

Discours social: Objectives, Perspectives, Configurations.

*Discours social / Social Discourse* is at once a collection of articles *about* social discourse theory, and an exercise in the very activity to which it refers. The subject matter of the articles that we review for publication is as broad as the term "social discourse" implies, and a delineation of the object domain is as problematic. Contemporary researchers in this field have tended towards an ever-larger definition of the term; Marc Angenot, for example, refers to "discours social" as "l'ensemble de ce qui se dit et s'écrit dans un état de société, dans la mesure où cet ensemble n'apparaît pas comme composé d'énoncées aléatoires, mais au contraire, réglés par des conventions, pris dans des configurations idéologiques." (*Glossaire pratique de la critique contemporaine*). The Editors of *Discours social / Social Discourse* welcome all studies related to this definition, as well as new research that questions the limits to which this field can be expanded.

The length and breadth of the current issue reflects a growing interest in the field and a corresponding recognition on the part of readers and contributors that a working-papers series is an ideal forum for analyzing the discourse market's interest in recently-fabricated wares. Following publication in *Discours social / Social Discourse*, all copyrights are returned to the author in the hope that [pre-] publication in a relatively-widely-read journal will stimulate interest in recently-undertaken research, while offering readers a chance to contribute comments and feedback.

We welcome submissions in any of area of research related to social discourse, and we will publish articles written in English, French, Italian, Spanish, or German provided they are accompanied by abstracts written in French (we can assist with translations if necessary). We receive submissions from faculty members, students and professionals from McGill University and other institutions around the world, who are concerned with literary and cultural studies. Areas of concern include studies in sociocritique, feminist analyses of culture, psychoanalytic approaches to culture, paraliterature, sociology of literary institutions and mass culture, science fiction, deconstruction, aesthetics, [post-] modernity, popular culture, natural logic, hermeneutics, rhetoric, the theory of argumentation, linguistic analysis, textual semiotics and narratology, pragmatics, genology, cultural semiotics, content analysis, discourse analysis, communication theories, epistemology, the sociology of knowledge, the ethnomethodology of oral interactions -- in short, theories of social discourse which expand our knowledge of interaction within and amongst different cultures.

We also welcome letters, notes, book reviews, comments, queries, remarks, or follow-up

articles. We encourage "marginal", "non-academic", and "creative" discourse, submissions from those who traditionally view themselves as working in the hinterland, or those who are accustomed to envisioning themselves as being amongst the placard-waving demonstrators, amassed on the outskirts of the social discourse marketplace.

Irrespective of the type or quantity of wares our [future] contributors wish to peddle in this vast and oft-unruly marketplace, we ask that they conform to MLA style and, wherever possible, we appreciate it when hard copy is accompanied by a computer-generated equivalent. IBM or Apple, Wordperfect, Wordstar, IBM Word, MacWrite, First Choice, GEM or ASCII, if the article can be contained within the confines of a 5.25" or 3.5" computer disk, then our task of reviewing, editing and publishing is simplified.

Copies of *Discours social / Social Discourse* are available in many of the well-known institutions involved with the dissemination of research materials, including: La Bibliothèque nationale du Québec; The National Archives (Canada); The National Library of Canada; McClellan Library at McGill University; La Bibliothèque Nationale; the British Library; the Library of Congress; the New York Public Library; major Canadian and American university libraries -- notably Université de Laval, University of Toronto, University of British Columbia, Harvard, Yale, Berkeley; numerous bookstores in the Montréal area; and in scattered outposts in Canada, the U.S. and Europe.

The contents of *Discours social / Social Discourse* are indexed in the Canadian Periodical Index, the Arts and Humanities Citation Index, Current Contents / Arts and Humanities, the annual MLA International Bibliography, the Canadian Literature Index: A guide to Periodicals, and Abstracts of English Studies. Issues are also available from our office, c/o the Comparative Literature Program, McGill University (see inside back cover). All articles are also available individually in hard copy, on disk, or via modem.

A tribute...

This journal exists because of the foresight and continued support of Professor Marike Finlay, Faculty Editor and Chairperson of the Comparative Literature Program, McGill University. Her devotion to this project serves as an inspiration to all those who contribute their time, energy or their support to *Discours social / Social Discourse*. I would also like pay tribute to the organizations who have helped defray publishing and printing costs:

The Comparative Literature Program has contributed most of the hardware needed for editing, lay-out, word-processing and publishing.

The Publications Committee, McGill University, has assisted with two grants, one in 1987 and one in 1988. Their funding has played a central role in ensuring that this journal continues to publish regularly.

The Post-Graduate Student Society Monetary Affairs Committee provided a grant which helped defray publishing and printing costs.

We are also grateful for the small favors performed by several Montréal area corporations, including Xerox Canada, Microcom, Hewlett Packard, and Canadian Art Boutique.

Our next issue...

Our next issue will be devoted to the proceedings of "Re-thinking the Subject in Discourse", a multi-disciplinary conference sponsored by the Comparative Literature Program of McGill University and the Canadian Semiotics Association in March of 1988. This promises to be of voluminous proportions and of tremendous importance for persons interested in cultural studies or psychoanalytic research of the "Subject" in contemporary discourse. Contributors include Mark Angenot, Paul Coates, Marike Finlay, E.T. Gendlin, Lawrence Grossberg, Vladimir Krysinski, Gilles Lipovesky, Regine Robin, Deborah Root, Margaret Rustin, Alan Stoekl, Darko Suvin, George Szanto, Sarah Westphal-Wihl, Victor Wolfenstein, Robert Young, and many others ... Issues should be available in January, 1989.

Submissions for future issues are accepted year-round, and subscriptions are available through our office.

Robert Franklin Barsky