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?

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.

Co-sponsored by ⊘ Department of French Studies ⊘ Department of German Studies ⊘ Department of Modern Culture & Media and the Malcolm S. Forbes Center for Media and Culture ⊘ Department of Religious Studies ⊘ Cogut Center for the Humanities ⊘ Sarah Doyle Women’s Center

www.brown.edu/academics/english/events