French Cinema's François Ozon: A Mainstream Queer Auteur?  
Thibaut Schilt; College of the Holy Cross  
Tuesday Sept. 15, 7pm  
Willard Smith Library (VL 125)  

This lecture explores the many facets of François Ozon’s twenty-five-year career, from his early, critically-acclaimed 1990s shorts to his more contested, generically diverse full-length films. The provocative, seemingly antithetical phrase “mainstream queer auteur” used to refer to Ozon, and borrowed from film scholar Kate Ince, attests to the filmmaker’s unique ability to direct films with an auteurist vision that also happen to attract large audiences on the one hand (mainstream vs. auteur), and his commitment to “de-dramatize” queerness, allowing it to seep into commercial filmmaking, on the other (mainstream vs. queer).

Gays in the Military: Combat Companions and Soldier Lovers in France  
Brian Martin, Williams College  
Tuesday Sept. 29, 7pm,  
Willard Smith Library (VL 125)  

Long before contemporary debates on “Gays in the Military” and the United States Army’s policy of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell,” soldiers looked to one another for emotional comfort, physical intimacy, and mutual support. From Charlemagne to Charles de Gaulle, the French historical record is rich in tales of military camaraderie and friendship. Published in 1892, Émile Zola’s celebrated war novel *The Debacle* is a monumental account of the French resistance and defeat during the War of 1870, that inscribes soldiers into a literary tradition stretching back to the warrior lovers of *The Iliad* and prefigures the homosexual soldiers of Cocteau, Proust, and Genet. In his lecture, Martin clearly establishes a bridge between ancient representations of military homoeroticism and the emergence of modern gay identity among the soldiers of the First and Second World Wars.

Transnational Queer Identities  
Fall 2009 Lecture Series  
Willard Smith Library (VL 125)  

Why Real Men Don’t Eat Quiche  
Philippe C. Dubois, Bucknell University  
Thursday October 8, 7pm  
Willard Smith Library (VL 125)  

Real men don’t eat quiche. Or do they? When it comes to virility, attempts at measuring the potency of certain types of food or mysterious concoctions on performance often rely on unverified facts and entail a host of undesirable side-effects. A carefully prepared quiche awakens the senses just as well as the next blue pill. At least, that is the opinion the gastronome offered as subtle questions of masculine desire were cleverly folded within XIXth century gastronomic discourse—a take on what ‘real men’ eat that arguably continues to define our modern practices in the kitchen and in the bedroom.

Queer/ing Québec  
Charles R. Batson, Union College  
Thursday Nov 12, 7pm  
Willard Smith Library (VL 125)  

Through a focus on the stage-play *Being at Home with Claude* by René-Daniel Dubois and its filmic adaptation by Jean Beaudin, Batson proposes a reading of Québec as a Queer space. In this Francophone province surrounded by hundreds of millions of Anglophones marked by cultural tensions even prior to calls for a “Québec libre,” notions of what constitutes minority and majority identities seem never fully fixed. Our look at the Queer as an allegory for Québec may well reveal a Québec that participates in making, creating, and nourishing (itself as) Queerness.