

RESTRAINED GANG  
GRENADIER GNATS  
GARNERING DATES  
DARING SERGEANT  
RENDING TEARGAS  
GRADATING SNEER  
TANGIER GARDENS  
GARDENING TEARS  
ESTRANGING READ  
**STRANGE READING**

Practice, Audience, Theory  
October 10-11, 2008

Keynote speaker: **Srinivas Aravamudan, Duke University**

**The Third Annual Graduate Conference**  
**Department of English, University of Chicago**  
**Call for Papers**

Reading is a strange thing to do. We are often so invested in reading, particularly in academia, that we pay little attention to how reading works and the wide range of practices “reading” embraces. Estranging us from our immediate surroundings and everyday lives, reading can at the same time bring us into newly imagined spaces and unfamiliar relations — whether with fictional characters, critical debates, or fellow readers (who usually remain complete strangers). Critics often show us new ways (and things) to read, but their readings can risk becoming settled and familiar — or remaining cut off from other kinds of reading.

With the impact of new media, expanded archives, and questions about the future of scholarly publishing, it is an especially good time to take a step back from reading — both in terms of our methods of analysis and objects of study — so as to render familiar and unfamiliar texts newly rich and strange. From foundational books which change how we read (*Clarissa* and *Orientalism*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *Gender Trouble*); to texts which acquire new audiences and new interpretations (across centuries and continents, lines of gender, age, race, class); through to approaches that draw attention to the very strangeness of “reading” and “readers” themselves — *Strange Reading* aims to be a site for dynamic, interdisciplinary discussion across a range of topics, strange and familiar.

Familiar approaches and entry points include:

- **Material Reading:** Reception and Publishing History, Textual Studies, History of the Book, New Audience Studies, The Book as Object, The Sociology of Reading, Reading and the Body;
- **Theoretical Reading:** The Legacies of Russian Formalism, Queer Theories of Reading, The Phenomenology of Reading, Cognitive Approaches to Reading, New Historicism, Deconstruction, and New Formalism;
- **Reading Across the Disciplines:** Reading in Cinema Studies, Reading and Philosophy, Reading Music;
- **Reading Sites:** Marginalia, Commonplace Books, Anthologies, Periodicals, Children’s Literature, Online Reading;
- **Reading Spaces:** Transatlantic, Hemispheric, and Global Contexts.

Please submit abstracts of 250-350 words as Microsoft Word email attachments to [ucgradconf@gmail.com](mailto:ucgradconf@gmail.com) by April 21, 2008.

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