



XVIII Annual FIGSA Conference
March 2nd 2012
The Ohio State University – Columbus, OH

Playing the Past

Keynote Speaker:

Professor and Chair, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures -
University of Notre Dame Theodore J. Cachey, Jr.

The Ohio State University's French and Italian Graduate Student Association (FIGSA) invites submissions for its 18th annual research conference entitled "Playing the Past." We welcome abstracts from various disciplines in the French and Italian realm that explore the ways in which writers and thinkers have used cues from the past to articulate their own times.

Victor Hugo once pondered, "What is history? An echo of the past in the future; a reflex from the future on the past." This year's topic will examine this complex relationship between past, present, and future, especially how the past manifests itself in the present of a given work. We will examine both the positive and negative consequences of revisiting or imitating the past, and particularly how the present may serve as repetition of the past. Looking towards the future, how can the past serve as a model for how or how not to react?

Relevant themes and topics may include but are not limited to:

- Literary and cinematic imitation (i.e. parody)
- history
- sexuality

- language and linguistics
- film studies
- power and politics
- medieval studies
- women and gender studies
- colonial and post-colonial
- linguistic
- comparative literature
- culture
- borders and geography
- historical novel
- geographies of the Past

We welcome submissions and proposals on French and Italian material for papers in English. Presentations will be limited to a reading time of 20 minutes (8-10 pages). Abstracts should follow MLA style and be between 200-300 words. Along with the abstract, please include a cover letter indicating the title, author's name, brief bio, affiliation, and contact information

Please send abstracts to figsa@osu.edu by January, 13th 2012