

# PAL

Duke University's

## Center for Philosophy, Arts, and Literature

The First Year  
2009-2010

# PAL

## What is PAL?

PAL stands for Philosophy, Arts, and Literature. "Arts" includes theater, painting, film, music, and other arts. PAL exists to encourage and promote work that places literature, theater, painting, film, and other arts in conversation with philosophy without reducing them to mere illustrations of philosophical paradigms. It seeks to foster conversation between writers, artists, scholars and critics by organizing and co-sponsoring conferences, symposia and more informal workshops.

An important part of PAL's mission is to encourage and develop the work of young scholars. To this end, in January 2010, we proposed a Graduate Certificate in Philosophy, Arts and Literature. We are delighted to announce that the Executive Committee of the Graduate Faculty at Duke approved the new Certificate in April 2010. Information about the Certificate and how to earn it will be available on PAL's website by the beginning of the Fall semester 2010. Every year, PAL will organize relevant workshops and other events specifically for graduate students and recent Ph.Ds.

PAL welcomes all kinds of philosophical perspectives on literature and the arts, and on questions in aesthetics and literary theory. The inspiration to start PAL came from the "Working Group on Ordinary Language Philosophy and the Aesthetic" organized by Sarah Beckwith and Toril Moi, and funded by Duke's English Department from 2007 to 2009. PAL will continue to encourage exploration of ordinary language philosophy in the tradition after Wittgenstein, J. L. Austin and Stanley Cavell.

<http://www.duke.edu/web/philartslit/>

# PAL

## PAL People

### Toril Moi (Director of PAL)

James B. Duke Professor of Literature and Romance Studies  
Professor of English, Theater Studies, and Philosophy



Toril Moi's latest book is *Henrik Ibsen and the Birth of Modernism* (Oxford University Press, 2006), which won the MLA's Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for the best book in Comparative Literary Studies in 2007. She is now working on a book on ordinary language philosophy and problems in literary theory. Email: [toril@duke.edu](mailto:toril@duke.edu). See also [www.torilmoi.com](http://www.torilmoi.com).

## Visiting Scholar

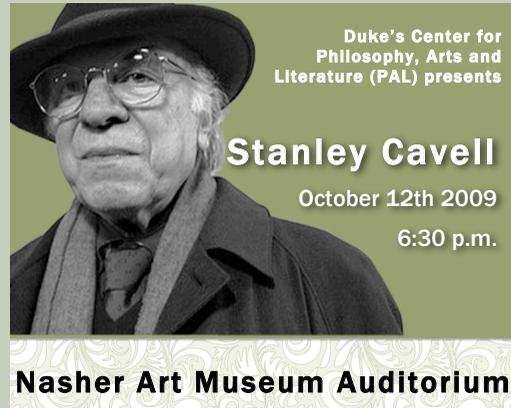
### Christine Hamm (University of Bergen)



Christine Hamm is Associate Professor at the Department of Linguistic, Literary and Aesthetic Studies at the University of Bergen, Norway. She was a PAL Visiting Scholar in Spring 2010. Christine Hamm regularly teaches courses in literary theory, gender studies and Scandinavian literature. She has published a book on the novels of marriage written by the Norwegian naturalist writer Amalie Skram, inspired by Stanley Cavell's work on melodrama. She has also coedited a collection of articles that include queer readings of literary texts. Her current project focuses on motherhood in Sigrid Undset's writings.

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## Fall '09 Events

### Stanley Cavell

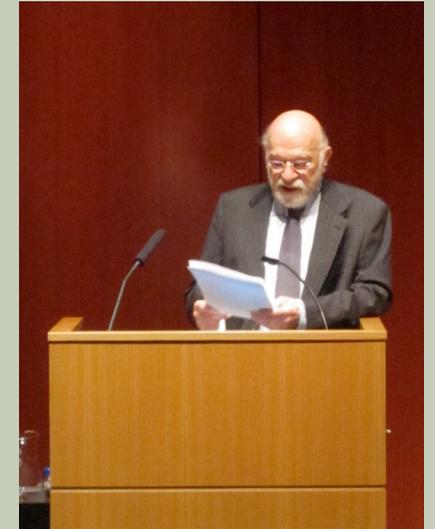
On October 12, 2009, Stanley Cavell delivered PAL's inaugural lecture, "Excerpts from Memory" in the Nasher Museum of Art Auditorium, introduced by Duke University's President Richard Brodhead. The lecture was based on the concluding part of his autobiography to be published in October 2010. Over 130 people attended. On October 13, 2009, Cavell led a wide-ranging discussion of his work.

