



Humanities Institute at Stony Brook
p r e s e n t s

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

4:30 p.m.

Humanities 1008

Reception will follow

Caryl Emerson

Princeton University

Bakhtin and the Intra-Humanities

For Mikhail Bakhtin, the concept of dialogue was not what we understand by the word today. In his era, it was precious and dangerous; in ours, it costs nothing and is carried around non-stop on everyone's tiny machines. Bakhtin was a technophobe. Are his ideas still relevant? Drawing on Bakhtin and Yuri Lotman, as well as on Stephen Greenblatt and Mikhail Epstein, Emerson will suggest some ways that Bakhtin's archaic (or timeless) understanding of the activities proper to the humanities might still speak to us.



Caryl Emerson is the A. Watson Armour III University Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Princeton University, with a co-appointment in Comparative Literature. Her research interests include Mikhail Bakhtin, 19th-century Russian literary classics (Pushkin, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky), and Russian opera and vocal music. Her current projects include Tolstoy, Bernard Shaw, and Shakespeare; the modernist Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky; and the adaptation of the Russian literary tradition to the Stalinist-era stage.