Amir Jaima
Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Philosophy

Questionable Form: an inquiry into the relationship between philosophy and literature

Synopsis: Through a comparative reading of philosophical and literary texts, I examine the distinction between the projects and practices of philosophy and literature. I argue that, like philosophy, novels make arguments and explicitly engage the range of philosophical questions; and like literature, essential elements of philosophy include aesthetic considerations. Moreover, the presumed distinction between philosophy and literature does a disservice to both. Framed more as a criticism of philosophy, this project focuses on the ways in which “literature” functions as shorthand for essential philosophical considerations. Consequently, I argue that philosophy will need to redraw the cultural boundaries of the philosophical community, and reevaluate what kinds of discourses and texts contribute to traditional theoretical projects.

Biography: Born in Antigua West Indies, Amir Jaima is a philosophy doctoral candidate at SUNY Stony Brook. His research interests are in ethics, philosophy and literature, african philosophy, and feminist philosophy. His dissertation—"Questionable Form: an inquiry into the relationship between philosophy and literature"—examines the philosophical basis and ethical and political implications of the distinction between philosophy and literature. Other areas of research include (post)racial discourses and analysis, cosmopolitanism, and contemporary feminism. Additionally, Amir is a novelist and has a number of working literary projects that both inform and are inspired by his philosophical work.

Friday, November 8, 2013 at 12:30pm
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Lunch will be provided.
For a disability related accommodation, please call 2-1387.