

# The French Review

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*Devoted to the Interests of Teachers of French*

881 *From the Editor's Desk*

## ARTICLES

### PEDAGOGY

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June Gill

**"What Students Do and Do Not Know about Paris"**

There is intense interest in the profession in teaching culture, but little hard evidence on which to judge success. The author tested 138 college students' knowledge about a common culture topic, Paris, using quantitative measures for greater accuracy. While students of French scored better than the control group, their knowledge proved to be spotty and superficial, especially in the areas of history and geography; for example, students know major monuments like the Louvre, but can't locate Paris geographically. Detailed analysis of the survey and suggestions for a "Paris Lesson Plan" are included.

### FILM

902

Edward  
Ousselin

**"From le Moko to le Pew: Pépé's Transmogrifications"**

Julien Duvivier's 1937 film, *Pépé le Moko*, was not only remade twice by Hollywood—into *Algiers* (1938) and *Casbah* (1946)—it also inspired the creation of a cartoon character, Pepe le Pew, which over time became better known than its satirical sources, and which incorporated all the well-known negative stereotypes of France and the French. In the successive remakes and adaptations, the processes of alterity, subordination, and feminization shifted from the Algerian to the French characters, contributing to an amalgamation of Frenchness with a form of exoticism or Orientalism within American popular culture.

# C O N T E N T S

- 914 **Sally Sieloff Magnan**  
**“Young Beur Heroes: Helping Students Understand Tensions of Multicultural France”**
- How can we help students understand multicultural France? We can turn to *beur* heroes, who question themselves and their surroundings as they move between and within societies. This article considers three novels (*Le Gone du Chaâba*, *Georgette!*, *Ils disent que je suis une Beurette*) and examines three inter-related thematic groupings: (1) isolation and discontinuity fueled by shame, fear, and anger, (2) an acute, unsatisfied desire to belong, and (3) preoccupation with departure. Exploring notions of marginalization, hybrid sense of self, and familial and religious tensions, the article concludes with ways to use the novels in intermediate and advanced courses.

LITERATURE

- 930 **Charles O’Keefe**  
**“Hard to Swallow: A Not-So-Postmodern Reading of Patrick Modiano’s Postmodern Œuvre”**
- Many describe as postmodern the work of the contemporary French novelist Patrick Modiano, partially because of alleged narrative aporias. However, the term “postmodern” suits Modiano’s work not because of aporias but rather because of other factors, e.g., its semiotic turn. This can be shown by applying to Modiano’s work the logical razor of William of Ockham, in fact an advocate of a semiotic turn of his own. The razor (1) turns the putative aporias into coherent, innovative narrative gambits, (2) occasions an appreciation of a troubling Modianesque image (swallowing razorblades), and (3) invites reconsideration of the “death of the author.”
- 942 **Eliane McKee**  
**“Réquisitoire et témoignage: l’œuvre d’Abdelhak Serhane”**
- Auteur maghrébin d’expression française encore assez peu lu parmi les littéraires, Abdelhak Serhane dévoile avec une rare franchise les maux qui empêchent le Maroc de progresser. Loyal à sa thèse quant au rôle de l’écrivain, il dévoile dans ses quatre premiers romans, *Messaouda*, *Les Enfants des rues étroites*, *Le Soleil des obscurs*, *Le Deuil des chiens*, tout ce qui est l’objet de désapprobation et de blâme dans la société marocaine: injustice, corruption, luxure, hypocrisie religieuse, abus du pouvoir, vols, oppression des pauvres, des femmes et des enfants. De ce fait, la jeune génération reste prise dans l’engrenage des adultes et est livrée au hasard sans aucune chance de pouvoir se frayer une vie meilleure.

949

**Michelle  
Chilcoat**

**“Anticolonialism  
and Misogyny  
in the Writings  
of Isabelle  
Eberhardt”**

Isabelle Eberhardt (1877–1904), a woman who traveled throughout North Africa dressed as an Arab man, was a prolific author in her short lifetime, and her fictional œuvre often contained scathing critiques of French colonialism. But the brutal misogyny of her writings, which is usually either relegated to a footnote or overlooked altogether in studies devoted to Eberhardt, warrants critical attention. This article undertakes to consider how these anticolonialist and misogynist elements when taken together might reinform our reading of this enigmatic author.

SOCIETY AND CULTURE

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**Cécile Hanania**

**“Poupée, anale  
nationale ou la  
Marianne  
malade d’Alina  
Reyes”**

En analysant les réflexions et les actes délirants et salaces de Poupée, épouse d’un membre éminent du Tronc, parti imaginaire d’extrême droite, l’article se propose de commenter la dénonciation politique d’une rare virulence, à laquelle se livre Reyes dans un petit texte publié récemment en France: *Poupée, anale nationale*. Après avoir commenté les moyens rhétoriques dont se sert l’auteur pour porter ses coups, je montrerai comment Reyes joue d’une représentation républicaine séculaire, idéale et candide, et comment, la pervertissant, son récit constitue une mise en garde contre l’infiltration insidieuse de tendances extrémistes inquiétantes dans la société française.

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## NOTE

"La Vie des mots" (Colette Dio)

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