

spynnyng



October 24, 2013 at 4:00pm

Humanities Center – 224 W. Packer Ave.

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Why Augustine? Hannah Arendt and Rebecca West, 1929-1933

Scholars have recently become interested in the affinity between the post-war reportage of Rebecca West and Hannah Arendt. Rebecca West covered the Nuremberg Trials for *The New Yorker* only a few years before the magazine would send Hannah Arendt to report, quite memorably, on the trial of Adolf Eichmann. In this talk, I am interested in exploring another commonality between the two women: Saint Augustine. Hannah Arendt finished her doctoral dissertation—*Love and Saint Augustine* (1929)—only a few years before Rebecca West completed her psychobiography, *Saint Augustine* (1933). What draws this pair, emerging from two very different traditions, to Saint Augustine at this historical moment? What light does their engagement with Augustine shed on the political work they publish after World War II?

Spynnyng is the Humanities Center working-in-progress series, a space to talk about projects that are incomplete. In these informal workshops, both students and faculty will meditate on and act within these moments in the midst of creation where it becomes critical, either from despair or excitement to speak with others concerning where to go next, where to go back, and where to begin again for the first time.

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