

The Comparative Literature Luncheon Series presents

Towards an Aesthetics of Stigmata: From Van Gogh's Paintings to Claire Denis's Films

SABINE DORAN

Penn State

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015

12:15 - 1:20 P.M.

102 KERN

Presentation and discussion begin at 12:30
Buy a lunch in Kern or bring your own
Coffee and tea provided

This talk explores an aesthetics of stigmata, as framed by Claire Denis's recent films, *The Intruder and Trouble Every Day*, and in dialogue with Van Gogh's painterly engagement with stigmatic inscriptions at the turn of the century. Van Gogh's emphasis on the stigmatic role of yellow in his late work, expressed through forms of "kinetic aggressivity," will be shown to parallel the transgressive nature of Denis's films, transgressive in both the formal and the affective senses, as thematized, for example, in sacrificial rituals (the Christ-like figure of the son in *L'Intrus*). At stake in both Van Gogh's and Denis's work is an insistence on the corporeal within networks of forces.

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**SPRING 2015
UPCOMING TALKS**

MONDAY, MARCH 2

"Mirrored Resonance: Writing English in Chinese Characters"

JONATHAN STALLING,
University of Oklahoma

MONDAY, MARCH 16

"The Labours of Tovarisch!: Ezra Pound's Slavic Worlds"

MYKOLA POLYUHA,
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

MONDAY, MARCH 23

"Threshold to the Kingdom: The Airport is a Border and the Border is a Volume"

MATTHEW HART, Columbia University

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