



The Department of French & Italian  
Student-Faculty Forum Series  
presents a lecture by

## Rebecca Wilkin

### *The Signs of Disillusionment: Marie de l'Incarnation in Colonial Quebec*

Friday, March 26, 2004

2:30 pm – Ballantine Hall 148

If Europeans provided justification for subjugating the native peoples of the Americas in the very first impressions they recorded, their disillusionment with the colonial venture as it wore on was not without its rhetoric. Marie de l'Incarnation, an Ursuline nun who worked towards the salvation of the "Sauvages" from 1639 until her death in 1672, witnessed the ravages of disease, warfare, and alcohol on the Hurons, Algonquins, and Montagnais. Where as a young woman, visions resulting from mystical union with God had persuaded her (and her reticent male superiors) of her apostolic vocation, in her waning years, God expressed his dismay with the European presence in the New World in the form of fires, earthquakes, and thunderstorms. That Nature should thus mediate God's will, I contend, was both a measure of Marie's disarray and a means of disculpating herself from a project gone awry.

Rebecca Wilkin is Assistant Professor of French in the Department of French & Italian.

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