

## MODERNIST EMOTIONS

The second international conference of the French Society for Modernist Studies

Société d'études modernistes (SEM)

22-24 June 2016

University Paris Ouest Nanterre

France

Keynote speakers:

Laura MARCUS (New College, Oxford)

Jean-Michel RABATÉ (University of Pennsylvania)

Call for Papers:

In continuation of the society's inaugural conference on Modernist communities, we now propose to explore the debate over emotions in the Modernist era. Despite famous claims of impersonality and the suppression of the "I" from the literary work, beginning with Ezra Pound's merciless editing of T.S. Eliot's *Waste Land*, the transparency and objectivity of an emotion-free subject has remained an ever-receding horizon. Even Ezra Pound's image is "an intellectual and emotional complex in an instant of time," which combines the rush of "primary" conception and emotion with the impulse to create the new forms of a new aesthetics (*Blast* 1914). Rationality and the irrational collide in the vortex, as emotions are in fact viewed in an ambivalent manner by Modernists, both as the sentimentalist rubbish assigned to a schematic revision of late Romanticism, thus to be eradicated, and as the very matter for the work of art, for aesthetic experimentation, and for the education of the public, in the context of an unnerving historical modernity.

Emotions create webs of interaction, or conversely isolate the individual in the labyrinth of intimacy. Language emerges as the mode of expression of emotions, or as the very obstacle separating us from a fantasized experience of pure emotion. We hope to foster reflection and discussion that will go beyond the paradox of a passionately anti-emotional Modernism towards a reconsideration of the large extent to which Modernism attempts to channel, remotivate, and revalue the power of emotion.

As the conference is organized by the French Society of Modernist Studies—*Société d'Etudes Modernistes*—, we seek to bring together scholars from all countries and hope to strengthen collaborations between French and international researchers.

Possible paper topics may include, but are not limited to:

Emotions across literary genres

Emotions across the arts and the new media (music, dance, film, radio, etc.)

Locating emotions: the spaces and places of emotions  
Historicizing emotions: the war and the post-war, historical shocks, new emotions  
The temporalities of emotion  
Emotions and the body  
Emotional disorders and apathy  
Emotions and the sciences  
Emotions across nations and cultures  
Emotions, high culture, and mass culture  
Emotions and gender  
Emotions, movement, and transportation  
The ethics of emotions  
Political emotions  
Modernism and the theories of affect

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Scientific committee :

H el ene Aji (Universit e Paris Ouest Nanterre), Catherine Bernard (Universit e Paris Diderot), Nicholas Manning (Universit e Paris Sorbonne), Laura Marcus (New College, Oxford), Jean-Michel Rabat e (University of Pennsylvania), Caroline Pollentier (Universit e Paris Sorbonne nouvelle–Paris 3), Julie Taylor (Northumbria University), Naomi Toth (Universit e Paris Ouest Nanterre), Steven Yao (Hamilton College, New York).

Papers will be delivered in English.

Please submit abstracts of no more than 300 words and a short bio-bibliography to **all three organisers** by **15 November 2015**.