

Juxta positions

LECTURE SERIES **FALL 2025**

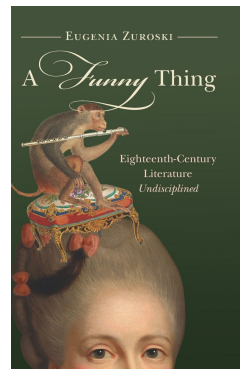
Eugenia Zuroski

Tuesday, November 11

Reading: 12:30 pm - 306 Clemens Hall

"Ludic Reading; or, A Method for Wrestling with Angels"

Workshop: 3:30 pm - 538 Clemens Hall



"Undisciplining Pedagogies"

In his 1992 essay "Cultural Studies and Its Theoretical Legacies," Stuart Hall describes academic theoretical work through "the metaphor of struggle, of wrestling with the angels." In this talk, I take Hall's metaphor somewhat literally to imagine a mode of reading that approaches the practice of interpretation as a kind of game, play, or sport—one that embraces intellectual and political struggle while suspending hegemonic arrangements of power and authority. I propose the technique of ludic reading as a way to practice a refusal of colonial capitalism's master narratives and their impoverished definitions of literacy, what is "worth" reading, and what kinds of interpretive acts can be considered meaningful.

Eugenia Zuroski is Professor of English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University, located on Dish With One Spoon Territory in the settlement of Hamilton, Ontario. She is the author of *A Taste for China: English Subjectivity and the Prehistory of Orientalism* (Oxford University Press, 2013) and *A Funny Thing: Eighteenth-Century Literature Undisciplined* (Cambridge University Press, 2025), as well as numerous articles on literatures and cultures of the long eighteenth century and anticolonial scholarship and pedagogy.

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