

## **The Philosophy Department Speaker Series presents:**

### **Dr. Catherine Malabou "The Future of the Humanities"**

Monday April 27, 2009  
MacKinnon Building, Room 305  
3:00-5:00 pm

#### **Abstract:**

The frontier between the humanities and sciences has to be redrawn. This because the most accurate concept of the frontier is today being elaborated and articulated by science, and no longer by any of the disciplines that constitute the humanities. Science is gradually becoming a discourse on limits, thus depriving the humanities from their own content or task. I will insist upon the field where this reelaboration is the most visible and spectacular, ie neurobiology, where "plasticity" characterizes a new epistemological, ontological and political mode of being of frontiers. Reading both "What is Enlightenment?" (Foucault), and *University without Condition* (Derrida), I will address the issue of a possible plasticity of criticism.

#### **About Dr. Malabou**

Specializing in contemporary French thought and Hegel, Catherine Malabou is a professor of philosophy at the University of Paris X-Nanterre and is a Humanities Institute Distinguished Scholar in Residence & Visiting Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Buffalo. She is the author of *The Future of Hegel* (Routledge 2005), *Counterpath* (with Jacques Derrida) (Stanford 2004), *What should we do with our brain?* (Fordham, 2008), *Plasticity at the Eve of Writing* (Columbia University Press, 2009), and *Les nouveaux blessés, de Freud à la neurologie: penser les traumatismes contemporains* (The New Wounded, From Freud to Neurology: Thinking Contemporary Traumas) (Bayard, 2007). In her work, Malabou articulates the concept of plasticity at the crossing of philosophy (dialectic and deconstruction) and neuroscience.

For an introduction to Malabou's philosophical work, see "A Conversation with Catherine Malabou," *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* 9 (2008): 1–13. Full text is available at:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/philosophy/page.cfm?id=8&m1=4&y1=2009&d1=27>