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Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies

presents

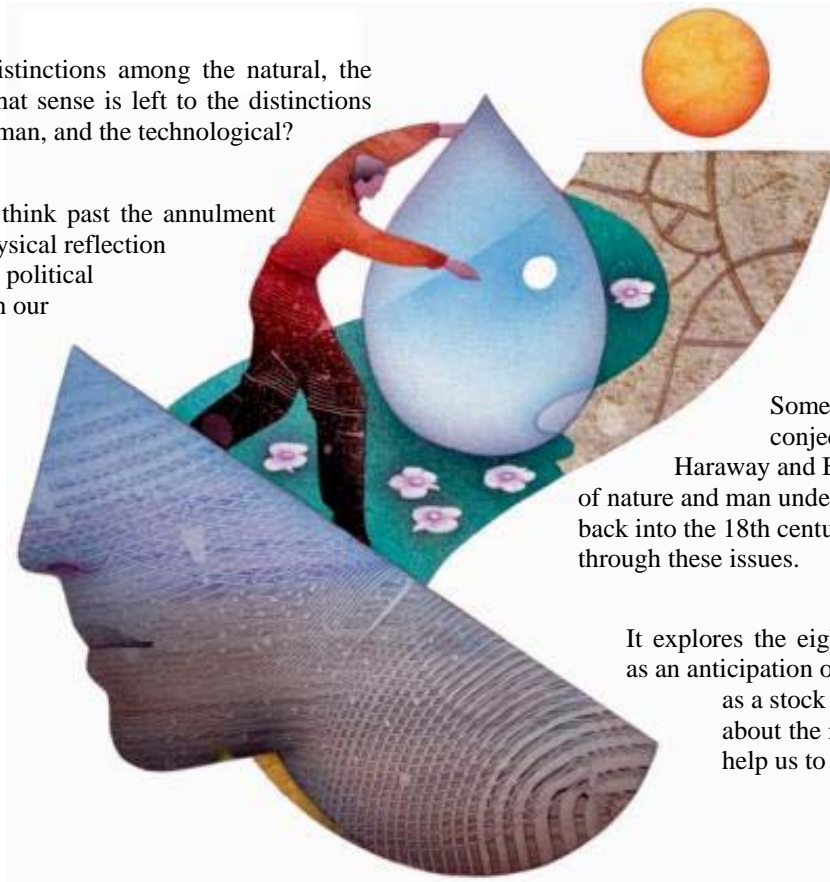
A Lecture By

Dr. John Zammito

Natura Naturans for the 21st Century? Herder's "Spinozism" and the Prospects for Contemporary Philosophy of Nature

What sense is left to the distinctions among the natural, the artificial, the unnatural? What sense is left to the distinctions among the biological, the human, and the technological?

What resources have we to think past the annulment of these categories? Metaphysical reflection can help us to the ethical and political vantage we need to cope with our current quandaries.



Some of the boldest contemporary conjectures on the problem – from Donna Haraway and Bruno Latour – conceive the problem of nature and man under a rubric of hybridity. This talk goes back into the 18th century to retrieve older efforts to think through these issues.

It explores the eighteenth-century reception of Spinoza as an anticipation of our embroilment in hybridity, and as a stock of metaphysical and scientific ideas about the relation of nature to man which might help us to think through our situation.

Dr. Zammito is John Antony Weir Professor of History, Professor of German and Slavic Studies, and the Chair of the German Department at Rice University. He is the author of *A Nice Derangement of Epistemes: Post-Positivism in Science Studies from Quine to Latour* (Chicago, 2004), *Kant, Herder and the Birth of Anthropology* (Chicago, 2001), and *The Genesis of Kant's Critique of Judgment* (Chicago, 1992).

Monday, December 4, 4:00 pm in EESAT 115

This lecture is free and open to the public.

For special accommodation, contact us at 565-2266 or
philosophy@unt.edu