Abstracts
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Ironie et autoréflexivité dans *Un dimanche au cachot* de Patrick Chamoiseau

**Abstract:** Social pressures in Patrick Chamoiseau’s novel, *Un dimanche au cachot*, can be read not only in the theme of slavery, but also as a discourse on the narrative text itself, in which the essay plays an important role, and in the author’s denial of his art and status. Chamoiseau’s intention of subversion is omnipresent through parody or renunciation of all forms of excess. The offensive concerns, on the one hand, the memory of slavery as a social and historical institution transmitting values of order, hierarchy and traumatism in the minds. It concerns the whole narrative act and the relation between author and reader, writer and public.

Antillean Literature, Patrick Chamoiseau, Irony, Metatextuality, Parody, Self-reflexivity, Slavery, Subversion

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Voies/voix réflexives du discours social mortifère dans *L’ombre de Baudelaire* de Fabienne Pasquet

**Abstract:** Fabienne Pasquet brings to life the tragedy experienced by Jeanne Duval in 19th century Paris. Duval is portrayed as the heir of Makandour, an initiator of the Haitian revolution, and as a seductive young woman celebrated by Baudelaire, who is painted and subsequently erased by Courbet at the poet’s request. Jeanne would then have but one desire: to recapture Baudelaire’s attention and her role of muse.
As part of the games that characterized this rediscovered love, Baudelaire writes his poems on Jeanne’s skin with the help of a metallic quill and thus she unconsciously relives a forgotten past where the slave was marked by the master’s words. A semio-narrative approach, combining the theory of Freudian urges with language, will allow for textual analysis that explores the dangerous and potentially lethal void left by a past that remains forever present and also touches upon that which remains unspoken in a society pervaded by racism, where the subject and object become entangled.

Forgetful memory, From woe to words, Imprisonment by words, Incorporation, Introjection, Representing the symbolic, The ever-present past, The revolt of Makandour, The state of unbeing (désêtre) and the death of the subject, Transitional writing and space

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Alfred Alexandre : écrivain « Post-Créol(ist)e » ?

Abstract: Alfred Alexandre’s novels *Bord de canal* (2004) and *Les villes assassines* (2011) are set in the poorest urban slums of Fort-de-France. In both novels, the marginal characters exemplify the paradoxes of a Martinican society shifwrecked under the flow of rampant globalization. Alexandre’s portrayal of a decadent urban humanity stands far from the Creole community codes as imagined by the novelists who have preceded him, and signifies his intention to break away from their recurring themes. My purpose, here, is to assess what is truly innovative in this newly labelled “post-Creole” writing. It seems that investing those markedly social and scriptural spaces aims at pointing the shattering of an idealized collective Creole subject, and to question the capacity of literature to articulate a “common repository” shared by all, and attuned to the contemporary Caribbean region and global realities.

Alfred Alexandre, Caribbean Literatures, Créolité, Creolisation, Insularity, Postcolonial Studies, Urban novel, Violence

https://crossworks.holycross.edu/pf/vol87/iss1/17
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Portrait de l’exclu dans Le lys et le flamboyant d’Henri Lopes

Abstract: The author of Le lys et le flamboyant uses humor, metaphors and adjectives to represent a world in conflict, to show the impossible encounter of otherness (racial and cultural). Our contribution represents an attempt to show that this novel reflects a deep social distress, which is characterized by an environment where characters and speeches unfold a permanent contradiction. This text tries to account for the turmoil that marked the history of Africa through language as exploited by the novelist. Basically, the author makes an excluded character portrait.

Africa, Colonization, Discrimination, Humor, Metis

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Essai de typologie des familles éclatées dans l’œuvre romanesque de Calixthe Beyala

Abstract: In Calixthe Beyala’s novels, the narrators are in search of their own identity due to traumas experienced in broken families. The expression broken or shattered family (famille éclatée) is used in a broad way, pertaining to principles and responsibilities of marriage, particularly with children. The abandonment of a spouse, regardless of the motive, wounds the family unit. This study uses eight novels to examine the various configurations of families in which the place of biological parents is called into question. This study also shows that abandoned children, in the works of Beyala, cope with the absence of a parent.

Bastard, Broken, Declassing, Degenerative, Reclassing, Shattered, Trauma, Typology
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Littérature congolaise: imaginaire et miroir de l’urgence sociale

Abstract: Congolese literature of urgency is the historical conscience which informs the conscience of history, a therapeutic medium which allows the reader to transcend national trauma and to articulate the future. As the foundation of the metadiscourse of Congolese realities, it is the counter-discourse of Western and national cultural domination, the erasure of the national voice, the traumatism of dictatorships, invasions, and political and social conflicts maintained. It therefore condemns theological, political domination and advocates for nationalism, the reconstruction of Congolese identity while affirming Congolese desire to auto-determine their future in a country where truth is extirpated from political euphemisms.