### A.S. Byatt

On October 15, 2009, PAL co-sponsored the visit to Duke by British writer A.S. Byatt, who gave a free public reading. Dame Antonia was also at the National Humanities Center on October 16, 2009, where she appeared in conversation with Toril Moi.

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## Young Scholars Workshop

On February 19-20, 2010 PAL hosted a workshop for young scholars working, mostly, on ordinary language philosophy in relation to literature and other arts. The workshop brought together young scholars (graduate students, recent Ph.Ds and junior faculty) from Duke and other universities. The workshop aimed to inspire and support new work, and to build a community of scholars in the field. Participation in the workshop was by invitation only.



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## Participants

**Jami Bartlett** (UC Irvine)  
**Sarah Beckwith** (Duke)  
**Brendan Boyle** (UNC)  
**Samantha Fenno** (U of Chicago)  
**Christine Hamm** (U of Bergen)  
**Ashley King-Scheu** (Duke)  
**James Knowles** (Duke)  
**Anu Koshal** (Duke)  
**Kevin Lamb** (Columbia)  
**Toril Moi** (Duke)  
**Yi-Ping Ong** (Harvard)  
**Magdalena Ostas** (Boston U)  
**Alex Ruch** (Duke)  
**Corina Stan** (Duke)  
**Bernie Rhie** (Williams College)  
**Brian Valentyn** (Duke)  
**Cara Weber** (Johns Hopkins)



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## Spring '10 Events



### **Realism, Modernism, Philosophy: A Symposium on the Visual Arts**

On March 4, 2010 PAL sponsored a symposium with Fredric Jameson (Duke), Michael Fried (Johns Hopkins University) and Robert Pippin (University of Chicago). On March 5, Professor Pippin and Professor Fried led a conversation about art, film, criticism and philosophy. The symposium program was the following:

Frederic Jameson (Duke)

“Narrative bodies: storytelling painting in the baroque era”

Robert Pippin (U of Chicago)

“Fatalism in Film Noir: Cinematic Philosophy in Orson Welles’s *The Lady from Shanghai*”

Michael Fried (Johns Hopkins)

“Anri Sala’s *Long Sorrow*”

## Listserv

PAL’s listserv has over 130 subscribers from all over the Triangle and elsewhere. To join the listserv and get updates on PAL events and forums, as well as relevant events, publications, and other information, send an email to [LZF@duke.edu](mailto:LZF@duke.edu) with the subject, “Join PAL.”

## Forums

PAL has an informal forum that meets two or three times a semester. In 2009/10 we had four forums, all very well attended. In October we discussed Stanley Cavell’s visit. In February and March two forums prepared for the March Symposium by reading a paper by Michael Fried and watching Orson Welles’s *The Lady From Shanghai*. The last forum of the year was spent watching Bergman’s *Smiles of a Summer Night*.

The PAL Forums take place in the evenings and always offer participants a simple supper.

## PAL Certificate

The Graduate Certificate in Philosophy, Arts, & Literature seeks to connect the study of specific works of art and specific art forms (such as literature, music, theater, painting, film, and so on) to questions concerning creativity, the nature of specific art forms, the relationship between knowledge and art, and between ethics and aesthetics. The Certificate aims to make students conversant with philosophical reflections on literature and the arts. The Certificate seeks to foster an understanding of the historical nature of different art forms, and of aesthetics and philosophy, and to encourage exploration of philosophy, art and literature from different historical periods.

The certificate is designed to provide students with a firm grounding in the research skills required to enable them to intervene in contemporary debates within the field and to encourage them to consider their own field of study from an inter- or cross-disciplinary approach.

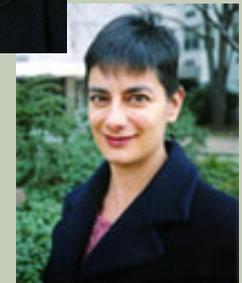
Detailed information about the Certificate and how to earn it, including information about fall courses, will be available on PAL's website in August 2010.

## Future Events

**September 10, 2010**

**Beyond Critique: Reading after the Hermeneutics of Suspicion**

A symposium followed by a reception in Duke's Rare Book Room in Perkins library from 2p.m. - 6:30p.m. Speakers will be Rita Felski (English, University of Virginia Charlottesville), Sharon Marcus (English, Columbia), Stephen Best (English, Berkeley), and Katherine Hayles (Literature and English, Duke). Respondent: Toril Moi (Literature, Duke).



# PAL

**PAL Assistants for 2009-10:**

Leonore Miller (Philosophy)

Layla Aldousany (English)

For More Information Visit:

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