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The Department of French Studies  
Presents  
**“Transgression(s)”**



Friday-Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2012  
Rochambeau House  
84 Prospect Street  
Handicap Accessible  
[www.brown.edu/Research/Equinoxes](http://www.brown.edu/Research/Equinoxes)

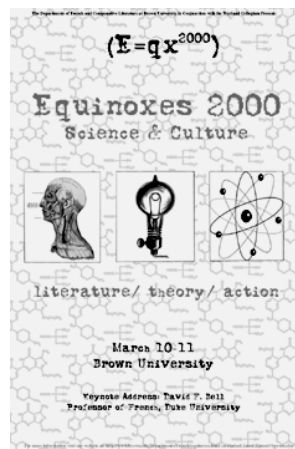
**EQUINOXES 2012**

# Happy 20th Birthday, *Equinoxes*!

*Equinoxes* began in 1993 under the guidance of Professor Sanda Golopentia, with a first edition simply entitled “*Equinoxes* 1993: Graduate Student Conference.” Everyone from Edward Ahearn, then chair of the department, who made the introductory remarks, to generous alumni of the French Department, was called upon to assist with the preparation of this one-day marathon.

In 1998, *Equinoxes* evolved into the two-day conference it is today. For the first time, there were too many participants to schedule student papers as well as a keynote address on the same day. It was thus decided that the keynote would speak on the Friday evening of the conference, and that the student conference itself would kick off the following day.

Throughout its 20 years, *Equinoxes* has welcomed some of today’s most admired professors and scholars, from Gerald Prince to Edwin Duval, Tom Conley, Lawrence Kritzman and Nelly Furman, and this year, Sylvaine Guyot.



Interdisciplinary curiosity has driven *Equinoxes* from the beginning, drawing graduate students from across the country and world. This year alone, we are welcoming participants from sixteen different universities, from throughout the United States, England, France and Switzerland and from various disciplines in addition to French Studies, including Art History, Sociology, Philosophy and Modern Culture and Media. It is indeed *Equinoxes*’ goal to foster such exchanges not only within the humanities and social sciences but beyond, hence the 2000 conference entitled “Science and Culture,” whose high point was, undoubtedly, Professor David Bell’s keynote: “Monkey Business: From Borel’s *Singes*

*dactylographiques* to Asimov’s *The Monkey’s Finger*!”

Happy Birthday *Equinoxes*: we wish you 20 more years of reuniting graduate students to challenge established ideas and promote fruitful interdisciplinary discussion!

*The Equinoxes 2012 Team*

## SPECIAL THANKS



*Costume study for Phèdre’s nanny, Jean-Jacques Lequeu  
BNF Collection*

The *Equinoxes* 2012 team wishes to thank Rita Bernstein for graciously letting us use her photograph “Transgression” (Cover Page).

Special thanks as well to Amanda Gann and Olga Zhulina for their dramatic reading of *The Maids*, which revives the tradition of Friday entertainment at *Equinoxes*.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup> 2012

**8:30 AM Breakfast**

**9:30 Panel Three: The Bounds of Identity** (Mod. Justin Gibson)

**Annie de Saussure** (Yale): "Breton Identity as Transgression: Exploring Notions of Postmodern Breton Nationality Through the Pierre-Jakez Hélias Controversy."

**Emma Catherine Howell** (UNC Greensboro): "The Negritude Movement as Transgression in *Cahier d'un retour au pays natal*."

**Jenny Kosniowski** (King's College London): "Nomadic Transgressions: Fiction as Feminist Nomadic Practice in the Texts of Malika Mokeddem."

**Break**

**11:00 Panel Four: Transgressive Philosophies** (Mod. Chris Robison)

**Eric Turcat** (University of Wisconsin): "L'honnêteté transgressée: l'honnête homme et son habileté dans les *Maximes de La Rochefoucauld*."

**Arianne Kiatibian** (Paris IV-La Sorbonne): "Une esthétique de la transgression lucide: l'écriture d'Emile Cioran et de René Char."