Conter-discourse, Literature of urgency, Rejection of Ideology, Trauma, Utopia

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Quelle modernité congolaise ? Et quelle(s) modalité(s) pour la dire ?

Abstract: This study examines literary production in DR Congo especially with regard to the short story genre. This is based on the work of a generation of young writers who conceive their engagement with a literary field still under the sway of their elders as an avenue for self-assertion in a declining society portrayed through characters that find it difficult to carve a place in the sun. Their works showcase uncommon possibilities of expression that harness the virtues of economy and authenticity, suggesting the traits of what Congolese modernity should not be, given that authors seem to be more concerned with denouncing modernity than reinventing it.

Congolese Literature, Francophone, Literary field, Modernity, Struggles for emergence

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Présence Francophone

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« Nous avons besoin d’ouvrir le pays » : le développement et le scénario clef du point de vue chrétien dans l’espace social des séries télévisées de Kinshasa

Abstract: This article offers a discussion of “development” rhetoric as expressed in and around television drama in Kinshasa, capital city of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Producers (artists and pastors of Awakening Churches; some individuals are both) contend that their work will transform society, will combat the social and political crisis and will contribute to the development of the nation. Pentecostal christians embrace the melodrama because these television serials emphasize the spiritual development of the individual. I argue that the fictive representation of witchcraft relates to the Pentecostal diagnosis of the crises, and that the narrative emplotment of the TV serials is fully in line with the cultural key scenario professed in Pentecostal churches.

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Development, Kinshasa, Melodrama, Witchcraft

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Fabulations ou imaginaires vacillants : l’écriture de Rakotoson et Raharimanana entre histoire, mémoire et urgence du social

Abstract: The two writers from Madagascar, Michèle Rakotoson and Jean-Luc Raharimanana, fill empty memorial spaces by writing texts that vary from autobiographical mode, via the historical one, up to some elements of oral tradition with the objective to create anticipatory texts. The article analyzes the entanglement of references to reality and to fiction drawing on the notion of “fabulation” by Deleuze and of “half-knowledge” by Flahaut.

Anticipatory Literature, Fabulation, Madagascar, Memory

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La configuration du monde social dans le discours littéraire d’Alioum Fantouré

Abstract: This article examines how the relation is constructed in the social space and its effects in literary discourse of Alioum Fantouré. To develop this point, we first studied the question of historicity in connection with the postcolonial paradigm says. Then we talk about aesthetics mobilized by Fantouré in his novel *The Circle of the tropics* (1972). The aim is to show the general nature of the approach of Fantouré. He appears as a paradigmatic case of the post-independence period in literature.

Aesthetics, Alioum Fantouré, Francophone literature, Literary discourse, Postcolonialism

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Urgence du social et dimension utopique du roman africain. Une lecture de *Pacte de sang* de Pius Ngandu Nkashama

Abstract: This article shows how the urgency of the social in the francophone novel goes with a utopian dimension. It is suggested that if the African novel reveals the flaws and faults of the social and political body that the censorship attempts somehow to hide, if it has the power to dismantle the mechanism of violence, it also has the power to provide the vision of another possible world. Thus, the novel of disillusionment may be secretly the book of enchantment and utopia.

African novel, Dystopia, Ideology, Pius Ngandu Nkashama, Religious imaginary, Utopia, Writing of violence

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D’une altérité l’autre. L’enigme de l’homosexualité dans Le bel immonde de V. Y. Mudimbe

Abstract: This study of V. Y. Mudimbe’s novel Le bel immonde is situated at the intersection of sociology and rhetoric and examines the complexity of its female character, Ya, through the question of homosexuality. Presented as a minor news item, homosexuality is constantly represented as a social, sexual and affective enigma, eliciting in the novel a synthesis of meaning which leads to discoveries and a range of considerations on human relationships. Mobile, but elusive, fleeting and ephemeral, Ya represents an irreducible alterity as well as an emblematic portrait of an individual caught between two worlds. The lover of a minister who is characterized by an “intolerable jealousy”, Ya also maintains a “troubled relationship” with another woman who is jealous of said minister. Also daughter of a rebel leader, Ya provides those close to her with information about the government’s strategies to combat the rebellion. But, a whole sociological analysis of the reciprocal relationships between the individual and the collective unfolds around the bar in the novel. This setting ultimately symbolizes the breakdown of class barriers, hierarchies and relationships based on domination. And yet, this knowledge of the social is linked to a heightened awareness of the pre-eminence of fiction whose rhetorical processes demonstrate the writer’s passion for that which remains hidden.

Alterity, Collective, Contingency, Determinism, Domination, Discursive Strategies, Hierarchies, Homosexuality, In-between, Individual, Ranking, Social Distinction