Introduction

When we began preparations for the Second French Graduate Student Conference at UCLA, we learned very quickly that the concept of “being late” is a phenomenon that haunted not only the Romantics. To follow an original event of any kind is a challenging task, but the successful outcome of our conference States of Identity: Limits and Possibilities of Writing “French,” documented by the high quality of the present proceedings, demonstrate that there can be original “seconds,” as paradoxical as this might sound.

Our “Call for Papers” for a conference on “identity” in the context of ‘French’ writing generated national and international responses from students in different disciplines such as Art History, ESL, Philosophy, Theater, as well as French, German and Comparative Literature thus underlining the interdisciplinary appeal of this conference.

Denis Hollier’s thought-provoking keynote address on the very timely and controversial question of teaching literature in translation inaugurated the three-day event. Hollier’s talk was complemented by insightful responses from Janet Bergstrom and Andrea Loselle from the perspective of film and poetry. We want to thank all three of them for setting the stage for an intellectually challenging yet collegial discussion among students, faculty and the many guests from outside the academic community.

Though the papers presented by the graduate students in six panels contributed much to our knowledge regarding individual aspects of “identity” in different cultures and time periods, the subsequent discussions made it clear that attempts to reach “sameness” regarding a given problem were inevitably deferred by new questions and concerns. What remained was the realization that in spite of the plurality of opinions, we had achieved “identity” in the overarching collective gesture of intellectual
exchange. It is this discovery that justifies this conference and our work in the humanities in general.

This conference and the publication of its proceedings would not have been possible without the generous financial support from our sponsors and we want to thank the Borchard Foundation, the French Consulate at Los Angeles, the UCLA Graduate Student Association, the Center for Modern and Contemporary Studies and the Campus Programs Committee of the Program Activities Board. Last but not least, we want to express our gratitude to the UCLA French Department and its faculty, whose continued support, encouragement and presence during the panels was much appreciated by the graduate students. A special thank you is due to Jean-Claude Carron for his introduction of the keynote speaker and tireless personal engagement in the organization of this conference.

Our last acknowledgment goes to the graduate students of the French Department who contributed in many ways to the successful outcome of this event and sacrificed much precious time to meetings and other organizational tasks. We hope that the success of the first two conferences will serve as motivation and inspiration to those who are currently working on next year’s conference, which we are all eagerly anticipating.

The Editors

Diane Duffrin
Markus Müller
Special Issue
Paroles Gelées 15.2 1997

Selected Proceedings from the UCLA French Department Graduate Students' Second Interdisciplinary Conference
Ce serait le moment de philosopher et de rechercher si, par hasard, se trouvait ici l'endroit où de telles paroles dégèlent.

Rabelais, Le Quart Livre

PAROLES GELEES
Special Issue
UCLA French Studies
Volume 15.2 1997
Paroles Gelées was established in 1983 by its founding editor, Kathryn Bailey. The journal is managed and edited by the French Graduate Students’ Association and published annually under the auspices of the Department of French at UCLA.

Information regarding the submission of articles and subscriptions is available from the journal office:

Paroles Gelées
Department of French
2326 Murphy Hall
Box 951550
Los Angeles, California 90095-1550
(310) 825-1145
gelées@humnet.ucla.edu

Subscription price (per issue):
$10 for individuals
$12 for institutions
$14 for international orders

Back issues available for $7 each. For a listing, see our home page at http://www.humnet.ucla.edu/humnet/parolesgelees/.

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ISSN 1094-7294
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The Editors

Diane Duffrin
Markus Müller
States of Identity
Limits and Possibilities of Writing "French"

Selected Proceedings from the UCLA French Department
Graduate Students' Second Annual Interdisciplinary Conference,
April 25-27, 1997

Friday, April 25, 1997
South Bay Room of Sunset Village Commons

4:45 p.m.  Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Jean-Claude Carron, UCLA

5:00 p.m.  Keynote Address
Denis Hollier, Yale University
"Blanchot, Speaking in Tongues: Otherness in Translation"

Respondents
Janet Bergstrom, UCLA
Andrea Loselle, UCLA

7:00 p.m.  Reception

Saturday, April 26, 1997
Northridge Room

9:00 a.m.  Panel #1
Grafting Past to Present: Hybrid Identities
Moderator: Michael Stafford

1. "Norman French, Latin and Scots English: Three versions of
the Leges inter Brettos et Scottos," Kristen Over (UCLA, Comp.
Literature Program)

2. "Verlan: An Expression of Beur Identity or Reversal by
Inverse," Amy Wells (Texas Tech University, Dept. of Classical
and Modern Languages)

10:45 a.m. Panel #2
The Politics of Pedagogy: Translating Culture in the Classroom
Moderators: Natalie Muñoz, Marcella Munson

1. "Silent Words: Language as an Obstacle to Immigrant Integration and Identity in French Society," Katharine Harrington (Texas Tech University, Dept. of Classical and Modern Languages)

2. "The Guest in the Classroom: The Voice of Camus in Multicultural Academic Discourse," Ajanta Dutt (Rutgers University, ESL Program)

3. "Radical Chic(k): The American Roots of Marie de France," Susan Purdy (University of Western Ontario, Dept. of French)

2:30 p.m. Panel #3
Bodies in Writing: Feminine Identity and the Literary Text
Moderator: Heather Howard

1. "Discordant Locations for the Meospheric Void: Théophile Gautier vs. La Sylphide," Regina Fletcher Sadono (UCLA, Theatre Arts Dept.)


3. "The "I" Which Is Not One: Dual Identity in the Case of Simone de Beauvoir's Autobiography," Kim Carter-Cram (Idaho State University, Dept. of Foreign Languages)

4:15 p.m. Panel #4
War and Remembrance: National Epitaphs of Self
Moderator: Stacey Meeker

1. "Proust's Poetics of Recontextualization," John S. LaRose (Louisiana State University, Dept. of French and Italian)


3. "Ecriture et Mémoire: Identity and Collective Memory in Jorge Sempurn's L'Ecriture ou la vie," Marcus Keller (California State University Long Beach, Dept. for German, Russian and Romance Languages)
Sunday, April 27, 1997
South Bay Room

9:00 a.m. Panel #5

Lieux de Mémoire: Negotiating Boundaries of Francophone Identity
Moderator: Anne-Lancaster Badders
1. “Exile and Identity in the Plays of Maryse Condé,” Melissa McKay (University of Georgia, Dept. of Romance Languages)
2. “Personal and National Narrative in Une vie de crabe by Tanella Boni,” Laura K. Reeck (New York University, Dept. of French)

10:45 a.m. Panel #6

Representation and the Reconsideration of Identity
Moderator: Diane Duffrin
2. “The Stage of the Stage: Representation from Corneille to Diderot,” Ben Kolstad (UCLA, Comparative Literature Program)

Open Discussion

Closing Statement
Markus Müller, UCLA