



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

School
Of
Modern Languages
And Linguistics.

RESEARCH SEMINAR

Benjamin Biebuyck
Universiteit Gent

“Nietzsche’s Metaphors and the Moulting of the Snake”

Wednesday 25 November 2009, 4.00pm
Jessop West room 4.23

Biography:

Benjamin Biebuyck has been a professor for German Literature at Ghent University (Belgium) since 2000. He studied in Ghent and Basel (Switzerland) and was research fellow at the Flemish Research Foundation. He authored a monograph about poetic metaphor (1998), co-edited a volume on metaphor and religion (1998) and co-authored a collection of essays on the relationship between literature and ethics (2005). He published extensively on Nietzsche, on literary theory as well as on 19th and 20th century German literature in books and journals and is supervisor of several research projects on Nietzsche.

Abstract:

One of the most characteristic traits of Nietzsche’s writings is their inclination towards an abundant and often elaborated use of metaphors and similes (much more than other forms of figurative speech). They are as much part of his resistance to philosophical systematics as they are representative of his almost romantic conception of a mobile, poetic language. In my talk, I want to sketch summarily the evolution of Nietzsche’s idea of ‘sign’, ‘metaphor’ and ‘Gleichnis’ and the way in which these literary media become crucial tools of what might be coined his ‘narrative philosophy’. Particular attention will be paid to metaphorical (self-)denominations of the protagonists in Zarathustra, to figurative stagings of allusions to eternal recurrence and to the importance of mediation in a philosophical framework in which the search for immediacy seems to be one of the most pre-eminent occupations.

ALL WELCOME