



“Living clocks”

The body and time in *Sarrasine*

Publication type: Journal article

Journal: [The Balzac Review / Revue Balzac](#)
2020, n° 3. *Le corps / The Body*

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Abstract: In *Sarrasine*, the function of bodies is to represent time, in its ruptures and continuities, as a break or succession. Constructing bodies as temporal oxymorons, Balzac develops a reflection on revenance. He thus explores a threat to the new regime of historicity that was established between the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries, namely the fear of a return of the past in a vision of time dominated by the idea of continuous progress.

Pages: 97 to 114

Journal: [The Balzac Review](#)

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

EAN: 9782406107200

ISBN: 978-2-406-10720-0

ISSN: 2649-2571

DOI: 10.15122/isbn.978-2-406-10720-0.p.0097

Publisher: Classiques Garnier

Online publication: 07-06-2020

Periodicity: Annual

Language: French

Keyword: Body, historicity, Sarrasine, revenance, time

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