

SKEPTICAL SELVES

*Empiricism and
Modernity in
the French Novel*

ELENA RUSSO

Skeptical Selves Empiricism And Modernity In The French Novel

John C. O'Neal



Skeptical Selves Empiricism And Modernity In The French Novel:

Skeptical Selves Elena Russo, 1996 *Empiricism and the Early Theory of the Novel* Roger Maioli, 2017-03-18 This book is about the empiricist challenge to literature and its influence on eighteenth century theories of fiction British empiricism from Bacon to Hume challenged the notion that imaginative literature can be a reliable source of knowledge This book argues that theorists of the novel from Henry Fielding to Jane Austen recognized the force of the empiricist challenge but refused to capitulate It traces how in their reflections on the novel these writers attempted to formulate a theoretical link between the world of experience and the products of the imagination and thus update the old defenses of poetry for empirical times Taken together the empiricist challenge and the responses it elicited signaled a transition in the longstanding debate about literature and knowledge as an inaugural round in the persisting conflict between the empirical sciences and the literary humanities *The Progressive Poetics of Confusion in the French Enlightenment* John C. O'Neal, 2011-03-14 In *The Progressive Poetics of Confusion in the French Enlightenment* John C O Neal draws largely on the etymological meaning of the word confusion as the action of mixing or blending in order to trace the development of this project which he claims aimed to reject dogmatic thinking in all of its forms and recognized the need to embrace complexity Eighteenth century thinkers used the notion of confusion in a progressive way to reorganize social classes literary forms metaphysical substances scientific methods and cultural categories such as taste and gender In this new work O Neal explores some of the paradoxes of the Enlightenment s theories of knowledge Each of the chapters in this book attempts to address the questions raised by the eighteenth century s particular approach to confusion as a paradoxical reorganizing principle for the period s progressive agenda Perhaps the most paradoxical thinker of his times Diderot occupies a central place in this study of confusion Other authors include Marivaux Crillon Voltaire and Pinel among others Rousseau and Sade serve as counterexamples to this kind of enlightenment but ultimately do not so much oppose the period s poetics of confusion as they complement it The final chapter on Sade combines contemporary discussions of politics society culture philosophy and science in an encyclopedic way that at once reflects the entire period s tendencies and establishes important differences between Sade s thinking and that of the mainstream philosophies Ultimately confusion serves O Neal argues as an overarching positive notion for the Enlightenment and its progressive ideals **Fiction and the Philosophy of Happiness** Brian Michael Norton, 2012-10-18 *Fiction and the Philosophy of Happiness* explores the novel s participation in eighteenth century inquiries after happiness an ancient ethical project that acquired new urgency with the rise of subjective models of wellbeing in early modern and Enlightenment Europe Combining archival research on treatises on happiness with illuminating readings of Samuel Johnson Laurence Sterne Denis Diderot Jean Jacques Rousseau William Godwin and Mary Hays Brian Michael Norton s innovative study asks us to see the novel itself as a key instrument of Enlightenment ethics His central argument is that the novel form provided a uniquely valuable tool for thinking about the nature and challenges of

