

McNeill, Isabelle / Stephens, Bradley (eds)

Transmissions

Essays in French Literature, Thought and Cinema

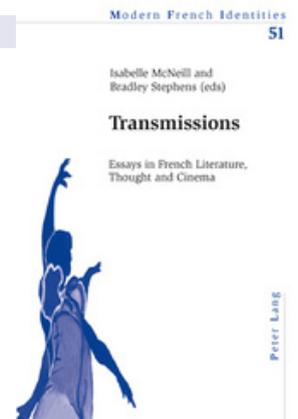
Oxford, Bern, Berlin, Bruxelles, Frankfurt am Main, New York, Wien, 2007. 221 pp.

Modern French Identities. Vol. 51

Edited by Peter Collier

Print: ISBN 978-3-03910-734-6 pb. (Softcover)
SFR 53.00 / €* 46.90 / €** 48.20 / € 43.80 / £ 35.00 / US\$ 56.95

Order online: www.peterlang.com



Book synopsis

As a concept, transmission is crucial to our understanding of how ideas circulate within and across cultures. It opens up a series of questions that link to key debates concerning the exchange of knowledge. Bringing together research from a broad range of areas in French studies, this volume investigates the workings of transmission in relation to canonical and contemporary figures alike, including Proust, Barthes, Derrida, Jean-Luc Godard, and Claire Denis. The essays collected here offer a lively response to the themes of transmission, considering literature and philosophy from the medieval period onwards, as well as modern cinema and critical theory. The first section traces concepts of malign transmission that have informed medieval, early modern and finally contemporary representations of contagion. The second section addresses the impact of trauma, along with its imperative to testify to, or transmit, painful experiences such as rape and the Holocaust. The final section considers transmission in terms of a signal that carries a message, as well as the media that transport or encode that signal.

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