

# Miles Orvell

(Temple University, Philadelphia)

## **“Looking at Ruins: Architecture, Destruction, and Cultural History”**

**Buildings represent the body, and our response to ruins is therefore also a measure of how we think about ourselves. Taking an approach that fuses visual and spatial history, I explore the political and moral psychology of ruins as *lieux de mémoire* by offering a typology of destruction that includes: ruins as Gothic abandonment, the frozen ruin, ruins as creative destruction, the imitation ruin, the joy of ruins, the ruin as loss and absence, the ruin as perpetual failure, and the ruin as cover-up of our worst human possibilities. The talk is illustrated with examples from a wide range of ruins, from Athens to Detroit, and from Hiroshima to Chernobyl.**

**le mardi 13 février  
2024 à 17h**

**ENS de Lyon -  
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Salle D2-123**

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