

RUTGERS

School of Arts and Sciences

The Department of Germanic, Russian, and East European Languages and Literatures
presents:

The Spring 2015 Rodig Lecture

Elisabeth Weber

University of California, Santa Barbara

Lions and Slit Umbrellas

Thursday, April 16, 2015

5:00-7:00 pm

Alexander Library

Teleconference Lecture Hall



“Big, yellow, breathing: without a doubt, a lion.” Sibylle Lewitscharoff’s 2011 novel *Blumenberg* opens with the philosopher Blumenberg encountering a lion, in his office, in the middle of the night. What does “being there” (“da sein,” not “Dasein”) mean for a philosopher when it materializes as a lion? This lecture proposes to explore possibilities of fiction in and beyond its conversation with philosophy. If, as Jacques Derrida asserts, the necessity to think what is “most irreducible” about our era implies that thought be maintained in a relationship with the “structural limits of mastery,” the encounter with the lion raises necessary questions.



Elisabeth Weber teaches German and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She is the author of *Persecution and Trauma. On Emmanuel Levinas’ Otherwise than being or beyond essence*, and of *Questioning Judaism*, a collection of interviews with French intellectuals and philosophers. She has edited several works by Jacques Derrida. Most recently, she edited the volumes *Living Together. Jacques Derrida’s Communities of Violence and Peace*, and, together with Julie Carlson, *Speaking about Torture* (New York, Fordham University Press 2013).

This program is funded by a generous annual gift from Mrs. Lillian Rodig Maxwell, in memory of her brother, Dr. Oscar R. Rodig, Jr. R51, who studied Chemistry and German at Rutgers College, and in memory of her sister, Erika Rodig Rosera D62, who studied History and German at Douglass College.

For more information, please contact the German Department at 732-932-7201 or anna.sandberg@rutgers.edu.