

Renewal

The organizers of the 1st Annual Graduate Student Colloquium at the University of Toronto's Department of English extend a cordial call to all graduate students in the Department of English for papers relating to the theme of renewal. Although the Colloquium's theme was inspired by its temporal coincidence with the arrival of "poor, dear, silly spring" and its "annual surprise" (to paraphrase Wallace Stevens), we welcome papers on a wide variety of topics. The colloquium aims to explore the ways in which renewal operates literally, thematically, and/or metaphorically in a diverse range of genres, periods, methodologies (etc.). Renewal is a particularly pertinent topic because of the relationship it posits between the old and the new, the past and the present: to what extent is the renewed object a new object? to what extent does the old persist?

Our chief interest in planning the Colloquium is to foster interactions and conversations between graduate students and faculty working in all areas of English Literature. Abstracts will be blind reviewed and then organized into panels of three to four presenters with a faculty member or senior graduate student acting both as "responder"--identifying possibly productive linkages between the papers and posing some initial questions --and chair. Presentations will be 15 minutes (no longer than 6 double-spaced pages) long, with time at the end of the panel for discussion.

We invite papers on any of the following themes relating to renewal, broadly defined:

- translation, parody, adaptation, ekphrasis
- depictions of springtime
- birth and rebirth; taxidermy & life-in-death
- renewing books: lending libraries, circulation, reissues, editions, and republications
- postcolonial writing back and writing against
- naming practices, baptisms, ceremonies & rites of passage
- ecocriticism
- digital humanities: virtuality and other new frontiers
- utopianism and other new Jerusalems
- genre and the revitalization of literary convention(s)
- dialectics: searching for the new out of the old
- difference and/or repetition
- re-reading and re-interpretation
- liberation and incarceration, relocations, new beginnings, and other narratives of escape
- re-inventing the self
- make-up, camp, kitsch
- psychoanalysis and the return of the repressed

Please submit an abstract of **no more than 300 words** by **February 29, 2012** to enggradcolloquium2012@gmail.com or contact Rachel McArthur (rachel.mcarthur@utoronto.ca) with any questions).