

The PAL logo consists of the letters "PAL" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are contained within a white, right-angled triangle that points towards the bottom right. This triangle is set against a background of a collage of colorful, abstract, and figurative images, primarily in shades of yellow, orange, and red, with some green and blue accents. The collage appears to be a collection of small, square panels or tiles, each with its own unique design, some featuring dots, lines, and organic shapes. The overall composition is dynamic and artistic.

2011-2012 Annual Report

PAL at Duke

Center for

Philosophy

Arts

and Literature

# Duke's Center for

## Letter from the Director

PAL's third year was hectic, but highly rewarding. PAL's popularity is growing. Our listserv has around 250 members, and the PAL Graduate Certificate already has 6 registered graduate student certificate earners, which makes it one of the more popular certificates in the Humanities at Duke!

In 2011-12 PAL hosted or co-hosted three lectures, two symposia, and the two-day Young Scholars Workshop. Most of our activities illuminated the complex interaction between literature and philosophy: the symposium on Simone de Beauvoir, the lectures by Alice Crary and Joshua Landy, as well as Cora Diamond's distinguished lecture on literature and moral philosophy.

We also threw ourselves into discussion about the political and aesthetic purposes of the literary magazine in a global age, and pondered the reception of Wittgenstein in France. Thanks to James Conant's fascinating analysis of *The Lady in the Lake*, we also investigated the relationship between film and philosophy.



# Philosophy, Arts and

In this report you will find highlights of the past year. Our new series of PAL Forums will kick off with an informal talk by Owen Flanagan (Philosophy), and continue with a series of screenings of Cavell's "remarriage comedies." In January, there will be a symposium on Music and Philosophy, organized in collaboration with Anne-Gaëlle Saliot (Romance Studies). The Young Scholars Workshop in March will be Writing Is Thinking 2, a new edition of our exceptionally successful 2011 writing event. We are also expecting to schedule lectures by Stefan Collini, Keren Gorodelsky and Nancy Bauer, among others.

## PAL Assistants Leonore Fleming and Kaila Brown



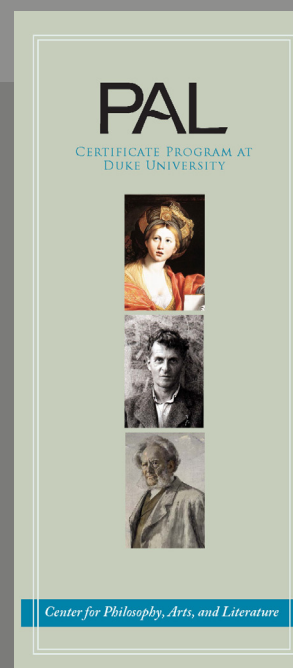
## Literature

Thank you for your interest in, and support of, Duke's Center for Philosophy, Arts, and Literature. Please see our website for more information about our upcoming events:  
[www.duke.edu/web/philartslit/](http://www.duke.edu/web/philartslit/)

Toril Moi  
Director, PAL



Toril Moi



Graduate Certificate Brochure



# Simone de Beauvoir Today

**September 23, 2011**

In collaboration with Duke's Program in Women's Studies, PAL hosted an international symposium on Simone de Beauvoir, to mark the 25th year of her death. Duke's new Dean of Arts and Sciences, Laurie Patton, opened the symposium with a gracious and deeply personal tribute to Beauvoir. The speakers were Emily Apter (French, NYU), Stella Sandford (Philosophy, Kingston, UK), Ursula Tidd (French, Manchester, UK) and Linda Zerilli (Political Science and Gender Studies, Chicago). Nancy Bauer (Philosophy, Tufts) and Toril Moi responded.



A symposium to mark the 25th anniversary of Simone de Beauvoir's death



Duke graduate students opened up new avenues for Beauvoir studies: Amey Victoria Adkins (Divinity, Women's Studies), Azeen Khan (English, Women's Studies), Ali Mian (Religion, Women's Studies) and Ashley King Scheu (PhD, French).

Focusing on her interdisciplinary reach from philosophy to literature and film, the symposium provided fresh perspectives on Beauvoir.





# Wittgenstein in France

**September 22, 2011**

Over 50 people turned up to hear Sandra Laugier, who holds the Chair of Philosophy of Language at the University of Paris I (Sorbonne), talk about “Wittgenstein in France.”



## A Seminar with Sandra Laugier



After an overview of the situation of Wittgenstein in France, Laugier focused on Pierre Hadot (1922-2010), Professor of Ancient Philosophy at the Collège de France. Well known in the United States for his book *Philosophy as a Way of Life*, Hadot was also the author of some of the first essays on Wittgenstein to appear in French.

# W.G. Sebald and the Ethics of Narrative

**November 29, 2011**

Alice Crary, Associate Professor of Philosophy at The New School, co-editor of *The New Wittgenstein* (2000), and author of *Beyond Moral Judgement* (2007) gave the lecture, “W. G. Sebald and the Ethics of Narrative: A Reading of *Austerlitz*.”



## A Lecture by Alice Crary



Crary’s closely argued reading of *Austerlitz* showed that Sebald’s use of an array of narrative techniques produces a striking, ethical understanding of the relationship between human beings and animals.



