The In-Between Space of Fiction: Paul Ricoeur and João Guimarães Rosa
by Luiz Fernando Valente
Professor of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies and Comparative Literature at Brown University

This lecture will be in Portuguese.

Prince Henry Society Reading Room at the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives (UMD Claire T. Carney Library Building)
Monday, November 5, 2012 at 5:00 PM
Pizza and ginger ale available.
Free and open to the public. Parking lot 13.

Abstract. In his study of the mediating function of narrativity, Paul Ricoeur focuses on such masterpieces of modernism as Virginia Woolf’s Mrs. Dalloway, Thomas Mann’s The Magic Mountain (Der Zauberberg), and Marcel Proust’s In Search of Lost Time (À la recherche du temps perdu) which in his terms point toward “an experience of eternity.” Although unknown to Ricoeur, Guimarães Rosa’s work is a perfect match for this proposal. This lecture develops a dialogue between Ricoeur and Guimarães Rosa through a rereading of “Uma estória de amor (Festa de Manuelzão),” from the collection of novellas Corpo de baile (1956).

Luiz Fernando Valente is Professor of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies and Comparative Literature at Brown University. He is currently Chair of the Department of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies. A native of Rio de Janeiro, Professor Valente was educated in Brazil and the United States. His teaching and research interests include: Brazilian narrative of the 19th and 20th centuries, with special emphasis on José de Alencar, João Guimarães Rosa, João Ubaldo Ribeiro, Euclides da Cunha, and Lima Barreto; the construction of national identity and the representation of the nation; comparative literature, particularly the modern historical novel and the literature of the Americas; Brazilian Poetry since 1945. Professor Valente is co-founder and Associate Editor of Brazil/Brazil: A Journal of Brazilian Literature, active in a variety of professional and scholarly organizations, Professor Valente is a former President of the Northeastern Association of Brazilianists (NAB), and the current President of the American Portuguese Studies Association (APSA). Amongst his multiple recent publications is his well-reviewed book Mundividências: Leituras comparativas de Guimarães Rosa (Belo Horizonte: UFMG, 2011).

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