The Silence of the Leaves: Title-Page Design and the Marketing of the Romantic-Era Novel

Friday, November 17, 2:30-4:00
AQ 6106
Simon Fraser University

A talk by
Kandice Sharren
Simon Fraser University

Kandice Sharren is a PhD student in English. Her SSHRC-funded dissertation explores how imagining a community of female novel readers with a shared frame of reference allowed authors of the early nineteenth century to demand active participation from their audience, both as intelligent interpreters of texts and as commercial and political actors in the world.

In the late eighteenth century, the title pages of novels began to rely on minimalist design strategies, abandoning the more explanatory and experimental designs used earlier in the century. This talk considers the minimalist title pages of the Romantic period, exploring what they might tell us about what kinds of readers were anticipated and how they might confirm or conflict with existing accounts of novel readers as passive, vulnerable, and prone to excess.

Sponsored by the Department of English. For information on the Print Culture Program at SFU, please contact Matt Hussey (mhussey @ sfu.ca).