

The Psychosocial Special Interests Group (Institute of Education)
&
The Arts/Culture Group (Psychosocial Network)

Maria Tamboukou

Centre for Narrative Research, University of East London, UK

My dear master: of love and other signs

Friday 4th December 2009, 2-4 pm

Room 822, Institute of Education
20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL

In this talk Maria Tamboukou examines Gwen John's love letters. Addressed to 'the master' but going beyond submission, despair and fear, John's letters to her beloved inscribe forces of desire, deterritorialize her from striated regimes of signs and reveal a matrix of multileveled and complex technologies deployed in making sense of herself and her world. By examining the intricacies of John's epistolary archive, Tamboukou makes intertextual connections with the amorous discourse of the epistolary novel and suggest a narrative approach informed by Foucauldian analytics of power and Deleuzo-Guattarian cartographies of desire. This approach, she argues, throws new light on the constitution of the female self in art: power relations surrounding love dance together with forces of desire and open up nomadic paths of becomings.

*Dr Maria Tamboukou is Reader in Sociology and Co-director of the Centre of Narrative Research, University of East London. Her research interests and publications are in the sociology of gender and education, gender and space, the exploration of foucauldian and deleuzian analytics and the use of auto/biographies in research. She is the author of *Women, Education, the Self: a Foucauldian Perspective* (Palgrave, 2003) and co-editor with Stephen J. Ball of *Dangerous encounters: genealogy and ethnography* (Peter Lang, 2003) and with Molly Andrews and Corinne Squire of *Doing Narrative Research* (London, Sage, 2008). Her current research focuses on fin-de-siècle women artists' letters and paintings, exploring power/desire connections in the interface of visual and textual narratives.*

This event is free but places are limited, so please register by contacting Angie Voela: a.voela@uel.ac.uk