

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT SPEAKER SERIES



UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH

CHANGING LIVES
IMPROVING LIFE

REFUGEE ROOTLESSNESS, RESETTLEMENT, AND ASSIMILATION

A TALK BY DR. KATY FULFER
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ROOM: MCKN 314
FRIDAY, MARCH 29
11:00-12:30



The central aim of this talk is to offer a revised account of assimilation in Arendt. I put Arendt's discussion of social conformity in *Rahel Varnhagen* (written in the 1930s while Arendt was a refugee, but not published until 1957) in conversation with notions of multiple worlds developed by Latina feminists (particularly Gloria Anzaldúa and Mariana Ortega). By separating "the Social" from "social worlds" that might serve as ground for resistance from, a reconstructed Arendtian account of assimilation can distinguish between social conformity to dominant hegemonic narratives of belonging and strategic uses of assimilation. Thus, with this project I seek to clarify how assimilation operates in Arendt's political thought, and to extend feminist re-interpretations of Arendt's notion of "the social."