



Humanities Institute at Stony Brook

p r e s e n t s

Monday, October 21st, 2013

4:00 p.m.

Humanities 1008

Reception to follow

Andrew Piper

Rifling Through Books

What kind of knowledge object is a book? In this talk, Piper revisits the book's materiality and the way it shapes how we gain access to knowledge of our world. Whether through a reader's personalized relationship with a book or the book's passage through a broader circuit of communication, books are most often understood as singular, bound objects. Piper is interested in exploring what it would mean instead to understand the book's place within a larger material ecology. How does an understanding of the book within a broader horizon of things and our gestural interactions with those things give us new insights into the history of the book's meaning as an instrument of knowledge?

Andrew Piper is Associate Professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures and Associate Member in the Department of Art History and Communication Studies at McGill University. He is a former Andrew W. Mellon New Directions Fellow in the Digital Humanities. He is the author of *Book Was There: Reading in Electronic Times* and *Dreaming in Books: The Making of the Bibliographic Imagination in the Romantic Age*, which was awarded the MLA Prize for a First Book and Honorable Mention for the Harry Levin Prize from the American Comparative Literature Association. Additionally, he is the co-founder of the FQRSC-funded research group *Interacting with Print: Cultural Practices of Intermediality, 1700-1900*.

