

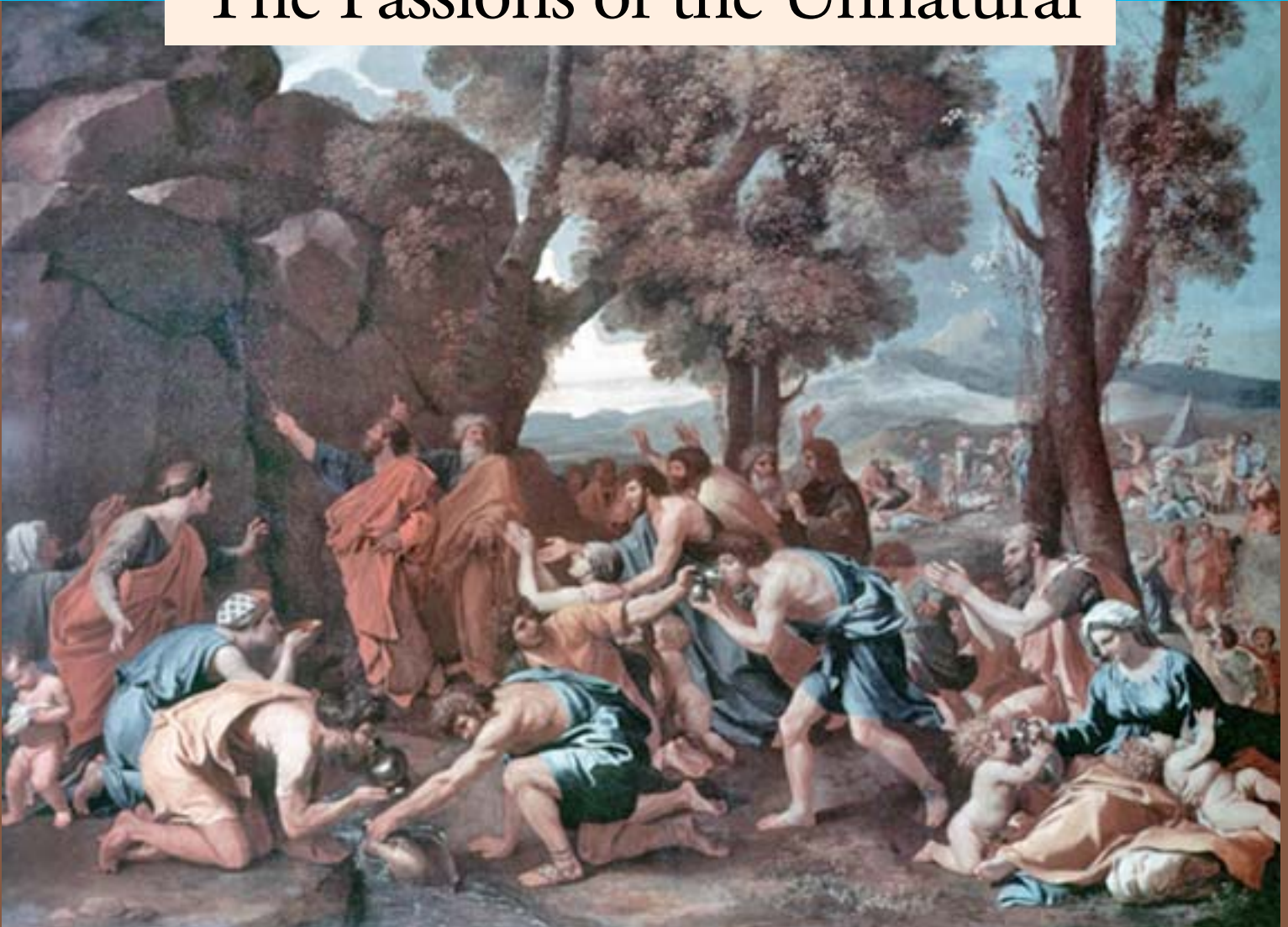
The 2008-2009 Klopsteg seminar series in  
SCIENCE IN HUMAN CULTURE

presents:

# Lorraine Daston

Director, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

## “The Passions of the Unnatural”



**ABSTRACT:** The unnatural comes in several forms: monsters that violate the order of natural species; catastrophes that capsize the order of ecological balance; marvels or miracles that break with the order of what happens always or most of the time. It is a striking fact that these versions of the unnatural also provoke distinctive emotional responses: horror, terror, and wonder, respectively. These are the emotions (or better, passions, in the original sense of the term as an extreme state that we suffer rather than merely feel) that register a breach of order – and blur the boundary between the natural and the moral.

Lorraine Daston is Director at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, Germany and Visiting Professor in the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. Her most recent book, co-authored with Peter Galison, is *Objectivity* (New York: Zone Books, 2008).

Friday, May 15, 2009  
12:00 - 2:00p.m.  
Norris University Center  
Northwestern Room  
1999 Campus Drive  
Evanston Campus  
Lunch will be provided