

THE MIT RESEARCH SEMINAR IN FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE STUDIES



The Foreign Languages and Literatures section is pleased to announce the opening of The MIT Research Seminar in French and Francophone Studies. RSFFS aims to bring together MIT faculty, instructors, and graduate students interested in the study of French and francophone cultures across disciplines.

Each semester, leading American and international scholars in the field of French and francophone studies will present their research. RSFFS will also be a space for discussing current research projects by MIT faculty, instructors, and graduate students, as well as recent readings and translations.

If you want to contribute yourself, or discuss a specific reading or theme, please contact:
Professor Bruno Perreau (bperreau@mit.edu)

Spring 2013 Program



APRIL 2, 2013 - 14E-304 - 5:00 PM

PROFESSOR TODD SHEPARD (JOHNS HOPKINS)

**SEX TALK, RACE TALK, EMPIRE TALK:
THE "ARAB MAN" IN FRENCH DEBATES ABOUT VIOLENCE AND SEX IN THE 1970s**

Todd Shepard will explore how French discussions over the course of the 1970s about sodomy and rape which in many other ways replicated debates then taking place in the US and elsewhere turned around the figure of the "Arab man." While scholars at the time (notably feminists and Foucault) remarked that these discussions raised crucial questions about the relationship between "acts" and "identities," Todd Shepard suggests that they were also sites where questions about empire, racism, and colonial violence (notably the Algerian War) shaped understanding of how politics functioned.

Todd Shepard is Associate Professor of History and Co-Director of the Program in the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality at Johns Hopkins University. His first book *The Invention of Decolonization: The Algerian War and the Remaking of France* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006) won numerous awards, including The Council of European Studies' 2008 Book Prize. He is now working on three book projects: *Voices of Decolonization (A Brief History with Documents)* (forthcoming, Bedford/St. Martin); *La France, le sexe et les arabes (1962 à 1979)* (forthcoming, Payot); and *Affirmative Action and the End of Empires: 'Integration' in France (1956-1962) and the Race Question in the Cold War World*.

APRIL 22, 2013 - 14E-304 - 4:30 PM

PROFESSOR MARIE-HÉLÈNE HUET (PRINCETON)

**Around the World in Eighty Moves:
Bets, Races, and a Brief History of the Game of the Goose**



In her talk, Marie-Hélène Huet will examine the origins of the game of the goose and its role in an adventure novel written by Jules Verne in 1900: *Le Testament d'un excentrique* (*The Will of an Eccentric*).

Marie-Hélène Huet is M. Taylor Pyne Professor of French at Princeton. Professor Huet has written extensively on cultural history, historiography, 18th- and 19th- century literature, and the French Enlightenment. She is the author of *L'Histoire des voyages extraordinaires, Essai sur l'oeuvre de Jules Verne* (Minard, 1973); *Le Héros et son double* (Corti, 1975); *Rehearsing the Revolution. The Staging of Marat's Death, 1793-1797* (University of California Press, 1982); *Monstrous Imagination* (Harvard University Press, 1993), which was awarded the Harry Levin Prize in Comparative Literature; *Mourning Glory: The Will of the French Revolution* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1997); and *The Culture of Disaster* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, Fall 2012).



MAY 2, 2013 - 14E-304 - 4:00 PM

PROFESSOR LAURENT DUBOIS (DUKE)

**Soccer Empire:
Thinking Empire, Immigration, and Race Through Sport**

In this discussion, Laurent Dubois will present a chapter from his book 'Soccer Empire' and discuss some of the methodological and theoretical questions raised by using soccer as a way to think through the history of French empire, decolonization, and immigration. How does the study of sport -- which remains relatively marginal in French Studies -- allow us to re-think our approach to the categories of analysis and methods we use in understanding these topics?"

Laurent Dubois, a specialist in the history and culture of France and the Caribbean, is Marcello Lotti Professor of Romance Studies and History at Duke University, and co-director of the Haiti laboratory of the Franklin Humanities Institute. He is the author of most recently, *Soccer Empire: The World Cup and the Future of France* (University of California Press) and *Haiti: The Aftershocks of History* (Metropolitan Books, 2012).