

PIETER VERSTRAETEN (FWO, postdoc project): “Literary expressionism in Flanders (1914-1930). A history of its concepts and its images”

CARMEN VAN DEN BERGH (Ph.D. project): “The question of Realism in Italian Literature of the 1930s: a historically contextualizing and analytical study.”

BEN DE BRUYN (FWO, postdoc project): “Concepts of Tradition in the Literary Theories of Ernst Robert Curtius, Frank Kermode and Antoine Compagnon”

ANNE REVERSEAU (FWO, postdoc project): “The documentary paradigm in modern descriptive poetry (1900-1950)”

Ph.D. project starting 2012: “The Paradigm of Nobility”

MATTHIAS SOMERS (FWO, Ph.D. project): “Expiring Rhetoric: Expression Theory in the Anglo-American Academy and its Discursive Context, 1880-1930”

TOM VANDELDELDE (Ph.D. project): “The Modernist Soundscape: Towards a Theory of the Representation and Perception of Sound in Narrative”

Ph.D. project starting 2012 (FWO): “On the Phonograph and Gramophone in the Literature of the Low Countries, 1890-1940”

MDRN

MDRN is a large-scale K.U.Leuven-based research project (2011-2016, GOA) that focuses on a uniquely varied period in literary history: the first half of the twentieth century. MDRN looks at the many ways in which literature between 1900-1950 defined and legitimized itself in each of the main Western European traditions (ENGLISH, GERMAN, FRENCH, SPANISH, ITALIAN, DUTCH) and studies literature's multiple identities, subdividing the project into three separate research tracks: literature's multiple **1) FUNCTIONS 2) HISTORIES and 3) MEDIATIZATIONS**. The project has a double aim: to further our understanding of literature in the modernist period, and, more generally, to develop a multidimensional and **FUNCTIONALIST APPROACH** to the dynamic identity of modern Western European literature.

LITERATURE AND ITS MULTIPLE FUNCTIONS

While modernist literature is almost exclusively approached from an “**AUTONOMOUS**” perspective, MDRN studies the tension between a literature which contributes to **EXTRA-LITERARY (RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL, MORAL) DEBATES** and a literature which defends its own autonomous existence in terms of **L'ART POUR L'ART** through a broad range of texts with both literary and non-literary functions, including various **MIDDLEBROW** texts, the emergence of which is characterizing for the first half of the twentieth century.

LITERATURE AND ITS MULTIPLE HISTORIES

This branch of the project questions the stark opposition between **INNOVATION** and **TRADITION**. Literary historiography emphasizes a model of successive innovations, describing authors who use outdated models as “**ANTI-MODERN**” or “**ARRIÈRE-GARDE**”. MDRN will focus on a series of literary and linguistic practices in which the divergent tendencies of innovation and tradition intermingle.

LITERATURE AND ITS MULTIPLE MEDIATIZATIONS

The first half of the twentieth century sees the full impact of **NEW MEDIA** such as radio and film on literature. Opposing trends of media-specificity and media-hybridization forced literature to redefine its position but also intensified its presence and circulation in the public sphere. New textual practices blurred the boundaries between **LITERATURE, IMAGE AND SOUND**.

MDRN GROUP

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