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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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 Modern Languages and Literatures  
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## 'Island Poetics' Topic of March 6 Talk at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO – College of William and Mary Professor Magali Compan will present “Imagining Madagascar, Writing the Island” at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 6, in the Alan A. Erhart Agriculture Building, Room 201 at Cal Poly.

The presentation offers a reading of the Francophone literary works of two Malagasy authors: Colonial-era poet Jacques Rabemananjara and contemporary fiction writer Jean-Luc Raharimanana, whose first novel was published in 2001.

The presentation considers the projects of both men as contributions to a unique form of “island poetics” that function as a form of literary expression and resistance shaped by the geographical, historical and cultural specificities of Madagascar.

The presentation begins with an overview of how Madagascar has been represented in Western texts spanning the 15th century to the present, considering the ways the island has been both imagined and possessed through words and images.

Discussion will also include the difficulties, limitations and, most importantly, the possibilities these two francophone Malagasy authors encountered in their use and appropriation of the Western expression of the island.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Cal Poly’s Modern Languages and Literatures Department at 756-2889.

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