

Theorizing cordially invites you to:

"Carlo Michelstaedter Today: The Burden of Truth and the Proliferation of Rhetoric"

A conversation with **Daniela Bini** (University of Texas, Austin)



Inspired by Michelstaedter's distinction between rhetoric, defined as the fossilized form of concepts, and persuasion, the perfect coherence of ideals and actions, Professor Bini will debate the current status of the so-called "crisis of language" and the possibility of authenticity in language.

Thursday, April 12, 2012
Max Kade Center
(3401 Walnut Street, Room 321-A)
6:00pm

Reception to follow

This lecture was made possible by generous support from The Center for Italian Studies, SASgov, the Department of English, and the Program in Comparative Literature.

Biography

A Roman by birth, Daniela Bini received a Laurea Summa Cum Laude in Philosophy at the University of Rome (La Sapienza), and a PhD in Comparative Literature at the University of Texas, Austin. She is Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature and was Chair of the French and Italian Department from 2003 to 2011. In her research she has always combined her interest in philosophy with that of literature, focusing, in particular, on the issue of the inadequacy of verbal language as exemplified by her books: *A Fragrance from the Desert: Poetry and Philosophy in Giacomo Leopardi, Carlo Michelstaedter and the Failure of Language*, *Pirandello and His Muse: The Plays for Marta Abba*, and in some recent essays on music, opera and film. She is the author of over fifty essays on artists as different as Ippolito Nievo, Giacomo Leopardi, Giovanni Verga, Italo Svevo, Pietro Mascagni, Giuseppe Verdi, Luigi Pirandello, Leonardo Sciascia, Giuseppe Tornatore, the Taviani brothers, Pier Paolo Pasolini, Franco Zeffirelli, Marco Bellocchio. She is also the co-author of two Italian textbooks.

At present she is working on a study of the phenomena of Vitellonismo and Familismo in Italian culture and on artistic works that combine different media: popular and classical theater, music, film and poetry.

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