

Skepsi



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Volume 1 (1) - Autumn 2008

Graft and Transplant: Identities in Question

Metaphysics and Translating. An Exodus-quotation in Medieval Vernacular Literature

Edit Anna Lukács (University of ELTE Budapest)

Renewal through the Classics: Irony, Parody, Intertextuality in the Decameron

Enrico Santangelo (Royal Holloway University of London & Università di Torino)

Aphorisms from French to English: translations of La Rochefoucauld's Maxims

Mathias Degoute (Université Paris IV Sorbonne)

From Concept to Analogy: an Investigation into Singularity

Sophie Vergé-Djigo (Université de Picardie Jules Verne, Amiens)

Photographs in Autobiographies: Identities in Progress

Fabien Arribert-Narce (University of Kent and Université Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle)

Becoming a Monstrous Text? The Process of Grafting in the Work of Jean Genet and Jacques Derrida's Glas

Claire Lozier (University of Kent and Université Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle)

Grafting and De-grafting Mental Illness: the Identity of Madness

Alvise Sforza Tarabochia (University of Kent)

Reaching out to the Other? Bora and the Wind of Forgiveness

Gregoria Manzin (Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne)

Catalan Identity in Post-Franco Era: Writing Descendant in Torrent's Un Negre Amb Un Saxo

Jaume Silvestre i Llinars (University of Kent)

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S*kepsi* is an online research journal based in the School of European Culture and Languages at the University of Kent, and is entirely run by research students.

Skepsi editorial board's aim is to honour the spirit of School of European Culture and Languages working hard to take advantage of its unique position as a crossroads in academic studies in Europe. Our hope is to develop collective thinking processes in the context of academic research, and to become a forum for European postgraduate researchers and postdoctoral scholars.

Our title, *Skepsi* — which means ‘thought’ in Ancient Greek — symbolises our will to explore new areas and new methods in the traditional fields of academic research in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Originality and creativity in the approach of thought and of texts are crucial for us: to enhance and to promote these aspects will be our contribution to the tremendous range of existing academic publications.



An Interdisciplinary Online Journal of European Thought and Theory in Humanities and Social Sciences

Biannual publication, VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1, AUTIMN 2008

ISSN 1758-2679

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/secl/journals/skepsi>

skepsi/@kent.ac.uk

Skepsi

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Acknowledgements

S*kepsi* editorial board would like to thank the School of European Culture and Languages at the University of Kent for its invaluable and continued support. We would also like to express our gratitude to Harriet Clements for her very precious help in editing and formatting this issue and her incredible kindness. We owe as well huge thanks to Ana de Medeiros, Shane Weller, Lorenzo Chiesa, Thomas Baldwin, John Harris and Elena Gaertner. We are also grateful to *eSharp* and *E-pisteme* editorial boards for their help and advice. A final thanks to all peer-reviewers and proof-readers who largely contributed to the success of this inaugural issue.

Foreword

The practices of grafting and transplanting, understood both literally and metaphorically, raise a series of questions with regard to the concept of identity: the unity of the subject; becoming; the Other; the in-between. Grafts and transplants set up a relationship between a donor and a receiver, be they human beings, texts, literary genres, images, languages, concepts, cultures, genders or historical periods. It involves the transposition of a part of something into something else. How might these different entities be said – or made – to co-exist? In what sense might the existence of such aggregates involve (or indeed require) a form of grafting and transplanting? Is their coexistence the result of an act of intrusion and violence or a mark of hospitality?

Skepsi's first issue explores the process of becoming-other or (re-)building an identity which the graft and transplant entail. It honours the interdisciplinary spirit of the journal by considering the switches, relays and connectivities at work in a wide variety of literary, artistic, philosophical, cultural and linguistic assemblages. It covers an ambitious field of knowledge – translation and intertextuality, monstrosity and abnormality, personal and cultural identities – without losing the feeling of a shared project. Indeed, all articles have been written by European researchers, and are related to Europe in a broad sense of the term: for this reason, Skepsi's first issue is – as we hope – a good example of a successful graft, despite the differences between vernacular languages and national identities.

In this inaugural issue of Skepsi, the reader will find a selection of papers given at the first annual postgraduate conference held at the University of Kent in May 2008, whose topic was: 'Graft and Transplant'. These papers are published here along with external contributions.

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