

PERMISSIONS. MÉLANGES OFFERTS À GUY MÉNARD

Inventer pour comprendre. La création d'un rituel de divorce dans une visée pédagogique

Nicolas BOISSIÈRE

Abstract : This article offers some reflections on a pedagogical experience that took place in an undergraduate course on contemporary rituals. Inspired by the teaching of Guy Ménard (2007) and Michael Houseman (2012), we asked students to create a divorce ritual in order for them to understand better the concepts discussed in class. Grounded in Isabelle Puozzo's (2012, 2013, 2014) "pedagogy of creativity", the article summarizes this didactic experiment with a review of its initial hypotheses, of the conditions of its realization, and a presentation of some of the rituals crafted by the students.

Keywords : pedagogical experience, pedagogy of creativity, ritual creativity, divorce ritual

Hijrā : une communauté transgenre de l'Inde

Mathieu BOISVERT

Abstract : This article presents the outline of a field research (2013–2016) on the *hijrā*, a "transgender" community in southern India. Being *hijrā* implies belonging to a well-defined community that has existed for centuries in South Asia. An initiation ritual marks the official entry into the group. Several rites of passage as well as participation in many pilgrimages punctuate thereafter the lives of these followers. Not only do these ritual activities help to convey the myths associated with the identity of this community, but their main purpose is to re-enact these myths, to place the *hijrā* at the center of the narration and of the meaning they convey.

Keywords : South Asia, *hijrā*, ritual, initiation, myth, pilgrimage

Quelle éthique de l'enseignement de l'éthique dans le programme Éthique et culture religieuse

Jacques CHERBLANC

Abstract : In Quebec, in 2008, a unique, compulsory, non-denominational Ethics and Religious Culture (ERC) program was introduced in all schools, replacing the former optional moral education and moral and religious education (Catholic or Protestant) programs. The "religious culture" component of this new program has retained attention and is still under analysis. More recently, criticisms have been levelled at the "ethics" component of the program. Most of them criticize the loss of references and values that results from the disappearance of moral and/or confessional education. This article seeks to show how the ERC program avoids the double pitfall of moralism and relativism through a pedagogical wager: the interculturalist tools used in the ERC program, regardless of the values and beliefs of the students, are helping them to adopt attitudes and behaviors that encourage the recognition of others and the pursuit of the common good.

Keywords : ethics, moral education, religious education, ethics and religious culture (ERC), moralism, relativism, interculturalisme, multiculturalism

Les Grandes Espérances. La religion d'un héros de Dickens

Michel DESPLAND †

Abstract : Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations* tells the story of Philipp Pirrip, an orphan raised by adoptive parents, nicknamed Pip. This article intends to show how the central character of this *Bildungsroman*, arrived at middle age, creates himself a "religion". Admittedly, Dickens had a Christian perspective, and his novels also reflect the religious debates of his time. But this one can be seen as a turning point in the art of writing a novel in English. God, so to speak, no longer intervenes in the course of human events. Dickens nevertheless finds in the New Testament a source that fuels a vision of reality ; and this source confronts all humans in search of a "good life". Dickens thus finds in his reading of the New Testament a narrative sequence which really brings "good news" to the protagonists of his novel.

Keywords : Dickens, ,Great Expectations 19th century, English novel, Victorian Christianity

À l'aune du pachyderme ou l'apport de la philosophie herméneutique à l'enseignement de l'éthique et de la culture religieuse au secondaire

Martin DUBREUIL

Abstract : This article attempts to show how the allegory of the blind and the elephant interpreted in the light of the fundamental principles of contemporary hermeneutics can foster the acquisition of some of the Ethics and Religious Culture (ERC) course's concepts and the development of certain skills that are prescribed in it.

Keywords : Ethics and Religious Culture (ERC), hermeneutics, philosophy, education, dialogue, allegory

Vraies fausses idoles et conditions modernes du salut intramondain

Marc-Antoine FOURNELLE

Abstract : In the alleged rational and secularized world, it can be surprising to discover online erotico-pornographic clips with recurrent religious themes. Their performance is no longer the sacrilegious parody that it used to be in the seventies. Now, it is all about the discourse and the image of a professional dominatrix calling herself a goddess, a discourse that refers explicitly to the sphere of the sacred. These religious lexical borrowings could simply refer to an analogical figure, but could also reveal a more profoundly hieratic dimension, hardly noticeable in the usual empirical data generated on masochism as mere sexual perversion.

