You are cordially invited to a lecture by

Cynthia Willett
Emory University
Lecture:
“Interspecies Ethics: Meditations on Cosmopolitan Peace”

Cynthia Willett teaches philosophy at Emory University. Her authored books include *Interspecies Ethics* (2014); *Irony in the Age of Empire: Comic Perspectives on Freedom and Democracy* (2008); *The Soul of Justice: Racial Hubris and Social Bonds* (2001); and *Maternal Ethics and Other Slave Moralities* (1995). She has edited the anthology *Theorizing Multiculturalism* (1998) and is a co-editor for the *Symposia on Race, Gender, and Philosophy*.

Abstract: An interspecies ethics flips the claim of human exceptionalism several times on its head. Such an ethics takes into account not only our own species’ animality but also the ethical culture, technology, history, humor, and, finally, the sacred experiences discovered across a range of species. This talk offers thoughts on worldly peace, beginning with an excursion alongside wild baboons who display a sense of wonder before a river’s still pools of water. From there we travel up and down what phenomenologists describe as the vertical vector of spiritual experience. The disgusting and the ridiculous at the bottom end of this vector turn out to bear as much ethical relevance as elevated experiences of moral beauty and the sublime for ourselves and other animals.

Thursday, April 23rd, 2015
4:00pm
Harriman Hall, Room 214
Reception to Follow