

Le fait divers

DANS TOUS SES ÉTATS

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CONGRESS



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An unclassifiable piece of information, the fait divers cannot be overlooked in the media highlights. Indeed it offers a constantly recurring possibility to the press to report the never-ending surprise of human affairs. The fait divers has been given special attention in many studies including those of Georges Auclair (“Le mana quotidien”), Roland Barthes (“Essais critiques”), or more recently Anne-Claude Ambroise-Rendu (“Petits récits des désordres ordinaires”) and Annik Dubied (“Les Dits et les scènes du fait divers”).

So why insist again and again on the fait divers? As an unclassifiable item, it is based on writing and reading strategies which can evolve following its variations in different media or its connection with fiction. As a piece of information, we also must consider the social and political aspect included in the meanings carried by the fait divers, with a special focus on the crises it reports.

THEMES

This congress provides an opportunity to question the subject of the fait divers from many scientific points of view. It proposes the following topics as federative perspectives:

1) The fait divers as a Journalistic Genre

Can a fait divers be defined ? Can it be questioned like other media genres, about its headlining, its narrativity, what it says, what it describes, what it implies as a social activity, its links to its readers ?

2) Fait divers, Social Phenomena, Events, Affairs

A trivial and insignificant fait divers can be distinguished from events described through more categorising logics of media. However, a big affair is often started with a fait divers. What connections could be forged between these small and big events ? Which processes allow us to differentiate between or merge with them ?

3) The fait divers' Staging

Every media outlet deals with the fait divers, each of them with different editorial choices and constraints depending on the means of communication. There is therefore no single way for media to deal with the fait divers but many ways to make them perceptible. How do television, radio, magazines or the Internet take over the fait divers?

4) Fait divers and Social Discourse

Reporting a fait divers may involve a variety of protagonists, from the witness to the expert, including various institutions. How can we analyse those types of speeches ?

5) Politics, Society and the Individual facing fait divers

We will here question the use of the fait divers by the media. Can its treatment, the space available for it be considered as privileged ways to prove a point, to produce a moral and political discourse ?

6) **Fait divers' Axiology**

Good versus Evil, Torturer versus Victim, Order versus Disorder. A fait divers is always at odds with the norm. How can a fait divers report for that norm or others, its meaning, its evolution through time and in between societies? Are they symptom or mirror? Questioning genres linked with the fait divers, their production, their style, their reception must enable to draw a map of "evil" such as it appears symbolically within our society.

7) **Connection between Fiction and fait divers**

Some researchers have addressed the reciprocal borrowings between fait divers and fiction (Detective novel, theatre, cinema, strip cartoon). How close are they in terms of narrativity, picture, plot, structure and so on. How is the reader in each case supposed to read?

8) **Fait divers and Poetry (Methods of writing, language games, time structure)**

A fait divers keeps the reader in a relation of complicity founded on language. Does a fait divers give the media the opportunity to play with language, with formulations, with time and with cultural or mythological references?

SCIENTIFIC RESPONSABILITIES

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SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Anne-Claude AMBROISE-RENDU (Paris X Nanterre University), Annik DUBIED (Neuchatel University), Jean-Pierre ESQUENAZI (Lyon 3 University), Isabelle GARCIN-MARROU (Lyon 2, University), Bernard LAMIZET (Lyon 2, University), Marc LITS (Louvain-la-Neuve, Catholic University), Jean-François TETU (Lyon 2 University), Martine VILA-RAIMONDI (Valence University), Thierry WATINE (Laval University).

COMMUNICATIONS' PROPOSALS

The proposal, already titrated, will have to be written in 3500 characters, in TNR (Times new roman) 12, a paragraph spacing of 1,5 and will present the following elements : problematics and hypotheses, corpus and an indicative bibliography. It should fall under one or more sets of themes. The proposals will have to be sent **by January 2, 2006 at the latest** to infos@faitdivers.org in rtf format (Rich Text File). Models of documents are available on the Web site of the congress to facilitate the respect of the standards of presentation. The evaluation of the proposals will be done anonymously by two members of the scientific committee. The answer, positive or negative, will be sent on January 23.

CONGRESS ORGANISATION

The congress will be held over 2 days on March 23 and 24, 2006, in the buildings of the manufacture des tabacs (Lyon 3 University). It is co-organized by the universities Lyon 2 and Lyon 3. The presentations should not exceed twenty minutes and the texts retained for a publication will make between 20 000 and 30 000 characters. For further information concerning the congress : www.faitdivers.org