

The Graduate Students of the English Department Present:



Anne-Lise François

University of California, Berkeley

"IN THE COWSLIPS PEEPS* I LYE": ROUSSEAU, CLARE, CLIMATE CHANGE AND TELLING THE TIME OF DAY

*PEEP, PIP--SINGLE BLOSSOM OF FLOWERS GROWING IN A CLUSTER

What can Romantic-period botanical writings contribute to contemporary phenological study at a time when catastrophic climate change means the dissociation of former synchronies between pollinators and flowering plants?



"Bibliothèque publique et universitaire, Neuchâtel"

Monday, March 21, 2016 ✦ 5:30 pm

Smith-Buonanno Hall, Room 106

95 Cushing Street

Reception to follow

Recent work on Romantic-era botany has questioned the supposed immobility of plants and, with it, the supposed groundedness of Romantic nature. In her talk, François will draw on Rousseau's non-substantive definition of the plant's flower as a relative window of time or season of fertility to ask what it means to count time in flower-hours. What would it also mean to practice Clare's art of reading the landscape for temporal cues, in an age defined by honeybee die-off, large-scale, pesticide-heavy industrial monocultures, disappearing species and habitat-loss?

Anne-Lise François is Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of *Open Secrets: The Literature of Uncounted Experience* (Stanford University Press), which was awarded the 2009 René Wellek Prize by the American Comparative Literature Association.

Sponsored by the Departments of English and Comparative Literature.

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