Keywords : eroticism, pornography, dominatrix, fetishism, masochism, sacred, Internet

« Dans la Rivière des Feuilles Tombées ». L'âge d'or des sciences des religions au Québec

Michel GARDAZ

Abstract : The academic and literary career of Guy Ménard coincided with the Golden Age of Religious Studies in Quebec. This discipline has developed considerably since the late 1960s. However, there are now fewer programs in all of Quebec universities. Is this decline attributable to demographic factors ? Is it caused by the Millennials ? Or is it due to the ever changing intellectual fashion (the famous Anglo-Saxon "trends") of the day? Or is it because of macroeconomic trends ? Or because of student debts and those of universities ? In short, what is the future of Religious Studies in Quebec ?

Keywords : religious studies, humanities, university programs, economy, Canada, Quebec

Définir le paradigme de la sécularisation pour mieux s'en abstenir

François GAUTHIER

Abstract : The *religiologique* working hypothesis of the displacement of the sacred enables a decentring that allows one to question afresh the secularisation paradigm, foundational to social sciences. This article identifies four interrelated factors (system) to explain the congenial difficulties that plague social sciences when it comes to understanding the contemporary mutations of the religious. First, the secularisation paradigm, that underlies both secularisation and religious resurgence theories, is understood as the institutionalization, within modern epistemology, of the opposition between modernity and religion. Second, the political, institutional and masculine biases have been favoured at the expense of culture, of non-institutional forms and aspects deemed feminine. Third, methodological nationalism overlooks the growing transnational and global dimensions of the religious. Fourth, the normative and ideological effects of the irreducible alterity of religion for modern thought can be illustrated with a comparison with political and economic sciences. The article then concludes that the religious, religion and religiosity are neither realities nor essences but concepts, and calls for a renewed and less normatively and ideologically perspective.

Keywords : secularisation, methodological nationalism, religiology, religion

Les rencontres improbables

Thierry GOGUEL D'ALLONDANS

Abstract : In the rather boring and pompous conference for the Centennial Congress of the International Institute of Sociology (Paris, June 22, 1993), Guy Ménard proposed a very heartening albeit modest workshop in a tiny room at the Sorbonne (at the beginning of a hot summer) to reflect upon the new forms of ritual. I do not recall much of the content of the workshop. However, on that occasion, I met a number of scholars who, more than twenty years later, still belong to my most intimate circle of friends. Meeting is pontification. This is what makes it pertain to the religious, in the same manner as Quebec religiology has, for many years, studied this "*fundamental anthropological religiosity* [...], a displacement effect of the sites of this contemporary experience of the religious and the sacred" (Ménard, 2000a : 108).

Keywords : encounter, ritual, religion, sexuality, pontification

Les savoirs initiatiques

Denis JEFFREY

Abstract : In contemporary societies, the disappearance of traditional rites of passage partly explains the endless adolescent quests. More than two hundred thousand years separate us from our *homo sapiens* ancestors. However, the "knowledges" required to become an "adult" are substantially the same. For convenience, this article distinguishes between *utilitarian* knowledge and *initiatory* knowledge. In modernized societies, the former is transmitted by parents and then by school. The latter concerns the knowledge of the "mysteries" of existence, the meaning of life, death, suffering. Traditional societies took charge of this initiatory dimension. In modern societies, young people are in most cases left on their own to acquire it.

Keywords : adolescence, adulthood, rites of passage, utilitarian knowledge, initiatory knowledge, initiation

Contributions de l'approche religiologique à une socio-anthropologie de l'adolescence

Jocelyn LACHANCE

Abstract : This article highlights the contribution of religiology – to which Guy Ménard has greatly contributed – to the development of a socio-anthropology of adolescence. This discipline defends the thesis of a *displacement* of the religious and the sacred in secularized societies, in opposition to the thesis of their *disappearance*. By showing how a socio-anthropology of adolescence fits in with this paradigm, we will see that the epistemological stance defended here does not only imply connivance at the theoretical level, it also involves a unique appropriation of the mobilized methodologies and an equally unique reading of adolescence. Admittedly, the socio-anthropology of adolescence cannot be just a transposition of this religiological paradigm onto the study of contemporary adult becoming. Nonetheless, the legacy of religiology can be assessed from a much broader spectrum, as an original reading of the present.

Keywords : adolescence, socio-anthropology, religiology, methodology, theory, displacement of the sacred, ordeal

Job, théologien malgré lui

François NAULT

Abstract : The character of Job, as he acts and expresses himself in the narrative section of the Bible, is generally regarded as a pious, even submissive man. But a closer reading of Job's reactions to his first and second ordeals reveals a certain evolution of his stance. This article will try to demonstrate how Job's religious crisis leads to a truly critical questioning and even to a genuine theological stance.

