

Rodolphe Gasché

Rodolphe Gasché is Eugenio Donato Professor of Comparative Literature, Department of Comparative Literature, State University of New York at Buffalo. He received the Magister Artium (with distinction) in Philosophy, Sociology, and History of Religions from Freie Universität Berlin in 1972, and the Ph.D. (Summa Cum Laude) in Philosophy, Sociology and Romance Languages from the Freie Universität Berlin in 1976. Additional studies were done at the École Normale Supérieure de Paris from 1969 to 1971 and from 1973 to 1975. From 1968 to 1969, Dr. Gasché held a teaching position at the Freie Universität Berlin, Institut für Hermeneutik; and from 1971 to 1972 at the Freie Universität Berlin, Institut für Allgemeine und Vergleichende Literaturwissenschaft, Wissenschaftlicher. Before moving to the University of Buffalo, New York, in 1978, he also taught at Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Gasché has not limited himself to one university, however, instead travelling to lecture at institutions around the world, including the University of Western Ontario, the University of Notre Dame, the Centre for Theoretical Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Essex, the Centre for Research in Philosophy and Literature at the University of Warwick, the UC Davis, Johns Hopkins University, Emory University, Temple University, and UC Berkeley.

Widely published in scholarly journals, Dr. Gasché's papers include "Postmodernism and Rationality" in the *Journal of Philosophy* and "Perhaps-A Modality? On the Way with Heidegger to Language" in the New School's *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal*. He has contributed chapters to a variety of books on philosophy and comparative literature, on such topics as de Man, the logic of the gift, and Walter Benjamin. He co-edited *Literary Philosophers: Borges, Calvino, Eco* with Jorge J.E. Garcia.

In 2000, Rodolphe Gasché was nominated for the René Wellek Prize for the best recent theoretically oriented contribution made to the discipline of comparative literature for his work *The Wild Card of Reading: On Paul de Man*. His other writing credits include *Of Minimal Things: Studies in the Notion of Relation* (1999) and *The Idea of Form: Rethinking Kant's Aesthetics* (2003). His current project, *The Honor of Thinking: Critique, Theory, Philosophy*, is forthcoming from Stanford University Press (2006).

Rodolphe Gasché is one of the foremost scholars in the field of comparative literature and is a pre-eminent authority on Jacques Derrida, recognized for his provocative examinations of Derrida's philosophy. He has written extensively on Derrida, including articles in *Glyph 6: Johns Hopkins Textual Studies*, *MLN*, and the *Southern Journal of Philosophy*. His books on Derrida include *The Tain of the Mirror: Derrida and the Philosophy of Reflection* (1986) and *Inventions of Difference: On Jacques Derrida* (1994). His *Deconstruction, The American Way: Views and Interviews* is forthcoming from The Davies Group (2006). Dr. Gasché's work on Derrida challenges the level of understanding of critics and devotees of Derrida alike. Of this work, Dr. Henry Sussman of University at Buffalo has remarked that "Gasché not only explains Derrida, who is such a difficult philosopher, but makes a consummate statement about the 20th century's important flirtation with structures and structuralism. His work helps bring to its fullest articulation what Freud, Woolf and Joyce instinctively knew — that reality is not something 'out there' that language merely serves, but that through language, we construct our reality."