions and the keynote address will take place in the Bobo Room, Hodgkin Hall on UNM Main Campus

Thursday, March 26

Coffee and Registration

9:30 to 10:00

Welcome and Opening Remarks

10:00 to 10:30

Virginia Scharff, Associate Provost, UNM
Tom Turner, Associate Dean of Research, UNM
Raji Vallury, Associate Professor of French, UNM

Session I

10:30 to 12:00

Timothy Bewes, Brown University

Free Indirect, or Who is the Subject of the Work of Fiction?

Giuseppina Mecchia, University of Pittsburgh

The Mysteries of Cinema: Raoul Ruiz in the 1970s

Lunch 12:00 to 2:00

Session II

2:00 to 3:30

Gabriel Rockhill, Villanova University

Temporal Vertigo: Cinema in the Remaking

Steve Ungar, University of Iowa

Paris Springtime Zero: Le Joli Mai (1962) & Chris Marker's Turn toward Militancy

Coffee Break 3:30 to 4:00

Session III

4:00 to 5:30

Richard Watts, University of Washington

Tropics of the Tropics: Literary "Nature" in Martinique from Négritude to Créolité

Pamela Pears, Washington College

Jean Genet: Political Consciousness and Black Identity from Notre-Dame des Fleurs to Les Nègres to the Black Panther Party

Friday, March 27

Session I

9:00 to 10:00

Vincent Debaene, Columbia University

Literature/Anthropology in the 20th Century: Figures of Temptation

Coffee Break 10:00 to 10:30

Session II

10:30 to 12:00

Christian Wood, University of New Mexico

Lévinas and Camus: Love, Literary Practice and Resistance

Richard Golsan, Texas A&M University

French Law and the Crimes of the Past: Tracing France's Troubled Legal Vector of Memory

Lunch 12:00 to 2:00

Session III

2:00 to 3:30

Réda Bensmaïa, Brown University

Becoming-animal, Becoming-political in Rachid Boudjedra's L'Escargot Entêté

Alice Kaplan, Yale University

A Brawl on the Beach (Epilogue to Looking for the Stranger)

Coffee Break 3:30 to 4:00

Keynote Address

4:00 to 5:30

Opening Remarks by Mark Peceny, Dean of Arts and Sciences, UNM

Literature in the Time of Terror

James Le Sueur, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Reception at the Faculty Club 5:30 to 7:00