

REDEEMING ICARUS

Human/Animal Attributes and the Rise of the Microscope

Though humans have worked tirelessly to distinguish ourselves from non-human animals, the nature of the "slash" we use to divide us from them varies profoundly over time. This talk will explore an important pivot in the history of that "slash" by considering the state of affairs around the rise of the microscope (c. 1600). It will also calibrate these two, before-and-after regimes of vision to more broadly philosophical developments, particularly the Cartesian dispensation between human and animal. Montaigne and Shakespeare, Thomas Moffett's *The Theatre of Insects: or, Lesser Living Creatures* (1658), and Robert Hooke's meticulous recordings of "minute bodies" under the microscope (*Micrographia*, 1665) will be considered.

LAURIE SHANNON is Franklin Bliss Snyder Professor and Chair of English at Northwestern University. A roundtable will follow Prof. Shannon's talk, featuring CONSTANCE FUREY (Religious Studies), DOMENICO BERTOLONI MELI (HSP), and ABBY ANG (English).

Thursday, November 15, 2018, 4PM UNIVERSITY CLUB, INDIANA MEMORIAL UNION

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