

## Call for papers

### *Resentment in French Literature*

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Resentment is often taken as a synonym of acrimony or anger: a reaction to physical or moral injustice that is personal or collective response due to pain or rumination, potentially conducive to revenge as compensation for the damages suffered by an individual or a community or for the deprivation of goods lost.

There are however other forms of resentment which are not answers to negative or shrewd actions, but transpositions of feelings that originally were positive.

A strong preliminary example could be found in the so-called "benefit syndrome": long-term resentful or angry sentiment on the part of the one who has received a favour, help or a gift, which replaces or cancels the initial gratitude. What clearly comes into play here is the weight of the feeling of some kind of unpayable debt, exactly because nothing was asked in return, followed by mixed and potentially aggressive sentiments, such as the perception of inferiority and guilt. Thence, the benefactors gradually come to realize that in return they have become the object of coldness and hostility and even explicit hate.

Another form of resentment is the inversion of initially positive past circumstances as shown by certain dynamics. The transport and ardour of the person in love, be the loved one responsive or not to them, in time can develop into obsession, and so the inescapable nature of the loving expectation might change to a mental experience, felt as cumbersome and, in some way, suffocating or oppressive. The distress and coercion perceived may lead the lover to associate such negative feelings with the loved one, so that the person who unknowingly caused those compulsive consequences ultimately begins to be seen in the shape of an enemy or persecutor and, no matter what his or her actions are, by and by it turns into an object deserving resentment and anger with the possible following destructive issues.

Please consider for abstracts the following possible lines of investigation:

- The dynamics of generosity, gratitude or ingratitude and debt in connection with the French novel, also in accordance with social and economic perspectives;
- The "benefit syndrome" and aggressive and vindictive reactions as a distinctive psychological trait of specific characters found in different genres, such as comedy, tragedy, farce, the short story, folk tales, fiction, commemorative narration;
- Resentment and violence, individual or conjoint, in war reports;
- Resentment as a reversal of love in lyrical poetry from the Renaissance to the Twentieth century;

- Figures and expressions of conflictual relationship in essays and critical writings, considering sources and developments (e.g. See Harold Bloom on debt in his *The Anxiety of Influence*).

Articles' length cannot go beyond 40.000 characters, including abstract, notes, keywords and bibliography. Editorial rules should be consulted at <https://www.rivistacostellazioni.org/norme-redazionali> and must be observed. Following Anvur's regulations for scientific reviews, all articles are subject to double blind peer review.

Accepted languages: Italian and French.

Proposals, including title, abstract and short bibliography, will be received until May 31st 2024, accompanied by a short curriculum vitae (maximum 50 words) at the following address: [luca.bevilacqua@uniroma2.it](mailto:luca.bevilacqua@uniroma2.it)

**Deadlines:**

- This Call for Papers closes on May 31st 2024;
- Authors will be notified of acceptance or rejection of the proposals by June 15th 2024;
- Texts including abstract, keywords, bibliography and short biographical note to be handed in to the Editor by January 10th 2025;
- Double blind peer review procedures to take place between January 10th and May 31st 2025;
- Notification of final approval July 1st 2025;
- Handing in of the texts to the Editorial Board, July 15th 2025
- Publication date: February 1st 2026