

**The Department of French Studies 2nd Annual Graduate Student
Conference: *Literature, Language, Theory: Challenges to
Authority***

Louisiana State University
Department of French Studies Graduate Association (DFSGA) Conference
March 7-8, 2008 at Baton Rouge, USA
Keynote Speaker: Professor Elena Russo

Call for Papers: The sometimes problematic political and literary figure, Maurice Blanchot argued for the writer's impossible commitment to a political cause. For him, literature reigned supreme. Yet, writers have often sacrificed their artistic talent in defense of political ideologies and, not rarely, in defense of authoritarian practices. Our conference proposes an exploration of the possibly contentious rapport between French and Francophone literatures and power in its various manifestations from the Middle Ages to the present day. We will examine to what extent literary works support or challenge Authority. Does literature have an impact on the changing of power relations? Do linguistic deviations invite a shift in Authority? Does literary theory reinforce the standards associated with the status quo?

Keynote speaker: Professor Elena Russo, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Johns Hopkins University

Keynote address: "Diderot and Rousseau: Slander and Glory in the Republic of Letters"

Friday, March 7th, 6:00 pm. Grand Salon, The French House

Conference organizers: Oana Cimpean and Rosie Harrington.