modern happiness whereas treatises sought to theorize the conditions that made happiness possible in general eighteenth century fiction excelled at interrogating the problem on the level of the particular in the details of a single individual's psychology and unique circumstances Fiction and the Philosophy of Happiness demonstrates further that through their fine tuned attention to subjectivity and social context these writers called into question some cherished and time honored assumptions about the good life happiness is in one's power virtue is the exclusive path to happiness only vice can make us miserable This elegant and richly interdisciplinary book offers a new understanding of the cultural work the eighteenth century novel performed as well as an original interpretation of the Enlightenment's ethical legacy The Delirium of Praise Eleanor Kaufman, 2003-05-01 The laudatory essay in which one author praises the work of another is frequently characterized as an unimportant even uncritical mode of writing But as Eleanor Kaufman argues in *The Delirium of Praise* this mode of exchange is serious and substantial enough to merit scholarly attention By not conforming to standard practices of critical discourse laudatory essays give new status to supposedly inferior forms of communication and states of being including chatter silence sickness imbalance and absence of work and emphasize affective states or emotions such as joy friendship and longing *The Delirium of Praise* examines a group of five twentieth century French intellectuals Georges Bataille Maurice Blanchot Michel Foucault Gilles Deleuze and Pierre Klossowski and their laudatory essays about each other Structured as a circular series of exchanges the book examines pairings of two thinkers with respect to a given theme The exchange between Bataille and Blanchot takes up the themes of chatter and silence with regard to the novelist Louis Ren des For ts the Blanchot Foucault exchange explores friendship and impersonality through the lens of Jacques Derrida the Foucault Deleuze exchange considers absence of work d soeuvrement and the obscure French philosopher Jacques Martin the Deleuze Klossowski exchange revolves around the question of the sick body and the person of Nietzsche and the final exchange between Klossowski and Bataille focuses on imbalanced economies and the writings of the Marquis de Sade Where the praise is most excessive approaching delirium Kaufman locates a powerful thought energy that pushes the laudatory essay to its limits In her conclusion she presents this unique mode of thought exchange as a form of intellectual hospitality Kaufman uncovers a suspension of subjectivity of personality even of place and time that is both articulated in the laudatory essays and enacted by them Her examination of this neglected mode as practiced by five important French thinkers offers a unique perspective on twentieth century intellectual history *Michel-Jean Sedaine (1719-1797)* David Charlton, Mark Ledbury, 2019-01-15 Originally published in 2000 this book highlights the interest Sedaine's life and work is now belatedly provoking in many scholarly disciplines If Sedaine speaks today to literary history theatre history and opera studies it is because he possessed a multivalent vision one which accounts for both his past neglect and is present rediscovery Like many others he believed that the established official genres needed to be reformed unlike many he made it his business to transform the actual language and operation of the theatre arts he practised Until late eighteenth century opera and drama

in France become better understood Sedaine's immense importance for the development of Romantic opera and theatre risks remaining generally concealed to reveal something of this importance is one main reason for publishing the present volume This book includes chapters on Sedaine and the question of genre the representation of the female in the dramas of Sedaine and the words gestures and other signs in the era of Sedaine

A Revolution in Language Sophia A. Rosenfeld, Sophia Rosenfeld, 2003-08-01 What is the relationship between the ideas of the Enlightenment and the culture and ideology of the French Revolution This book takes up that classic question by concentrating on changing conceptions of language and especially signs during the second half of the eighteenth century The author traces first the emergence of a new interest in the possibility of gestural communication within the philosophy theater and pedagogy of the last decades of the Old Regime She then explores the varied uses and significance of a variety of semiotic experiments including the development of a sign language for the deaf within the language politics of the Revolution A Revolution in Language shows not only that many key revolutionary thinkers were unusually preoccupied by questions of language but also that prevailing assumptions about words and other signs profoundly shaped revolutionaries efforts to imagine and to institute an ideal polity between 1789 and the start of the new century This book reveals the links between Enlightenment epistemology and the development of modern French political culture

EMF David Lee Rubin, Julia V. Douthwaite, 2000-12

Changing Minds John C. O'Neal, 2002 In this study of the epistemological underpinnings of cultural changes in the French enlightenment the author shows how many of the cultural changes brought about by Eighteenth century French thinkers arose from the different forms of knowledge and experiences they pursued The various chapters illustrate the rich interdisciplinarity of the period's thinking which is unified by a central concern with the mind and discuss important Enlightenment developments in aesthetics historiography metaphysics anthropology language and literature political theory and medicine

Skeptical Selves Elena Russo, 1996 This is the best book I have read regarding the convergence of language theories the representation of the self and the aesthetic of the novel The general framework is a tour de force Josue Harari Emory University

Skeptical Selves Empiricism And Modernity In The French Novel Book Review: Unveiling the Power of Words

In some sort of driven by information and connectivity, the energy of words has be more evident than ever. They have the capacity to inspire, provoke, and ignite change. Such could be the essence of the book **Skeptical Selves Empiricism And Modernity In The French Novel**, a literary masterpiece that delves deep into the significance of words and their effect on our lives. Written by a renowned author, this captivating work takes readers on a transformative journey, unraveling the secrets and potential behind every word. In this review, we shall explore the book is key themes, examine its writing style, and analyze its overall effect on readers.

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