

Dr. Ying Wang, Modern Languages and Literatures

**Strategies de transgression: l'infirmité dans la littérature féminine du XIXe siècle
(Strategies of transgression: disabled figures in nineteenth-century women's fiction)**

This project investigates how representations of disabled figures function in nineteenth-century women's novels. From a feminist perspective, considering Disability Studies in socio-cultural and literary contexts, I examine six works of fiction to probe the relation between and among representations of disability, gender, and women's writing. My corpus includes *Anatole* (1815), *Olivier ou le secret* (1822), *Le Petit Bossu et la famille du sabotier* (1833), *Monsieur le Marquis de Pontanges* (1835), *Le Meunier d'Angibault* (1845) and *Laide* (1878), written respectively by Sophie Gay, Claire de Duras, Sophie Ulliac Tremadeure, Delphine de Girardin, George Sand, and Juliette Lamber.

The goal of this project is to show that the transgressive potential of the disabled body operates as a destabilizing element that challenges the so-called "norm" in terms of the body, sexual relationship, and narrative structure. By incorporating in their writing the disabled figure-bearer of corporeal deviance-women writers transfigure the social reality and question the hegemony of the "normate" that excludes disabled people as well as women. In this sense, the representation of disability should be considered as a strategy of emancipation that women writers incorporate into their writing activity.