

Editors' Introduction

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Welcome to the second Open issue of Expositions. This fall we feature articles and interdisciplinary exchanges on a variety of enduring and controversial topics, ranging from rhetoric to tragedy, from the translation of sacred texts to the use of drugs in education.

Our "Overheard in the Academy" tackles the issue of Cognitive Enhancement. It is easy for academics like us to condemn athletes for using performance-enhancing drugs: how terrible to exploit one's body for the sake of defeating competitors in the arena! Does it change anything, however, if the drug enhances the performance of the mind? What if a pill can make us smart enough to finish our Ph. D., get tenure, or write the definitive book on Plato?

The first of our full-length articles, by Bryan-Paul Frost, breaks new ground in the interpretation of Aristotle by reading his *Rhetoric* not merely as a philosophical treatise whose subject matter happens to be rhetoric, but as a rhetorical document written for practical purposes. How does Aristotle want to move his readers, and why?

Our second article, by Lydia Moland, is an ambitious interpretation of *The Human Stain* that sees it as more than just another book on race in America; instead, Moland places Roth's novel in the wider tradition and shows how its insights into race help readers better understand the nature of tragedy.

We conclude with a second interdisciplinary exchange, this one consisting of several reviews of Robert Alter's landmark translations of the Hebrew Bible. It is especially valuable to review these texts from multiple perspectives: as Alter's project is at once theological, literary, and historical, so are our commentators.

Our Next Issue

The interdisciplinary cauldron is already bubbling, and we are toiling and troubling over the Spring 2009 issue of *Expositions*. Devoted to the theme of Enchantment, issue 3.1 will feature several new "Notes, Insights, and Flash-es." Don't miss it.

