

## **Louis A. Montrose will deliver the Third Annual Academic Senate Faculty Lecture**

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### **UCSD PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH RENAISSANCE LITERATURE IS APPOINTED FACULTY RESEARCH LECTURER**

An innovative young professor in the Department of Literature at the University of California, San Diego has been chosen as this year's UCSD Academic Senate Research Lecturer for his study of Queen Elizabeth I as she is represented in Shakespeare and other writings of the English Renaissance.

Louis A. Montrose will deliver the Third Annual Academic Senate Faculty Lecture, called "The Imagination of Shakespeare and the Reinvention of Elizabethan Culture," at 3 p.m., June 2, in Garren Auditorium at the Basic Science Building.

The prestigious nomination is made in recognition of a faculty member's outstanding and innovative research. The two previous nominees are Pulitzer Prize winning composer Bernard Rands who received the award in 1984 for his musical composition "Canti del Sole," followed in 1985 by Theodore Friedmann, a nationally known geneticist and professor of pediatrics at the UCSD School of Medicine.

Montrose received his Bachelor of Arts degree at City College of New York, and a master's degree in English literature from the University of Toronto.

Montrose's association with UCSD began in the early 1970s while studying for a Ph.D. in English and American literature. He joined the literature department in 1974 as an assistant professor.

The recipient of several graduate awards, Montrose's scholarship earned him the UCSD Dissertation Fellowship and a UCSD Graduate Research Grant. His postdoctoral grants include the highly regarded Marta Sutton Weeks Senior Research Fellowship at Stanford University and a UCSD Academic Senate Research Grant.

Montrose contends that within the field of English Renaissance studies there has emerged a renewed concern with the conditions under which literature is written, disseminated, interpreted, and institutionalized.

Of his specialty, Montrose says, "I am concerned to resituate literary and dramatic works, such as those of Shakespeare, among a range of social practices and institutions operative in the Elizabethan world.

"Such a project cannot in any absolute sense be an objective, unmediated recovery and description of authentic Elizabethan experience, for it necessarily proceeds from my own specific vantage point.

"To speak today of a historical mode of literary criticism is to recognize that the poet and the critic exists in history, and that our comprehension of texts produced in the past always proceeds by a mixture of estrangement, discovery and invention.

"In the upcoming Faculty Research Lecture, I shall expand on my critical practice in a brief analysis of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," one of Shakespeare's perennially most popular plays. I shall suggest how the play's imagery is shaped by culturally pervasive representations of the power of the state as personified in Queen Elizabeth, and how the play works as a contribution to that system of representations.

"In other words, I am concerned to show how 'art' and 'entertainment' have a role in producing, sustaining and contesting relations of power in Elizabethan society."

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