Cynthia Willett is the Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of 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 Theorizing Multiculturalism (1998) and is a co-editor for the Symposia on Race, Gender, and Philosophy. She is currently completing a book on Comic Catharsis, and beginning two new projects, the Musicality of Ethics and Criticality Theory and the Anthropocene.

“Affect Attunement: Interspecies Ethics ”
Donna Haraway calls for a cosmopolitical trans-species ethics. But then on what biosocial basis might we tap into communicative capacities in a world that we inhabit together with other species? This paper explores this question through preliminary clues from well-established research on the responsive, preverbal “proto-conversations” between human infants and adults. Social attunement, more often than mirroring empathy, explains the communication of affects within communities and across diverse species.

November 10th, 2016
214 Harriman Hall
4:30 PM
Reception to Follow