



Individual Morality, Collective Morality

Mores, Morality, and Civil Society in Balzac during the “Moment” of *La Comédie humaine* (1842–1848)

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Abstract: From 1842 onward, Balzac questioned the collective dimension of a morality previously illustrated by individual and exceptional figures. From then on, three levels of reading this morality emerge: the criticism of *mores*, the putting forward of a pragmatic *morality*, and the representation of a *civil society* seeking collective fulfillment.

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