Keywords : Book of Job, theology, questioning, blessing

La mort en l'absence de transcendance

Lawrence OLIVIER

Abstract : Our societies demonstrate a relentless and unprecedented concern for death. Could it be said that this interest is proof that they seek to ward off its harmful power ? This is not the case. On the contrary, today, more than ever, life has lost all precedence ; it has become the raw material of death. It constantly annihilates all forms of life, not to approve new, and better ones, or, if we refuse the value judgment, to allow life to persist. The mistake lies in our belief in the power of life, whereas it is defeated by a still greater power than that of the will : nothingness. There is nothing to overcome ; nothingness is always first and last.

Keywords : death, life, nothingness, dysthanasia, transcendence, simulacrum, nihilism

Penser le sacré et la culture en sciences des religions : le cas du cours « Religion et culture » à l'UQAM (1988–2019)

Eve PAQUETTE

Abstract : This article traces the concept of the sacred's trajectory according to the religiological approach developed at the Université du Québec à Montréal. More specifically, it questions the relationship between the concept of the sacred and that of culture. In fact, proponents of the religiological approach have been keen to observe the presence of Eliade's *homo religiosus* "in culture" or, in other words, in secular society. In order to exemplify the trajectory of the concept of the sacred and the ways in which the problematization of culture either inflects or reflects it, we pay attention to different versions of UQAM's "Religion and Culture" course since its creation, in 1988. The various descriptions of the course illustrate how culture, first viewed as an unspecified "locus", was gradually viewed as a plurality of situated experiences, and, then, as a process that ultimately questioned the concept of culture itself. Simultaneously, the sacred, first considered as the form of "unprecedented" experiences, grounded in the social effervescence of emancipation, is seen now as merely coexisting with other enduring institutionalized forms of religious experience.

Keywords : religiologie, sacred, concept of culture, theories of religion

Le sacré et l'infondé de la culture

Jacques PIERRE

Abstract : *Culture and sacred* : these two terms circumscribe the place from which we must currently think the religious : on one side, there is the generic space of culture ; on the other is found what some regard as the specific object of the religious, namely the sacred. The purpose of this article is to question these two terms in order to fulfill the never-ending task of establishing the foundations of our discipline. Indeed, this task involves questioning the unthought of their usage by our contemporaries.

Keywords : culture, sacred, religion, language, ethology, cultural studies, meaning

De l'UQAM à l'Himalaya. Images d'un parcours

Marcel POULIN

Abstract : In this contribution, which focuses on several of his photographs of Marcel Poulin who recalls his career as well as his numerous collaborations with Guy Ménard over the years.

Keywords : India, Tibet, Himalaya, Kumbha Mela, Mount Khailash, darshan

Les déplacements de l'expérience de la culture populaire : pour une philosophie de série B

Philippe ST-GERMAIN

Abstract : The examination of the links between philosophical texts and popular culture is usually one-sided : the former serves as a reading grid to interpret the latter. I wish to explore the reverse approach, paying attention to how fiction can work philosophy from within, and how it can borrow motifs that belong to popular culture without explicitly acknowledging them. I will compare the famous *swampman* thought experiment, proposed by analytic philosopher Donald Davidson, to *Swamp Thing*, a comic book character, a much-neglected comparison in secondary literature on Davidson. I will then link this approach to two others approaches proposed by contemporary philosophers, and offering a parallel with *afterpop*, a term that Eloy Fernández Porta uses to refer to the practices of a generation of Hispanic writers born around the 1970s.

Keywords : afterpop, comics, popular culture, thought experiment, fiction, philosophy, postmodernism

De la hiérophanie à la crise, du rite de passage à la psychothérapie : un déplacement du sacré ?

Marilyne THÉRIAULT

Abstract : This article argues for a structural homology between how the experience of the crisis is thought and lived during the psychoanalytical psychotherapy and how the experience of hierophany is defined in religious studies and experienced during rites of passage. First, the sacred and profane dialectic in the religious world is compared to Freud's dialectic of the primary and secondary processes. Then, the vocational appeal and role of the shaman is compared to those of the therapist, and the function of the ritual is compared to the function of the therapeutic framework. Finally, stages of the rites of passage are compared to those of crisis psychotherapy, and an understanding of contemporary religious phenomenon sheds light onto the therapy's individualistic aim.

Keywords : crisis, rite of passage, ritual, myth, psychotherapy, psychoanalysis
