

The Renaissance Studies Program
“Political Renaissance” Lecture Series
presents the third lecture by

KATHERINE IBBETT

*Coexistence: Political Conflict and the
Novel in Early Modern France*

5:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 13, 2010
State Room East
Indiana Memorial Union



Popular French historical fiction written in the late seventeenth century returned again and again to the scene of the religious wars of the late sixteenth century. In particular, Katherine Ibbett will look at a series of tableaux of spousal suffering and sympathy in the writing of two women, Villedieu and Lafayette, and will argue that the difficult flickerings of marital pity glimpsed in these scenes are framed so that the reader considers scenes of private sorrow in firm relation to the larger public crisis of the war.

Ibbett suggests that the brokering of a language of compassion and its subsequent breakdown in these historical novels can best be understood in the context of the great narrative arc of toleration and its failure in France between the wars of religion and the expulsion of the Huguenots a century later. How does the new form of the novel take up and rework the language of public conflict?

Katherine Ibbett is Lecturer in French at University College London

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