Love as the Practice of Freedom?  
Romance Fiction and American Culture

Current Schedule

Thursday, April 23, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

7:30 pm  Registration, Betts Auditorium

8:00 pm  Conference welcome: William Gleason, Princeton University, and Eric Murphy Selinger, DePaul University

8:15 pm  Keynote roundtable, “Romance Fiction and American Culture”
          Tania Modleski, Dept. of English, USC
          Stephanie Coontz, Dept. of History, Evergreen State University
          Mary Bly [“Eloisa James”], Dept. of English, Fordham University, and romance author
          Jennifer Crusie, romance author and essayist on the genre

Friday, April 24, 8:00 am – 6:30 pm

8:00-8:30  Registration and refreshments, Betts Auditorium

8:30-10:15  Session I: Love and Faith: Romance and Religion
            Lynn S. Neal, Dept. of Religion, Wake Forest University
            Pamela Regis, Dept. of English, McDaniel College
            R. Marie Griffith, Dept. of Religion, Princeton University
            Beth Pattillo, romance author and ordained minister
            Eric Murphy Selinger, Dept. of English, DePaul University

10:30-12:15  Session II: Memory and Desire: Romance, History, and Literary Tradition
              Margaret Doody, Dept. of English, University of Notre Dame; Visiting Professor for Distinguished Teaching, Princeton University
              Rita B. Dandridge, Dept. of Languages and Literature, Virginia State University
              Ann Herendeen, romance author
              Sally Goade, independent scholar
              Beverly Jenkins, romance author

12:15-1:15  Lunch for panelists and pre-registered conferees, Chancellor Green

1:30-3:15  Session III: The Sweetest Taboos: Romance and Sexuality
            Mary Bly [“Eloisa James”], Dept. of English, Fordham University, and romance author
            Sarah S. G. Frantz, Dept. of English and Foreign Languages, Fayetteville

updated 4/20/09
State University  
Julie E. Moody-Freeman, Dept. of African and Black Diaspora Studies, DePaul University  
Guy Mark Foster, Dept. of English and Africana Studies, Bowdoin College

3:30-5:15  
**Session IV: Whispers in the Dark: Romance and Race**  
Gwendolyn Pough [“Gwyneth Bolton”], Dept. of Women’s Studies, Syracuse University, and romance author  
Emily Haddad, Dept. of English, University of South Dakota  
Esi Sogah, romance editor, Avon Books  
Dana Johnson [“P.J. MacAllister”], Dept. of English, USC, and Alison Umminger [“Grace Grant”], Dept. of English, University of West Georgia, and collaborating romance authors

5:30-6:30  
**Closing Roundtable: Romance Reads the Academy**  
Michelle Buonfiglio, blogger and reviewer (Romance: B(u)y the Book)  
Sarah Wendell, blogger and reviewer (Smart Bitches Trashy Books)  
Diane Pershing, romance author, President, Romance Writers of America (2008-2009)  
*Monica Jackson*, author, paranormal romance; contributor to “Blogging in Black” and other author websites  
Krista Stroever, editor, Harlequin Books

7:00-  
**Dinner** for panelists and pre-registered conferees, Fine Hall

*Schedule update (4/20/09): Unfortunately Monica Jackson will be unable to join us on Friday’s closing roundtable.*