

The UQ School of English, Media Studies and Art History
with support from UQ Node, ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, Europe 1100-1800

Literary Discipline/Labour of Love

Professor Deidre Lynch

Chancellor Jackman Professor of English, University of Toronto

This master class sets out to consider literary studies' recent engagements with affect, emotion, empathy, and love and the relationship between those engagements and the discipline's current restiveness with the project of critique. One project I hope we might pursue in our discussions is to investigate the extent to which this "affective turn" replays eighteenth-century justifications of literary experience and literary attachments and what consequences might follow from that replaying. Another project we might undertake is to consider the field's recent emphasis on the work of feeling in relationship to work per se: how might the new accounts of "how we read now" be enriched by a consideration of affective labour's role in the economy and the university? Here too the eighteenth-century prehistory of literary subjectivity might be illuminating.

A Young Girl Reading, Jean-Honoré Fragonard (c. 1776)



Readings:

Lauren Berlant, "Feminism and the Institutions of Intimacy." In *The Politics of Research*, ed. E. Ann Kaplan and George Levine (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1997), 143-61.

Stephen Best and Sharon Marcus, "Surface Reading: An Introduction," *Representations* 108 (2009): 1-21.

Rita Felski, "Suspicious Minds," *Poetics Today* 32.3 (2011): 215-34.

David Hume, "On the Delicacy of Taste and Passion." In *Essays, Moral, Political, and Literary* (1758).

Henry Home, Lord Kames, Introduction to *Elements of Criticism* (1762).

Jane F. Thrailkill, "Introduction: The 'Affective Fallacy' Fallacy." In *Affecting Fictions: Mind, Body, and Emotion in American Literary Realism* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2007), 1-17.

Please note: All reading material will be provided.

For further information and to RSVP email Eric Parisot:
e.parisot@uq.edu.au

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

2:00-5:00pm

Learning and Innovation Building (17-202A)
University of Queensland St Lucia Campus

Deidre Shauna Lynch is Chancellor Jackman Professor of English at the University of Toronto. Her publications include *The Economy of Character: Novels, Market Culture and the Business of Inner Meaning*, *Cultural Institutions of the Novel* (co-edited with William Warner), *Janeites: Austen's Disciples and Devotees*, editions of Jane Austen and Mary Wollstonecraft, and many articles on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British Literature and the theory and history of the novel. Her new book entitled *At Home in English: A Cultural History of the Love of Literature* is forthcoming.

She is also a co-investigator of "The Affect Project," a collaboration investigating the role of affect in culture and in lived experience.