

University of Delaware
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

Distinguished Scholars Series

Public Lecture

Semiotics of Gender: Singing Moments in Postwar French Noir Films

by

Philippe Met

Philippe Met is Professor of French at the University of Pennsylvania, where he teaches contemporary French literature and film. Editor-in-Chief of *French Forum*, a leading journal in the field, Dr. Met is the author of *Formules de la poésie. Études sur Ponge, Leiris, Char et Du Bouchet* (1999) and *La Lettre tue. Spectre(s) de l'écrit fantastique* (2009). Dr. Met contributed to the prestigious Pléiade edition of Francis Ponge's *Œuvres complètes* (2002), and edited one volume of essays, *André du Bouchet et ses Autres* (2003), as well as one issue of the *Revue Nu(e)* on contemporary French poet Yves Charnet (2009). Dr. Met also co-edited a special issue of *L'Esprit créateur* on Stéphane Mallarmé (2000) and a critical edition of a film script written for Alain Resnais (2007). Dr. Met is currently completing a book manuscript on the aesthetics and phenomenology of poetic notebooks (*Fausse(s) Notes*, to be published by Rodopi Editions in 2011), and researching two new book projects on film: one on the representations of childhood in horror movies; the other on ghost cinema. He is regularly invited to lecture at various academic institutions in the US, Europe, Australia and Asia.

The lecture will reflect on the recurrence of diegetic singing moments or set pieces (rather than 'musical numbers'), performed by professional artistes (rather than improvised by amateurs), in three French postwar noir movies. Particular attention will be paid to instances of contrastive "dédouplements" of songs, wordplay as an important point of commonality, and, last but not least, erotic and gendered connotations within the misogynistic context of crime cinema.

Monday, November 8
4:00 p.m.
116 Gore Hall

Reception to follow lecture:
Alumni Lounge in Perkins Student center

**This is the forty-ninth public lecture in the Distinguished Scholars Series
sponsored by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.**