

Dire la *souffrance* operaia nella letteratura francese tra XX e XXI secolo

CLAUDIO PANELLA

Università di Torino

Abstract

Working Class Misery in 20th and 21st Century French Literature

The paper explores the very early manifestations of what in France is currently known as littérature du travail. The first books on the subject were published in 1982 by Leslie Kaplan L'Excès-L'usine and François Bon Sortie d'usine. Though contemporary authors are often inspired by the littérature prolétarienne of the beginning of the 20th century, on the contrary, Kaplan and Bon write the souffrance of factory workers of the end of the 20th century by looking at the nouveau roman as a model. De-industrialization has then become the subject of hybrid texts such as Mémoires de l'Enclave (1986) by Jean-Paul Goux or Daewoo (2004) by Bon. In the early Eighties, thanks to novels such as La place (1983) by Annie Ernaux, the so called récit de filiation, whereby the working lives of parents are told by their children, comes back to become a literary genre allowing for private and generational mourning at the dusk of 20th century working class history.

Keywords: French contemporary literature; working class literature; retour of the real; non-fiction; de-industrialization.