Philosophy, Literature and Film

In April 2012, PAL hosted its 3rd Annual Young Scholars Workshop. The annual PAL Young Scholars Workshop aims to foster rewarding conversation and intellectual inspiration among young scholars who might otherwise feel isolated in their interests and concerns, and to encourage young thinkers to find their own voice.

Two Lectures by James Conant and Cora Diamond

The theme this year was Literature, Film and Philosophy. The outstanding speakers, Cora Diamond and James Conant gave lectures and spent a full day in conversation with the 20 participants in the workshop, which included Duke graduate students, invited young scholars from Stanford, Brandeis, Johns Hopkins and Boston University, and, for the first time, Duke undergraduates with interests in the field.

On April 5, James Conant (University of Chicago) and Cora Diamond (University of Virginia) gave two lectures open to all. James Conant spoke on “The Ontology of the Cinematographic Image” and Cora Diamond on “Murdoch Off the Map: Or Taking Empiricism Back From The Empiricists.” Conant argued that we have to distinguish the category of the “movie” from that of “film,” while Diamond drew our attention to the relevance of literature for moral philosophy, and for the humanities.

On April 6, twenty invited participants spent all day discussing texts by Conant and Diamond with them, in a series of sessions at Duke’s R. David Thomas Center.