



Blurred Boundaries: Narration, Knowledge, and Other Selves

Tuesday, **February 2, 2016** 12:30PM-1:30PM Rm. 2339 F/A Bldg

We have a cultural fixation with borders and boundaries: their crossings, their rigidity, and where they blur. How does this recent capturing of our cultural imagination manifest itself in contemporary literature, both in content and form? How do authors negotiate the boundary between the self who writes and the self who appears on the page? This talk will explore these questions, focusing primarily on the work of the Italian novelist Elena Ferrante; examine literature whose form blurs boundaries, particularly the recently popularized phenomenon of autofiction; and discuss ways in which the concept of boundaries appears in the novelist's own creative work, particularly her novel-in-progress, *Invisible City*, which is set in Athens, Greece.

Natalie Bakopoulos, English, Visiting Assistant Professor



Natalie Bakopoulos received her MFA in Fiction from the University of Michigan, where she now teaches. Her first novel, The Green Shore, which takes place in Athens and Paris between 1967 and 1973, was published in 2012 by Simon & Schuster. Her work has appeared in Tin House, Ninth Letter, Salon, Granta, Glimmer Train, The Millions, The New York Times, and in other publications, as well as in the 2010 PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories. Her book reviews appear regularly in the San Francisco Chronicle. She's the recipient of fellowships from the Camargo Foundation, the Sozopol Fiction Seminars, and the MacDowell Colony, and she was most recently a 2014-2015 Fulbright Scholar in Athens, Greece. She is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at Wayne State University in Detroit.

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