

**Transatlantic Interdisciplinary Research Colloquium Small  
Forms. Aesthetics – Media – Modernity**

**Abstract**

**Paul Fleming (Cornell)**

**Reading for the Anecdote: On the Persistence of Small Forms in Big Ones**

My presentation is on the anecdotal moments in novels, the anecdotal knot, when the threads come together – and this then as a theory of close reading (as reading for the anecdote).

I am happy to do either a formal talk or a workshop talk (if the latter, I'll still probably write out as short talk.) The readings will be an essay by Greenblatt (or half of one – it's easy to cut in half - on Auerbach), parts of Barthes' *Pleasure of the Text* and perhaps one section of Auerbach's *Mimesis*.