Vassar College Philosopher's Holiday Lecture Series

XX

"Calling philosophers names: 'Philosophos' and the origin of a discipline."



Christopher Moore

Assistant Professor of Philosophy & Classics Pennsylvania State University

Tuesday February 6, 2018 5:30pm Rockefeller Hall 200

Have philosophers always been "lovers of wisdom"? That's what Plato's Socrates says they are. Yet I argue that he is in fact accommodating a term that had been used ironically or pejoratively against his ilk (compare Freak or Queer). Linguistic, literary, and philosophical analysis shows that *philosophos* began as a name-calling name, for a person prone to act like a Sage (*Sophos*) – that is, giving political or life advice – in a way that seemed hardly justified by his scholarly mode of learning.

Co-sponsored by the Department of Greek and Roman Studies

E Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations or information on accessibility should contact the Campus Activities Office, (845) 437-5370.