For Mikhail Bakhtin, the concept of dialogue was not what we understand by the word today. In his era, it was precious and dangerous; in ours, it costs nothing and is carried around non-stop on everyone’s tiny machines. Bakhtin was a technophobe. Are his ideas still relevant? Drawing on Bakhtin and Yuri Lotman, as well as on Stephen Greenblatt and Mikhail Epstein, Emerson will suggest some ways that Bakhtin’s archaic (or timeless) understanding of the activities proper to the humanities might still speak to us.