



Rousseau and the voice of Julie: Fiction and identification in *La Nouvelle Héloïse*

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Abstract: Reading the story of the genesis of *La Nouvelle Héloïse* in the ninth book of the *Confessions*, the division seems clear: whereas Julie and Claire were supposedly conceived by Rousseau as *objects* of love, Saint-Preux was seemingly a medium of identification. But, as Claire famously said to Julie, “does the soul have a sex?” This article takes full stock of the confusion that the complex game of identifying Jean-Jacques with Julie introduces to the novel, as much with regards to its origins as to its aesthetic and philosophical implications.

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