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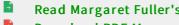*(Dr. Raven Ledner)*

MARGARET FULLER'S CONCEPT OF "GENDER" IN THE CONTEXT OF HER TIME

GRIN Verlag Feb 2010, 2010. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x8 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Thesis (M.A.) from the year 2007 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 2,00, University of Göttingen, 50 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: 'Let them be sea-captains, if you will', Margaret Fuller stated in her main work Woman in the Nineteenth Century (Woman 346). Although even nowadays there may be only few female sea-captains, the quoted statement would hardly provoke anyone, at least not someone in our contemporary western culture. However, when regarded in its historical context, two questions arise: Firstly, what underlying gender concept encouraged Fuller to make such a statement, in 'a time of excessive gender polarization' (Bomarito (vol2) 1), a time in which the ideal of domesticity and Republican Motherhood (Freedman 25) determined the role of woman And secondly, how did antebellum American society react to such statements The first question will be the main issue of part III, the main part of my work. I will begin with Fuller's general gender concept that involves ideas of androgynity and the 'degendering' (Davis 182) of language. Next, the major influences on her concept, namely those of transcendentalism (with special consideration of Emerson), Goethe, Fourier and Swedenborg will be dealt with. Lastly, I will consider how Fuller applied her concept to the specific fields outlined in chapter II, that is, marriage, education and economy. I will concentrate on her main work Woman in the Nineteenth Century because Fuller describes her gender concept there in most detail, whereas her other works such as Summer on the Lakes do not contribute much additional information that is of special significance for the understanding of her gender concept. This is especially true in the case of her...

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