

**The Department of Communication's
Faculty Development Colloquium Series
in conjunction with
The UW GLBT Lecture Series**

Crispin Thurlow

Assistant Professor
Department of Communication

Wednesday 5 May, 2004

3.30 – 5.00pm

Communications Building, Room 126

“The gift of the enemy”

Breaking the spells of Intercultural Communication: The politics of difference and the outsider within

As an instance of what Nancy K Miller calls ‘occasional writing’, this propositional talk will look to challenge orthodoxy through its style, content and argument. Told in words and pictures, its central thesis is the need to get more personal and more political in our thinking and especially our teaching about interculturality and difference. As such, Crispin’s presentation will offer a ‘radical’ critique of conventional Intercultural Communication scholarship, drawing his inspiration from the conceptual and philosophical roots of the field while also proposing political and pedagogical routes for the future. Along with ideas from feminist literary theory, philosophy, modern history, and psychoanalysis, he will explore the striking points of contact between communication scholarship and contemporary religious studies/theology. Through this interdisciplinary perspective, the stance Crispin takes towards interculturality upholds the role of the experiential and autobiographical (i.e. the local and personal) in engaging with difference itself – both as scholars and as everyday communicators. Linking the interpersonal and the international, he will also consider the psychological-interactional bases of anxiety and conflict in the face of Other.



e pluribus unum