

The Department of French Studies 1st Annual Graduate Student Conference: *Stirring the gumbo pot: French and Francophone Studies, Critical Approaches, and New Directions*

Louisiana State University
Department of French Studies Graduate Association (DFSGA) Conference
March 23rd-24th 2007, Baton Rouge, USA
Keynote Speaker: Professor Peggy Kamuf
Conference organizers: Logan Connors and Marianne Halloran

Call for Papers: Here in Louisiana, we know how to put different ingredients into the same pot and create something fresh and delicious. Sometimes too spicy, but never bland, the results, however, can be difficult to predict. We could say the same for the discipline of French and Francophone Studies. With a breadth of disparate critical approaches, French and Francophone studies resemble a Louisiana gumbo. French and Francophone Studies scholars thrive throughout North America and around the world. What are some new ingredients that keep French and Francophone scholars on the forefront of humanities? How can French and Francophone Graduate students spice up the discipline?

The Department of French Studies Graduate Association at Louisiana State University invites graduate students to submit proposals for 20-minute presentations (in English or French) addressing the status of French and Francophone Studies or any research in the field. We actively seek proposals for papers from all periods and aspects of French and Francophone studies (linguistics, literature, pedagogy, thought and the history of ideas, critical theory, cultural studies, film studies, etc.).

Please note that one selected paper (as determined by the organizing committee) will be published in the online journal mondesfrancophones.com, edited by Professor Alexandre Leupin: <http://www.mondesfrancophones.com/>

We are pleased to announce that Professor Peggy Kamuf will deliver the keynote address.

Professor Kamuf is the Marion Frances Chevalier Professor of French and Professor of French and Comparative Literature at the University of South California. Her principal research interests are in literary theory and contemporary French thought and literature. She has written extensively on the work of Jacques Derrida, Hélène Cixous, and Jean-Luc Nancy, and has also translated a number of their texts. Her earlier work was on 18th-century French fictions of the feminine (*Fictions of Feminine Desire: Disclosures of Heloise* (1982)), the signature and authorship, especially in Rousseau, but as well Stendhal, Baudelaire, and V. Woolf (*Signature Pieces: On the Institution of Authorship* (1988)), and the institutionalization of literary studies, specifically in France (*The Division of Literature, or the University in Deconstruction* (1997)).

Her most recent work, *Book of Addresses* (2005), gathers essays on fictionality, sexual difference, psychoanalysis, and literary theory around the figure of the address of speech and writing. She has also edited several collections of work by Jacques Derrida: *A Derrida Reader: Between the Blinds* (1991), *Without Alibi* (2002), and *Psyche: Inventions of the Other* (forthcoming 2006). In Spring 2006, she will return to teach at the Centre de Recherches en Études Féminines at the Université de Paris VIII (Vincennes-Saint Denis).