

CALL FOR PAPERS
NYU Institute of French Studies | Graduate Conference
9-10 November 2018

“Betrayal”

Confirmed keynote speaker: Todd Shepard

“May I venture an explanation: writing is the ultimate recourse for those who have betrayed.”
Jean Genet

Betrayal and its cognates are burdened with a negative connotation, decried as the destruction of established social, political, cultural or affective ties. Yet the potential for rupture opened up by acts of betrayal also provides opportunities for narratives of change and progress. Perspective is sometimes all that separates treachery from bravery, the renegade from the revolutionary.

The doctoral students of the Institute of French Studies at New York University are pleased to invite doctoral students in the humanities and social sciences to submit paper proposals relating to the conference theme, “Betrayal.” Along with considering acts of betrayal as they are or have been experienced or portrayed, the conference will consider scholarly interdisciplinarity as its own sort of methodological betrayal—and innovation. What are our responsibilities toward our research subjects? Our institutional traditions? What are the risks and rewards of subverting conventional boundaries?

This two-day conference will examine betrayal within the framework of the Francophone world. Submissions employing comparative and/or transnational approaches are welcome as well. In keeping with the Institute of French Studies’ emphasis on interdisciplinarity, panels will bring together presenters from different disciplines, thereby fostering productive conversations across departmental divides.

Topics for consideration include, but are not limited to:

- **Linguistic treachery:** translation as betrayal; code-switching; writing as treason
- **Historical (in) fidelity:** regime change; betraying the archive; subverting the historiography/canon; disciplinary treason
- **Bodies:** deviant/defiant bodily performances; loss of (sexual) citizenship; corporeal (in)sincerity
- **Circulation:** post-colonial dilemmas; migration; split origins; intersectional transitions; the art of passing
- **Rupture:** revolution; abandonment; familial (dis)loyalty or broken genealogies; the unfaithful
- **Dissent:** betrayal of identity and allegiance; disobedience to the nation; history and literature of dissidents
- **Authenticity:** revealing images, truthful representations; Freudian slips and betrayal of thought

Paper proposals should include an abstract (300 words maximum, in English or in French) and title, along with an abbreviated CV. Submissions should be sent to ifs.gradconference@gmail.com by **June 30, 2018**.