**Sébastien Dominguez-Llacer** (Université de Dijon/Brown): "Fourier et les transcendentalistes américains."

**Break**

**1:30 Panel Five: Writing the Sexual Taboo** (Mod. Anne-Gabrielle Roussel)

**Annie Branchy** (NYU): "Genre Trouble: Colette's *Les vrilles de la vigne*."

**Marion Phillips** (UC Berkeley): "'Tu vendrais ton sexe à ton porte-plume': Prostitution and Writing in *La Bâtarde* and *La Folie en tête*."

**Rebecca Krasner** (Brown University): "Transgressive family in *M. Vénus*."

**Break**

**3:00 Panel Six: The Monstrous Other – Redefining Humanity** (Mod. Jack Sieber)

**Fiona Moreno** (Université de Genève/UPenn): "Figure(s) du pédophile. Une diphonie à l'étude."

**Elizabeth Leet** (UVA): "*Translatio imperfecta* : confluence des êtres pour une hybridité formaliste chez Marie de France."

**Laurielle Turcat** (University of Wisconsin): "Le sadisme de Peau d'Âne."

**4:30 Keynote: Sylvaine Guyot: "Magnetic Bodies: A New Approach to French Classical Tragedy"**

(Mod. Shannon Bragg)

**Closing Remarks:** Anne-Caroline Sieffert

**BROWN UNIVERSITY  
THE DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH STUDIES**

**PRESENTS**

**SYLVAINE GUYOT  
(Harvard University)**

**"Magnetic Bodies:  
A New Approach to French  
Classical Tragedy."**

Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 2012

04: 30 PM

*Reception to follow*

Rochambeau House  
84 Prospect Street  
Providence, RI 02912  
*Handicap Accessible*

## Keynote Biography



Sylvaine Guyot, current Assistant Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures at Harvard University, studied at l'École Normale Supérieure-Ulm and l'Université de Paris IV – la Sorbonne before receiving her Ph.D. from l'Université de Paris III - la Sorbonne Nouvelle.

Her research interests include 17<sup>th</sup> Century French Literature, Early Modern Theater, Racine and Corneille, visual culture, intersections between theater and the visual arts, tragedy and the tragic, and the body.

Her numerous publications include *Racine, ou l'alchimie du tragique* (2010) and the forthcoming *Jean Racine et le corps tragique* (2012), both published by Presses universitaires de France (PUF).

In addition to being an accomplished scholar, Sylvaine Guyot is also a stage director. With Sophie Hutin, she co-directed *Hamlet-machine* by Heiner Müller, which was performed in Paris and at the Festival Off d'Avignon (2010) as well as *Andromaque* (2006). She has since co-founded the group *La Troupe* with four Harvard students, with the goal of promoting French culture and theater in Boston.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> 2012

**12:00 PM Registration**

**1:00 Opening Remarks:** Shannon Bragg

**1:15 Panel One: Defying the Genre Norm** (Mod. Bryan Zandberg)

**Nancy Knezevic** (University of Chicago): "This Woman I Play—Transgression and Jouissance in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*."

**Makhmouth Dia** (University of Delaware): "In Pursuit of African Tragedy: Why Do We Laugh?"

**Raphaël Sigal** (NYU): "Artaud rate son entrée."

**Break**

**2:45 Panel Two: Visual Insanity – Rethinking the Other** (Mod. Valentine Balguerie)

**Tamar Mayer** (University of Chicago): "Rethinking Transgression: Otherness in Théodore Géricault's *Portraits of the Insane*."

**Audrey Doussot** (Brown University): "Impudiques et impudents: les nus transgressifs de Degas (1834-1917)."

**Seth Watter** (Brown University): "Cinema and the Hysterical Impulse: The Case of Loudun on Film."

**Timothy Wilson** (CUNY): "Putain de taré!: Negative Transgression in Albert Dupontel's *Bernie*."

**4:30 Dramatic Reading of Jean Genet's *Les Bonnes* (*The Maids*)**

*Performed by Amanda Gann and Olga Zhulina* (Harvard University)

Moderator: Anne-Caroline Sieffert

**Reception**

