



The **MEDIEVAL STUDIES INSTITUTE** of Indiana University
is pleased to present the third lecture in its 2009–2010 Series

To be presented by

Ethan Knapp

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Urban Allegories:
Walter Benjamin and Medieval Temporalities

Friday, January 29, 2010
at 4:30 P. M.

State Room East
Indiana Memorial Union

Reception to follow

This talk revisits the often disembodied history of medieval allegory by returning to Walter Benjamin's famous analysis of the particular modernity of Baudelaire's urban lyricism. Rather than privileging Benjamin's late essay, "On Some Motifs in Baudelaire," which presents a stark sense of the alterity of the modern, we might instead consider his earlier, and richer, treatment in the Arcades project, a treatment that draws on a persistent parallel between Baudelaire and Dante in order to construct a modernity that cannot be read as a simple chronological proposition. The talk will then turn to specific examples of late medieval English allegory in Hoccleve, Langland, and Gower.