



Le champ des *Essais*

Publication type: Journal article

Journal: [Bulletin de la Société internationale des amis de Montaigne](#)
2014 - 1, n° 59. varia

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Abstract: Agricultural metaphors are certainly not lacking in the *Essais*; they proliferate in well-known pages in which the mind is compared to those “lazy lands” that one must “subjugate [...] for our use”. This register is linked to the agricultural treatises of the era. This article analyses the distance between Montaigne’s discourse, which opposes “nature” to its “artificialisation”, and the championing of agricultural techniques which equate with an “institution” of nature, a problematic idea in the light of the *Essais*.

Pages: 75 to 86

Journal: [Bulletin for the International Society of Friends of Montaigne](#)

CLIL theme: 4027 -- SCIENCES HUMAINES ET SOCIALES, LETTRES -- Lettres et Sciences du langage -- Lettres -- Etudes littéraires générales et thématiques

EAN: 9782812436772

ISBN: 978-2-8124-3677-2

ISSN: 2261-897X

DOI: 10.15122/isbn.978-2-8124-3677-2.p.0075

Publisher: Classiques Garnier

Online publication: 03-02-2015

Periodicity: Biannual

Language: French

[Display online](#)