Dear Madame Hélène Cixous,

Beginning with the academic year 1980-1981, the Critical Theory Institute at the University of California, Irvine, has had an annual lecture series called the René Wellek Library Lectures, in which an internationally distinguished critical theorist has visited the campus and delivered a three-lecture unit expounding his or her critical position and relating it to the contemporary critical scene. So far Wellek lecturers have been Harold Bloom (1980-1981), Perry Anderson (1981-1982), Frank Kermode (1982-1983), Jacques Derrida (1983-1984), J. Hillis Miller (1984-1985), Jean-François Lyotard (1985-1986), Louis Marin (1986-1987), Murray Krieger (1987-1988) Edward Said (1988-1989) and next Spring, Hélène Cixous. As Director of the Institute, and on behalf of the Committee supervising the Institute, I invite you to be our lecturer in 1991-1992. We hope that you would be willing your lectures in the Spring of 1992. However, since I of course understand the burden of creating the lectures in relation to other commitments you undoubtedly have, I would be quite willing to postpone your appearance until the Fall of 1990 if necessary. It is our understanding that the Wellek Series is to be delivered in English so as to secure the widest audience. Part of our arrangement with the lecturers has been that the lectures are to be presented to us for submission to Columbia University Press to be published in the Wellek Library Lectures Series under the contract they have with us.

The total remuneration to you for the three lectures would be $5,000, broken down in the following way: $2,500 for the performance of the lectures, $1,500 for travel and living expenses, and $1,000 upon delivery of the manuscript to us for Columbia University Press as soon as you can manage after your visit here. The oral performance of each of the lectures should be between 50-60 minutes, and the lectures could be
delivered within a single week. I should add that the written text can have a greater length than the lectures if you wish to add to them.

I want to convey to you the Committee's enthusiasm and excitement at the prospect of your coming and to communicate our hope to have a favorable response from you shortly.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

David Carroll
Director, Critical Theory Institute