

## **“Thinking Allegory Otherwise”**

a conference to be held at Stanford February 25-26

<http://www.stanford.edu/group/allegory>

### **Pre-conference reading group**

Students interested in allegory, rhetoric, figurative language, the intersections between philosophy and literature, or the presence of allegory in non-literary fields, like science and law – This conference is for you! And this reading group will prepare you to be an active and engaged participant.

We will meet once a week for about an hour, very informally, and perhaps with pizza! Each week we will read in advance an essay by one of the invited speakers (see list below) and discuss that work.

At the conference, you will have several opportunities to engage with these faculty.

- question periods will all begin with an offer for students to ask questions
- following each morning session (Friday and Saturday), students can sign up for lunch with one of the participants. Students in the reading group will be given first priority. The lunch will provide an informal opportunity to talk to these speakers about their work and also more generally about their fields of study and academic experience.
- Some of the visiting faculty will be available for one-on-one conversation on Thursday evening (depending on their travel schedules)

For undergraduates, this is an opportunity to participate knowingly in an academic conference where the speakers will offer “work in progress”, questioning each other and themselves – a very different scenario than the classroom. You can also make connections with faculty from other universities as you consider a graduate career.

In addition, there will be an option to write a reflective paper about the conference. The best paper will be published in a campus venue and the winner will receive a monetary prize.

For graduate students, this conference provides a unique opportunity to interact with visiting faculty in your field, to talk to them about their work and query them about your own work, and to develop a network of connections that will serve you for years to come.

If you are interested in participating in this reading group, please contact the conference organizer, Brenda Machosky ([machosky@stanford.edu](mailto:machosky@stanford.edu)). The reading group will begin after the break, but please express your interest now.

**Visiting faculty:** Harry Berger, Jr. (English - UCSC); Angus Fletcher (English - CUNY Graduate Center); Jody Enders (French, Theatre, UCSB); Blair Hoxby (English – Yale, also in residence at the SHC); Catherine Martin (English, U Memphis); James Paxson, (English, U Florida); Daniel Selcer (Philosophy, Duquesne); and Gordon Teskey (English, Harvard).

**Stanford faculty:** Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht (CompLit, French&Italian); Robert Harrison (French&Italian); Roland Greene (English, DLCL); Stephen Orgel (English); Richard Ford (Law); Michael Marinnan (Art History); Brenda Machosky (IHUM), and others TBA.