

Différence et mélange in Montaigne. Mostri, metamorfosi, mescolamenti, Milan, Mimesis, “Etica identità interculturalità” Coll., 2013, 356 p., ISBN: 978-88-575-1957-9.

This book examines the concepts of “difference” and “mixing” in Montaigne’s *Essais* and *Journal de voyage* and traces the interconnections between them. Difference, for the Bordeaux philosopher, is the most universal quality of things, but he avoids the differentialist temptation to compartmentalize differences, in the name of purity, within a mosaic of individuals and cultures: he thereby calls into question belief in the stable identity of things, individuals, ideas, customs and peoples. Indeed, the individual entities – variable and multi-coloured – that differ one from the other, clash and collide, mixing and transforming incessantly. A thread of interpretation thereby takes shape which, on the basis of a lexical exploration of notions such as *différence*, *étrangeté*, *mélange*, *métis*, *monstrueux* in Montaigne’s writings, connects the question of the variety of customs and cultures with the difference that emerges in nature and with the problem of multiplicity, dissimilarity and monstrosity that the individual discovers within himself, in his mind and in his body.

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