

Dearbhla McGrath, Dublin City University, Ireland

Monstrous Sexualities: *Peau d'âne* - The Forgotten Tale?

dearbhla.mcgrath9@mail.dcu.ie

The aim of this paper is to investigate the representations of sexuality in relation to monstrousness in two retellings of *Peau d'âne* (Donkey Skin), a fairy tale dating from the 17th century by Charles Perrault. It is interesting that a tale by one of the most well known fairy tale writers, has been somewhat forgotten, when compared to other canonical tales by the same writer, such as *Le Petit Chaperon Rouge* (*Little Red Riding Hood*), *Le Chat Botté* (*Puss in Boots*) and *Cendrillon* (*Cinderella*). Perhaps this is because of its taboo content, as regards incest between a parent and a child. What this paper seeks to form is a comparative analysis of two retellings of *Peau d'âne* through different mediums; the novel *Deerskin* (1994) by Robin McKinley and the film *Peau d'âne* (*Donkey Skin*) (1970), directed by Jacques Demy and starring Jean Marais and Catherine Deneuve. In order to look at how the tale has been retold, this paper will explore Richard Dawkin's theory of tales as cultural memes, that is how tales replicate themselves and become embedded in a culture, and what relevance this has as regards *Peau d'âne* and its apparent neglect in comparison with Perrault's better known tales.

Dearbhla McGrath completed a BA in French and Music in NUI Maynooth 2006. Following this, she completed an MA in Translation Studies in DCU, focusing on translation for children, particularly with regard to fairy tales. Dearbhla is currently 2nd year PhD candidate in Comparative Literature with the School of Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies (SALIS) in DCU. The working title of her thesis is "Weaving Words; A Diachronic Reading of Fairy Tales". She is currently working as a language assistant in the LP Jules Lesven and the Collège Penn Ar C'hleuz, Brest, France.