FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday September 10, 2012

Helen Horowitz, Sydenham Clark Parsons Professor of History Emerita at Smith College, will give the inaugural lecture in the Syracuse University Library’s Ray Smith Symposium, "Positions of Dissent," on Thursday, Sept. 20, at 6 p.m. in the Peter Graham Scholarly Commons on the first floor of Bird Library. Her talk is entitled "The Battle over Sexual Knowledge in 19th-Century America."

The talk will address the question: Is a “new reticence” creeping back into public discourse? Are we returning to issues faced in an earlier America, when open, fluid conversation about sex was shut down? Horowitz believes that words matter, and that to forbid key words from public discourse has serious implications both for intelligent discussion and human freedom. An exploration of what happened in the 19th century may allow us to see more clearly the issues at work today.


For more information on this lecture or the full “Positions of Dissent,” symposium series, contact Lucy Mulroney at 443-8538 or ldmulron@syr.edu.

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