

## 50 Years + - The Age of New French Theory (1966-1970)

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In 1966, at Johns Hopkins University, a major international conference brought together for the first time in the United States, and was intended to celebrate, some of the most illustrious representatives of 'Parisian structuralism', practitioners of a controversial *nouvelle critique* (Barthes, Todorov, etc. – cf. Picard's 1965 *Nouvelle critique ou nouvelle imposture*) alongside other influential intellectuals such as Jacques Lacan, Jacques Derrida and René Girard, among others. Published four years later as *The Languages of Criticism and the Sciences of Man*, the colloquium's original title, the volume of proceedings was reedited in 1972 under a new name: *The Structuralist Controversy*, with a preface that took stock of 'The Space Between', when what was perceived as the 'turn towards post-structuralism' had effectively been consummated and landed in America.

Half a century after the first trilogy of books by one of the major protagonists in these 'original scenes' was published, Jacques Derrida's *L'Écriture et la différence*, *De la grammatologie* and *La Voix et le phénomène*, this year's issue of *Word and Text* invites original contributions to another 'space between': the years 1966-1970, when arguably most of the works 'responsible' for such a long-lasting intellectual sea-change appeared in quick succession, on either side of the May '68 events – to name a few others: Lacan's *Écrits* (1966), Foucault's *Les Mots et les Choses* (1966) and *L'Archéologie du savoir* (1969), Macherey's *Pour une théorie de la production* (1966), Barthes's 'The Death of the Author' (1967) and *S/Z* (1970), Deleuze's *Différence et répétition* (1968) and *Logique du sens* (1969), Tel Quel's *Théorie d'ensemble* (1968), Goux's *Numismatiques* (1968), Baudrillard's *Le Système des objets: La consommation des signes* (1968), Kristeva's *Séméiôtiké: Recherches pour une sémanalyse* (1969), Blanchot's *L'Entretien infini* (1969), etc., but also Hélène Cixous's first novels: *Le Prénom de Dieu* (1967), *Dedans* (1969), *Le Troisième Corps* and *Les Commencements* (1970).

The following is a non-exhaustive list of possible topics and approaches on which we are seeking submissions:

- new historical, critical (etc.) perspectives on the 'turn towards post-structuralism' or the 'sense of an ending' (to appropriate the title of Frank Kermode's famous 1967 study on the theory of fiction);
- new evaluations of the impact of these thinkers and novel ideas or concepts on literary studies, criticism, philosophy, psychoanalysis and other humanistic disciplines;

- the ‘age’ of these books (and others): how they have fared during this half-century and what they can still teach us today;
- contributions on then notorious figures and works no longer fashionable nowadays or, conversely, revaluations of personalities, books, essays, etc. that became influential later but were relatively unknown or ignored at the time;
- the resistance of ‘classical’ structuralism to the critical tensions of this ‘*nouvelle critique*’;
- the role of the discovery and publication of the ‘other Saussure’ of the anagrams (the Geneva linguist’s Anagram Notebooks was serialized by Jean Starobinski between 1964 and 1971) on the years 1966-1970 and beyond;
- May ’68 and its immediate or longer-term intellectual legacy;
- the relation of the afore-mentioned thinkers and works to their contemporaries: Lévi-Strauss (who remained a structuralist anthropologist), Althusser (Marxism), Levinas (phenomenology, ethics), Sartre (existentialism), etc. as well as to then current thinking beyond the French borders; e.g. the Adorno († 1969) of *Negative Dialectics* (1966) and *Aesthetic Theory* (1970).

The deadline for abstract submissions is **30 May 2017** and acceptance (or rejection) will be notified around **15 June 2017**. Selected contributors are then expected to send their full article by **30 September 2017**. All submitted articles will be blind refereed except when invited. Accepted articles will be returned for post-review revisions by **15 October** and are expected back in their final version by **30 October**.

Please send your abstract to the editor of the volume, [Milesi@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:Milesi@cardiff.ac.uk), and to the journal’s e-mail address, [wordandtext2011@gmail.com](mailto:wordandtext2011@gmail.com).