Representations of Conflict as Fractured Reflections of Novelistic Tradition in Claude Simon’s *The Flanders Road*

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**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 06**
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
2339 FACULTY/ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

As one of the most representative works of the New Novel (Nouveau Roman), Claude Simon’s *The Flanders Road* (1960) marks a radical departure from the traditional narrative conventions embodied by the 19th-century realist novel’s linear storyline, coherent plot, and well-defined characters. A story focusing on World War II, *The Flanders Road* develops the concept of conflict not only thematically, but also stylistically, through innovative narrative techniques and strategies that disrupt the narrative flow by challenging the tenets of traditional representation, while also transforming the reader’s experience and relationship with the world of the text. Our talks will explore various facets of conflict. Beth Chapman will address the topic of generational conflict as conveyed by a strained father-son relationship that is rooted in the use of two antagonistic discourses. Adrion Dula will analyze how epistemological and ontological conflicts are expressed through the theme of the animality of man in relation to the humanist tradition of the “rational animal.” Andre Seewood will tackle the conflict that the practices of the New Novelists create for today’s post-modern reader. Alina Cherry will focus on novel modalities of temporal representation generated by the evacuation of traditional chronology.

Alina Cherry is Assistant Professor of French in CMLLC where she teaches a variety of courses on French literature and culture. Her research focuses on 20th and 21st-century French Novel and critical theory, with an emphasis on problematic representations of the past and issues of temporality. She has published articles on Marguerite Duras and Jean-Philippe Toussaint. She is currently working on a book entitled "Writing Time: Towards an Aesthetic of Simultaneity in Claude Simon's Novels".

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