

Modes d'être

(UMA*

7th Annual LSU French Studies Conference

March 1-2, 2013

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- **Issues of Being Human: Modes of Existence/ (Human, Animal, Machine)**
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- While the human being is often situated at the forefront of studies in the humanities, our ways of being and modes of existence often relate to the non-human/ animals, machines, tools, artificial or inanimate objects, environment, the universe, the world's ecological existence as human beings with non-human beings cannot be denied but that we, actually, differentiates humans from non-humans. Are the ontological, existential, and linguistic boundaries between the strictly delimited or porous? (Can we define human potentiality without positing the non-human? (Can we claim to say that the human is without also articulating that it is not?)

Language is perhaps at the heart of the question of human beings' relationship with non-humans. Where the

