



Professor Michelle Matson's FDE talk December 3, 2007

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Gates_Elizabeth

From: Malkin_Shira
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2007 6:36 PM
To: FACSTAFF
Subject: Professor Michelle Mattson's FDE talk: December 3rd at noon in Alburty

Dear Colleagues,

Please join us for the last FDE presentation of 2007... **the last, but not the least!** Professor Michelle Mattson, Chair of the Modern Languages and Literatures Department, will give a presentation on Monday, December 3rd, **at noon**, in Alburty. Her talk is entitled **“Mothers Care? Models of Motherhood and their Ethical Implications in post-WWII German literature.”**

Abstract: This talk compares early texts from feminist ethicists (Nel Noddings and Sara Ruddick) that focus on care and/or mothering as the basis for ethical models with literary works by two German authors (Christa Wolf and Ingeborg Drewitz) which challenge these models and reveal their structural problems. Although the literary works appeared generally shortly before the feminist scholarship, they all participate in a discussion of how women’s experiences as mothers and care-givers can and/or should factor into the construction of ethical models. Furthermore, the conflicts that come to the fore in the literary texts foreshadow the directions that feminist ethicists themselves went in a continuing dialogue about feminist contributions to the study of ethics. Specifically, the talk 1) explores how these two authors illustrate the potential problems with an ethics based either on “maternal thinking” or on a more abstract notion of caring; 2) discusses the directions in which their work points us; and 3) also uses feminist scholarly discussions on ethics as conceptual tools to illuminate more fully the central conflicts in the literary texts themselves.

This FDE talk is generously sponsored by the Provost's Office. Tell the Cashier that you are with the FDE group. Please note: **In order to allow faculty who teach until 11:50am to go through the lunch line and get to Alburty in time, the talk won't start until 12:10pm.)**

I hope to see you there!

Shira