The French & Italian Departments



Of the University of Pennsylvania are pleased to announce

The 2013 FIGS Annual Conference

March 16, 2013

Silence… Silenzio…

**Call For Papers**

There is not one but many silences, and they are an integral part of the strategies that underlie and permeate discourses. –Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*

Silenceisnot merely defined as a lack of sound; it is also an act and experience that contributes to the way we perceive and live in the world. Silence can be deliberately adopted or forcefully imposed, political and/or aesthetic. It pervades society and cultural productions not only through its mute presence but also through its telling absence. In literature, cinema, theater, and other cultural media, silence renders apparent that which at first seems unutterable or ineffable. Silence can therefore say a great deal. Some questions we seek to address include:

* What does it mean to perceive silence?
* How is silence “heard” and/or “visualized”?
* How are silences elicited, represented, interpreted, and/or (mis)understood?
* How do silences function socially, politically, economically, and theoretically?

We invite submissions for papers in English, French, or Italian from a range of disciplines, including (but not limited to) language and literatures, art history, history, political science, sociology, theater, and film studies. Presentations should not exceed 15 minutes. Possible themes may include:

* Memory and amnesia
* Trauma
* Crime, lies, and hidden truths
* Exile and imprisonment
* Interiority and privacy
* Censorship
* Bearing witness
* Bribery/buying silence
* Agency, speech, and rhetoric
* Ellipsis, pauses, and breaks

Please send 250-word abstracts to Lisa Bromberg and Andrew Korn at [upennfrenchitalian@gmail.com](mailto:upennfrenchitalian@gmail.com) by January 15, 2013.