

Introduction:

Dislocations & Diseases in Francophone Cultures

We are pleased to offer *Phoebe's* second volume to focus on women and gender in the Francophone world. This reflects our continuing commitment to maintain a global reach on these issues. The last issue specifically addressed women and gender in the Maghreb whereas this volume is broader geographically and centers on reflections and representations of disease and dislocation in Francophone cultures and literatures.

Janice Kaufman examines the multiple links between the “feminine and diseased” in Francophone Antillean and Guianese literature, both fiction and poetry. She also analyzes the animalization of women of color and the feminization of the Caribbean in literature. In direct complement, Madeline Hron examines metaphors of disease in French Maghrebi texts that portray North African immigrant experiences. She details the particularly vivid portrayals of infectious and deadly diseases in texts by Mehdi Belhaj Kacem, Fawzia Zouari, Ahmed Litouni and Paul Smail. Both Mary Ekman and Amy Lee discover dislocations of dis-ease and identity in different works by Maryse Conde of Guadeloupe: *Heremakhonon* and *I, Tituba, Black Witch of Salem*.

Laura Hartwell looks at several Francophone writers, colonial subjects and *colon* alike, Marguerite Duras, Fadhma Amrouche, Hélène Cixous and Maryse Condé, who were educated in the colonies - to reveal the effects - especially cultural and physical separation - of the French educational system on mother daughter relationships. The Marginalization of women as diseased and animalistic in a colonial context is equally delineated in Cherilyn Lacy's history of 'breastfeeding' in France during the primary stages of colonialism, 1870-1930. She uncovers *Belle Epoque* anxieties about French racial survival and women's role in combating degeneration of the French 'race' as profoundly medicalized. French fears about the loss of bodily vitality and moral degeneracy are similarly scrutinized by Sarah Gamble in her study of the novels of Jean Genet who embraces his marginalization as a thief, homosexual, outsider, and at times feminine subject. She argues that Genet as a queer subject is marked by social conceptions of perversity and disease which he firmly fixed in the physical body.

We hope that our readers will enjoy these essays which present new material and new approaches to gender, literary, and historical studies on the Francophone diaspora.

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