



CWS Director, Spencer Schaffner: "*Shame Parades*"
March 30th, 2016, 12-1:00pm, English Building 107a

In this lunch-hour talk, I describe a portion of a book I'm working on about different ways that writing has been used to punish, shame, and humiliate people in public. I describe how, in a variety of contexts, written signs (often hung around the neck) have been used to shame and punish in social space. When people are made to hold or wear written signs in public, written language is figured as being able to create potentially transformative social anguish. We'll look at some of the messages in these signs, as well as the social actors and contexts in which the signs are created. In the talk, I describe how the signs are imagined to transform social realities via a relationship between two rhetorical mechanisms: mandated and associative speech.