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The Flaw (Kingston CAN, 25-27 May 07)

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Call for Papers for An Interdisciplinary Conference on

The Flaw

Deadline: August 15th, 2006

Organizers: Agnès Conacher and Catherine Dhavernas

Queen's University, Kingston, Canada

If the realm of the Ideal can have claims to perfection, that is, to flawlessness, such is not the case for the realms of reality and human nature, as the notion of progress suggests. Within the perspective of progress, the flaw stands as that which brings about failure; as that which must be overcome. Yet, as History has shown us, the notion of progress - key to the Enlightenment - is today nearing obsolescence, this being one of the most shattering problems of our time.

This conference therefore proposes to try to rethink the flaw outside the context of the ideology of progress; to consider the flaw, not so much as something to be avoided or remedied but, rather, to consider the flaw as a measure of our limitations. In other words, we wish to suggest that to consider the flaw as something acceptable and, perhaps, even essential, might lead to a sense of humility which, as our past has shown us, has most often been lacking. We want to explore how the flaw can help us to rethink our potential, not in terms of mastery or domination, but within a more modest perspective of hope.

Since the flaw pertains to all areas of study and investigation, we welcome proposals from all disciplines.

The conference is scheduled to take place from May 25 to May 27, 2007.

Please send a 250 word proposal (including your name, title, area of work, institutional affiliation and e-mail address) to Agnès Conacher and/or Catherine Dhavernas:

via e-mail: dhaverna@post.queensu.ca or regular mail :

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c/o The Department of French Studies Queen's University Kingston, Ontario Canada K7L 3N6 tel. 613-533-2090

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