

## ***Crossing Gender Boundaries. Brave Women Living in Texts and Images***

“One is not *born*, but rather becomes, a *woman*” wrote Simone De Beauvoir in 1949 to synthesize the system of social and family conditioning which conformed little girls’ education to a mentality which viewed women as the (subordinate) ‘other’ from the masculine: as a varying embodiment of modesty, sweetness, weakness, chastity, obedience, domesticity, motherhood. On the contrary, women’s acts of firmness and courage have been interpreted as eccentric infringements, both peripheral and scandalous, especially when their purpose was to go beyond the boundaries of gender stereotypes, which are not only conceptual and metaphorical but also concrete and real.

Yet, a different and constructive meaning of ‘becoming a woman’ has been the multifaceted fil rouge of gender reflections and practices which are interwoven with literary and artistic representations. They have shown female subjects in search of a new identity and destiny beyond imposed boundaries. This also implies a different definition of courage and strength against millennial prejudices on *infirmitas sexus* and, vice versa, on the patriarchal label of the courageous woman as a manly woman.

By adopting an interdisciplinary and intersectional approach as well as a broad time frame that ranges from Antiquity to the present day, the Conference aims to focus on some textual and visual paths that allow the construction of a first typology of images, situations, motifs, and *Pathosformeln* linked to the representation of women who not only disrupt the system of gendered attributes, but also challenge the validity of such a binary system.

**Keynote speakers:** Jacqueline Fabre-Serris (Université de Lille) and Ita Mac Carthy (Durham University)

We welcome abstracts for 20-minute papers from PhD students, post-doc students and researchers. We will also accept proposals for complete panels of up to 3 papers. Topics may include, but are not confined to, textual or visual representations of:

- women who perform strong gestures and acts of courage by claiming them as gender subversions;
- women who perform trades and activities considered as a male prerogative;
- women who join other women to set up female communities;
- women who manifest bizarre behaviour as a form of protest against gender constraints;
- women who perform gender-crossing.

Submission deadline is **30th June 2019**. All proposals, in English or Italian, must be sent in PDF format to [cristina.pepe@unicampania.it](mailto:cristina.pepe@unicampania.it) or [elena.porciani@unicampania.it](mailto:elena.porciani@unicampania.it) and should include:

1. author’s name and surname
2. academic or institutional affiliation
3. a short CV
4. title of the proposal

5. abstract (no more than 350 words)
6. author's e-mail address

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their submissions by **31th July 2019**.

Conference participation is free of charge. However, travel and accommodation expenses will not be covered, but the organizing committee will provide information to this regard.

Please feel free to contact us for further queries or any clarification you should need.