# Literature, Aesthetics, Politics

**January 20, 2012**

PAL was privileged to co-host a symposium with the Franklin Humanities Institute on the current function of the literary magazine. The event brought together members of the editorial collectives of the Nairobi-based magazine Kwani and the NYC-based journal n+1. The discussion of the political and aesthetic purposes of literary magazines, and the role of writers and public intellectuals in such different parts of the world was eye-opening.



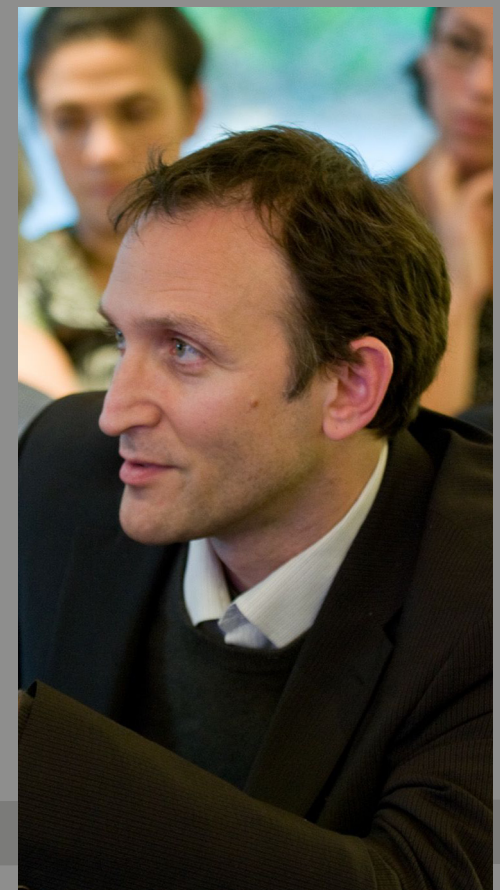
## The Function of the Literary Magazine in the Current Moment



## Literature, Narrative and the Shape of a Life

**February 23, 2012**

Joshua Landy, Associate Professor of French and one of the convenors of the Literature and Philosophy major at Stanford University spoke on the subject "Literature, Narrative and the Shape of a Life." What is the shape of a life? What can literature from Shakespeare to Proust, Beckett and Kundera tell us about it? How do the concerns of philosophers (Nietzsche, MacIntyre, Rorty, Descombes) intersect with those of writers?



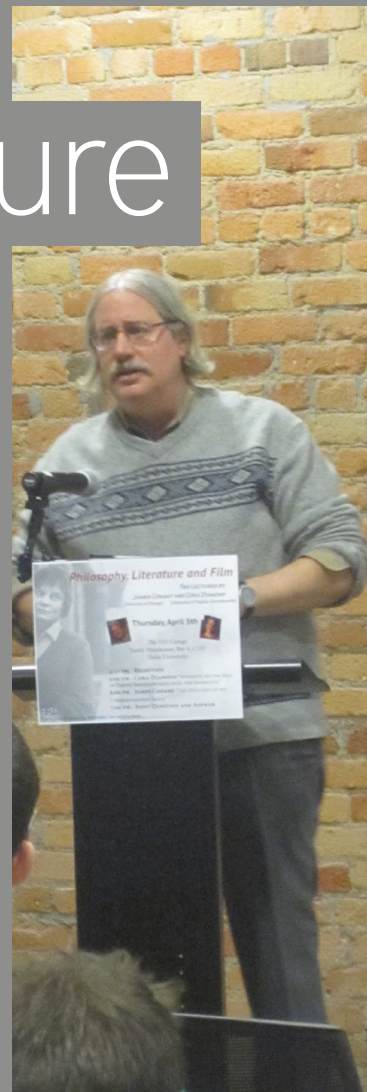
From Kwani, we welcomed: Billy Kahora and Keguro Macharia. From n+1: Marco Roth, Carla Blumenthal, and Mark Greif



# Philosophy, Literature and Film

**In April 2012**, PAL hosted its 3rd Annual Young Scholars Workshop. The annual PAL Young Scholars Workshop aims to foster rewarding conversation and intellectual inspiration among young scholars who might otherwise feel isolated in their interests and concerns, and to encourage young thinkers to find their own voice.

## Two Lectures by James Conant and Cora Diamond



The theme this year was Literature, Film and Philosophy. The outstanding speakers, Cora Diamond and James Conant gave lectures and spent a full day in conversation with the 20 participants in the workshop, which included Duke graduate students, invited young scholars from Stanford, Brandeis, Johns Hopkins and Boston University, and, for the first time, Duke undergraduates with interests in the field.



## Young Scholars Workshop

**On April 5**, James Conant (University of Chicago) and Cora Diamond (University of Virginia) gave two lectures open to all. James Conant spoke on "The Ontology of the Cinematographic Image" and Cora Diamond on "Murdoch Off the Map: Or Taking Empiricism Back From The Empiricists." Conant argued that we have to distinguish the category of the "movie" from that of "film," while Diamond

drew our attention to the relevance of literature for moral philosophy, and for the humanities.

**On April 6**, twenty invited participants spent all day discussing texts by Conant and Diamond with them, in a series of sessions at Duke's R. David Thomas Center.





[www.duke.edu/web/philartslit/](http://www.duke.edu/web/philartslit/)



Center for Philosophy, Arts and Literature  
B184 Smith Warehouse, Bay 5, 1st Floor  
Box 90403  
114 S. Buchanan Blvd.  
Durham, NC 27708