

Nerves, spirits and fibres - towards defining the origins of sensibility

Australian National University Press - What Is the History of Sensibilities? On Cultural Histories, Old and New Daniel Wickberg What Is the History of Sensibilities?



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Nervous Acts

But why is sensibility preferable to other concepts that historians have used and developed in the past half-century to describe the systematic and collectively held mental maps or dispositions of persons? In one important sense, however, these are not sensibilities as the concept is being used here.

Nerves, Spirits and Fibres: Toward the Origins of Sensibility (1975)

The distinction is drawn more sharply here for heuristic purposes. If the idea of *mentalités* partakes of a sociological vision of thought and reality, the idea of sensibilities navigates between the sociological and a more humanistic or aesthetic domain of experience.

Nerve Theory, Sensibility, and Romantic Metrosexuals

The advocates of the concept of *mentalité* drew a distinction between the formal systems of thought associated with intellectual history and the popular thought of the many, which was held to be less systematic, more informal, and less articulate or explicit than the subject matter of intellectual history. It is a measure of the probability of correctly identifying a nondiseased person.

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Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992. The history of nineteenth-century sentimentalism developed by Ann Douglas, Jane Tompkins, and a spate of followers and challengers in their wake, on the other hand, foregrounds the sensibility—the terms of representation, the generalized values and modes of perception and feeling in which various objects could be conceived and represented—rather than the objects of representation themselves.

Nerves, spirits and fibres (1976 edition)

His books include *This Long Disease, My Life: Alexander Pope and the Sciences*, *The Languages of Psyche, Medicine and the Muses*, *Perilous Enlightenment*, and *Gout: The Patrician Malady*. Cheyne considered this malady to be the result of over-taxed nerves.

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