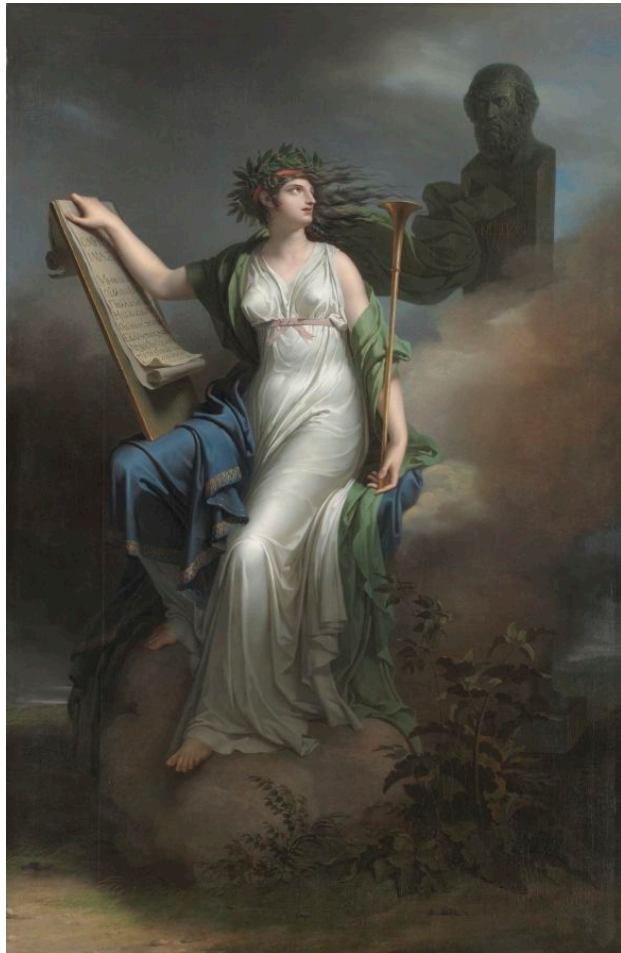


Indiana University – Department of French & Italian  
PhD Dissertation Defense

## Flavien Falantin

SYNDROME LECTEUR ET CONTAMINATION ROMANESQUE.

*REFLEXIONS SUR L'HEROÏSME LECTEUR ET LA LECTURE DANS L'ŒUVRE DE FICTION.*



Friday, December 9, 2016 – 9:00 am

Global & International Studies Building, Room 1060

**Description:** This dissertation examines the evolving representation of fictional readers in a representative body of texts, particularly from the 20th and 21st centuries, while drawing on secondary sources from reader-response criticism, intertextual and intermedial studies, as well as affect and storytelling theory. I argue that scholars ranging from Plato to Foucault generally concluded that novels were a primary source of alienation which led them to create concepts such as Bovaryism and mimetic desire. My own analysis engages with the tradition of French and more generally European writing, extending from Chretien de Troyes, Cervantes and Flaubert to Proust, Mauriac and Françoise Sagan, in order to demonstrate that readerly contamination is a cornerstone of literary modernity while examining its relevance for the contemporary period. This concept allows to shed a new light on the ways in which novelistic writing negotiates its meaning and social function in an active dialogue with religious and moral philosophy, psychology and medical studies, as well as politics and aesthetics.

**Committee:**

Prof. Oana Panaïté, French & Italian (Chair)

Prof. Eric MacPhail, French & Italian

Prof. Hall Bjørnstad, French & Italian

Prof. Margaret Gray, French & Italian

Prof. Douglas Hofstadter, Cognitive Science

Prof. Paolo Tortonese, Université de Paris 3-Sorbonne Nouvelle

If you wish to attend, please contact the Chair at [opanaite@indiana.edu](mailto:opanaite@indiana.edu)