

## Sentimental educations:

### Female and male identity construction through text and picture

Symposium organised by the GEO  
EA 1340 Groupe d'études orientales, slaves et néo-helléniques  
**April 3rd, 4th and 5th 2013**  
University of Strasbourg

As a conclusion to its research program on gender, the GEO – a multidisciplinary and multi-areal research centre of the Faculty of Modern Languages at the University of Strasbourg – organizes an international symposium devoted to the male and female identity construction in the 'sentimental' sphere.

Within the framework of social gender relations, the symposium will focus on relationships between individuals in the intimate sphere – either within family, in a sentimental context, or in a sexual one. The speakers will analyse representations, models and counter-models of behaviour that contribute to the codification of loving conduct and the construction of gender identities.

The area of research is therefore very broad. Here are some examples of topics that might be explored:

- Different types of relationships might be considered, ranging from sexual, sentimental, official or conventional relationships (for instance in marriage) to heterosexual relationships or homosexual ones. We might also have a look at the question of balance of powers in the relational models of behaviour in the apprenticeship of a sentimental or sexual culture framework.
- How does the model of « women in a romantic novel »<sup>1</sup> emerge in both young men or women's imaginations. Is it enough that a model appears constantly and repetitively in order for it to be considered as a model or counter-model? How does a model impose itself, how is it diffused, and how is it conveyed?
- How are relationships between genders codified from prime-examples? What are the probable consequences of these schemes on the repartition of roles and on the construction of male and female identities?
- From a linguistic point of view, one may investigate codes, politeness and the evolution of the language (for instance a vocabulary exclusively reserved to men or women or lovers' language)
- Models co-exist, enter into competition, develop, overturn and are transgressed. What kind of relationship does the individual demonstrate towards these models? When are they used as references? When do they become foils?
- Different models may also co-exist within the same society (according to social belonging, scholarly codes or popular ones). They may even influence a population outside borders (we might think of diasporas or emigrants in particular). How are the relationships between different models organised? What kinds of interactions appear? How do traditions and modernities evolve through young people who educate themselves on love and who are made sensitive to multiple cultural codes?
- How does sentimental education take place? What is the process implemented? What means are used to transmit a culture of sexual and loving relationships? Do

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1 Je tirais ceci de la citation de Flaubert...

they change through time and space? Do mediums changes have an incidence on the models transformation?

All spaces and periods are relevant within the framework of this conference on the condition that the papers offer an historical and theoretical perspective. The succession of particular case studies would limit the possibility of having a constructive dialogue on the chosen theme between areas specialists and within very different times.

Finally, when using the label « text and picture», we wanted to promote the recourse to literary sources, artistical ones or any that are within creative textual practices as well as iconographical. The references may be scholarly or popular. The main idea is to choose original sources, that is to say sources from day-to-day life. The speakers will therefore refer, for example, in priority to sources like novels, short stories, poetry, songs, ego-documents (diaries and epistolary exchanges), learning materials, theatre, cinema, painting, photography, placards, illustration and advertisement.

**Reply expected by the 30th of June 2012**

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