



Puissances et impuissances sociales de l'ennui

Publication type: Journal article

Journal: [Alkemie Revue semestrielle de littérature et philosophie](#)
2016 - 1, n° 17. L'ennui

Author: Hamoudi (Messaouda)

Abstract: Boredom can be understood as a cyclical state, as a psychological disposition, as a form of mental integrity, but it can also be apprehended in a perspective which holds it as bearing witness to historical and socio-political backgrounds. From the Greek leisure time, in which the freedom not to have to worry about economic constraints opened up space for contemplation, boredom has since been used to refer to a vacuity linked to the upper class and its peaceful or concerned daydreaming. But it has a working-class side we forget about too easily. It refers then to a hint of alienation or dispossession by forced labor which deprives boredom from any reference to an identification one takes or can take a pride in.

Pages: 195 to 214

Journal: [Alkemie](#)

CLIL theme: 4028 -- SCIENCES HUMAINES ET SOCIALES, LETTRES -- Lettres et Sciences du langage --
Lettres -- Etudes de littérature comparée

EAN: 9782406060451

ISBN: 978-2-406-06045-1

ISSN: 2286-136X

DOI: 10.15122/isbn.978-2-406-06045-1.p.0195

Publisher: Classiques Garnier

Online publication: 07-08-2016

Periodicity: Biannual

Language: French

Keyword: Boredom, bourgeois romanticism, working class writing, alienation, reappropriation of the word

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