

Latin America's Queer Anatomy in Belle Époque Paris: Paul Groussac, Gabriel Yturri, and Abject Glamour

Dr. Carlos G Halaburda (Köln)

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On May 25th, 1883, the Franco-Argentine writer and statesman Paul Groussac visited the French naturalist Edmond de Goncourt in his Parisian studio as part of a European tour. While Groussac listened with boredom Goncourt's reading of his upcoming novel *Cherie*, a young queer Argentine living in Paris by the name of Gabriel Yturri, secretary and lover of Count Robert de Montesquiou-Fézensac, interrupted into the room after being pompously announced by Goncourt's housekeeper. Groussac's description of Yturri's body would become one of the most exemplary cases of Belle Époque queer abject glamour. In this presentation, I explore the interplay between cosmopolitanism and queerness, revealing how these indicators of national disassociation and gender-sex non-conformity became body markers to describe a deviant anatomy. I show how deciphering the anatomy of cosmopolitan queerness became an effective procedure for coding it as abnormal. Items such as jewels, garments, headwear, fragrances, and cosmetics comprised a queer inventory of gender-bending prostheses. Cataloguing these props as the deviant theater of homosexuality served as the fear-infused point of exacerbation in Groussac's observations. Based on a mixture of fascination and disgust, the main objective in Groussac's narrative mechanisms would be to engrave a visual grammar for Yturri's cosmopolitan queerness, conducive to perverse interpretations for his readers in Argentina.

Dies ist ein Vortrag im Rahmen der AG Männlichkeiten.

Organisation:

[Prof. Dr. Anne Söll](#)

Kunstgeschichtliches Institut, Fakultät für Geschichtswissenschaften

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Romanisches Seminar, Fakultät für Philologie

[Prof. Dr. Henriette Gunkel](#)

Institut für Medienwissenschaft, Fakultät für Philologie

Anmeldung bitte bis zum 20. Juni 2024 an maximiliane.brand@rub.de