



The Department of Germanic and
Slavic Studies cordially invites you to

Willi Goetschel,
University of Toronto

**Dialectics of a Constellation:
Heinrich Heine in Critical Theory**

Tuesday, April 26, 4pm, Phelps 6206

Free and Open to the public

Willi Goetschel is Professor of German and Philosophy at the University of Toronto. He is the author of *The Discipline of Philosophy and the Invention of Modern Jewish Thought* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2012), *Spinoza's Modernity: Mendelssohn, Lessing, and Heine* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2004) and *Constituting Critique: Kant's Writing as Critical Praxis*, transl. by Eric Schwab (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1994). He is the editor of the collected works by Hermann Levin Goldschmidt in nine volumes (Vienna: Passagen, 1993-2014), the executive editor of *The Germanic Review* and the general editor of *Bamidbar: Journal for Jewish Thought and Philosophy*.

Heine's absent presence plays a curiously ignored role in the history of the Critical Theory of the Frankfurt School. While the trajectory of Heine suggestively resonates with that of Critical Theory, both literary criticism and Critical Theory have remained resistant to exploring their affinities as if Heine's critical role

in the formation of Critical Theory were still a taboo. Examining the various types of Heine reception in Löwenthal, Horkheimer, Adorno, and others along with that in Arendt point to a constellation with a critical dialectic that suggests, as Adorno did, the need to "reappraise" Heine.