



The Face الوجه Le visage

في الثقافات الإنسانية
In Human Cultures
Dans les Cultures

مقاربات متكاملة
An Interdisciplinary Approaches
Approches Interdisciplinaires

14 - 15 NOVEMBER 2023

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Concept Note

The 'Face' refers to that unique part of the human body a person is identified by. It plays a crucial role in the course of social interactions owing to its ability to reflect the individual's emotions and sensations. Thus, it is considered as the gateway to the complexity of the human being, even though it can sometimes hide and divert the truth as Le Breton (1992) confirms that "the face veils as much as it reveals. The unpredictable in it outweighs too much over the probable".

Indeed, the perception of the face varies from one culture to another, from one religion to another... It may be modified to meet religious, cultural, professional, political, artistic requirements, etc.

In his book *Totality and Infinity* (1961), Levinas reserves a whole part to the analysis of the face. He considers, in addition to the sum of the organs perceived, the meaning it gives off in the experience of self-presentation in face-to-face encounters. For him, "the face speaks", it is an expression and not a mere perceptible data or an object of the world that Others possess.

The difficulties of questioning the notion of the face lie in the ambiguity and richness it unleashes. If the face is approached as the object of perception and discussion, it is also that "self" that looks at us, speaks to us and judges us. This consequently disturbs our subjective or objective perception of this object. This perception itself is influenced by the aspects related to old age, illness, fatigue, fear, etc.

However, other modalities of self-exposure are to be taken into consideration when analyzing the face and the impact of its presence and/or absence in the relationship to otherness more precisely in the digital age (the absence of the face in remote exchanges, the wearing of masks, full veil ...). This scientific meeting seeks to launch a multidisciplinary debate around the theme of the face and the various questions it raises. We have chosen the following axes for this scientific event:

- **The face in the philosophical text**
- **Culture and the face (the anthropology of the face)**
- **Semiotics of the face**
- **The face in arts and literature**
- **The face in the religious texts**
- **The face in the legal discourse**
- **The face and politics (politics of the body)**

Selected Bibliography

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- Flahault, F. (2003). De la face au visage. Les cahiers de médiologie, 15, 33-40. <https://doi.org/10.3917/cdm.015.0033>.
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- Lévinas, E. (1961). Totalité et infini : essai sur l'extériorité. Éditions Martinus Nijhoff.
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Important Dates

- **September 04th, 2023**: Deadline for receipt of proposals for papers
 - **September 18th, 2023**: Notification to the authors
 - **November 14th -15th, 2023**: Proceedings of the conference at the Faculty of Arabic Language, UCA Marrakech
 - **November 25th, 2023**: Receipt of full articles
 - Paper proposals in the form of a short abstract (250-300 words) + bibliography (up to 5 references) should be sent to the following email address: **visagecolloque@gmail.com**
1. The selected papers will be published as parts the conference proceedings.
 2. The languages of the conference: **Arabic, French, English**

Colloquium Committees

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