

Offre de thèse avec contrat doctoral. Université de Caen Normandie

Symbolic thresholds, Margins, Rites of Passage: Liminality in the Novels of Alexandre Dumas

Job information		
	Organisation / Entreprise	Université de Caen Normandie
	Research Field	Humanities and social sciences
	Researcher Profile	First Stage Researcher (R1)
	Country	France
	Application Deadline	10/05/2026
	Type of Contract	Temporary (3 years), from october 2026
	Job Status	Full time
	Is the Job funded through the UE Research Framework Programme ?	NO
	Is the Job related to staff position within a Research Infrastructure ?	NO
Offer description		
	Doctoral project description	<p>As a mixed-race and self-taught author, Alexandre Dumas' identity appears to be confined to liminal spaces, never able to fully belong to one side or the other: he isn't white enough to be accepted as such, nor black enough to be considered that way either. Furthermore, while his literary work prospers as one of the</p>

		<p> masterpieces of French culture internationally, his status as an author is regularly being tested. It seems only fitting then that marginality should appear as a crucial theme throughout his work. Most of his characters are outcasts or marginals – they, too, dwell in liminality. Liminality is a concept used in ethnology to define the intermediate phase, after the novice has separated from their group. During this step, they are defamiliarized from their beliefs and social codes. At that point the novice is no longer the person they used to be, nor are they yet the person they will become once the rite is over: they’re floating in-between, at the margins. Whether it is about character being initiated, or marginal figures unable to aggregate the community, liminality is found everywhere in Dumas’ work, to the point of haunting the entire narrative structure of many of his works: a significant number describes the tipping point from one era to another, paradigm shifts. Such events can be read as rites of passage where an entire community is affected. How can one survive the rite? In what ways do this identity crisis and perpetual defamiliarization influence relationships between people? With this PhD thesis, I will study the different ways in which the concept of liminality informs the identities and relationships of Dumas’ characters, as well as their responses to the historical changes of their times. Furthermore, I will analyze liminality as a poetic and narrative motif: how Dumas describes/writes the threshold? How does he immerse the reader within a liminal space? Which forms takes liminality, and how does it affect the reader? </p>
	Salary placement	2300 € / month
Requirements		
	Admission requirements	Holding a Master’s Degree

	Eligibility	Subject to the acceptance of the head of the institution, on the proposal of the ED director after consultation with the director of the research team and the thesis supervisor
Application		
		<p>A complete application must contain :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A personal letter with a brief description of your research interests and motivation (2) A curriculum vitae (CV) (3) <i>Certified copies of grades, diplomas, and documentation of completed academic courses</i> (4) Contact information for two references
Work location		Université de Caen (Normandy, France)
Where to apply		Ed558.nh@unicaen.fr
Contact		Julie Anselmini julie.anselmini@unicaen.fr