



Surprising the Enemy

Professor Patricia Duncker

**3pm, Friday 10th February 2012
Binks 011, University of Chester.**

How can we think differently about gender, sexuality, and the moments when our behaviour is elaborately policed? Do we actually want to think differently, or is it too uncomfortable?

Every writer conducts an underground war against cliché. The most insidious clichés are those that are so engrained in our thinking that we barely acknowledge them to be the products of received opinion. In this talk Professor Duncker reveals some of her deliberate strategies for displacing the expected and surprising both the enemy, cliché - and sometimes the reader.

Professor Patricia Duncker is an award-winning novelist and esteemed academic at the University of Manchester. Her first novel *Hallucinating Foucault* (1996) has recently been re-issued by Bloomsbury. This book was a meditation on the mysterious relationship between the writer and the reader and the dangerous, creative act of reading. Her most recent fiction is about language and the outsider - *Miss Webster and Cherif* (Bloomsbury, 2006), which explores an unusual friendship between an old English lady and a young Arab student in the paranoid political atmosphere post 9/11.



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