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Neville Hoad to Speak on "Wildean Savagery" February 23

The English Department Scholarly Speakers Series welcomes Professor Neville Hoad (University of Texas, Austin), who will speak on "Wildean Savagery" this Thursday, February 23. The talk will take place at 7 p.m. in the University Center for the Humanities (2500 Knauss Hall), with a reception to follow. All are welcome. Especially wilde savages.

Neville Hoad is an associate professor of English and affiliated faculty with the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies, the Center for African and African American Studies, and the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice. He authored African Intimacies: Race, Homosexuality and Globalization (Minnesota, 2007), co-edited (with Karen Martin and Graeme Reid) Sex & Politics in South Africa (Double Storey, 2005) and currently is writing a book on the literary and cultural representations of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Sub-Saharan Africa. His areas of research include African and Victorian literature, queer theory, and the history of sexuality.

In his lecture Hoad locates Victorian origin narratives, both Darwinian ontogeny/phylogeny recapitulation and Freud's theories of psychosexual development, as sites which produced curious and deeply imbricated discourses of the primitive and the homosexual. He proceeds to investigate how racial and imperial rhetorics of savagery and sexual deviance became entrenched in the writings of Oscar Wilde as well as in public declarations about the author, particularly during his infamous 1895 trial.

Posted by Beth Bradburn at 1:26 PM