Bénédicte André

An eloquent silence: reading islandness in Claudine Jacques’ short stories

ABSTRACT

I would like to take the opportunity of this presentation to discuss the main ideas pertaining to the last chapter of my thesis, which, as a whole, questions whether in-betweenness constitutes one of the backbones of cultural insularity literary representations, specifically in a francophone postcolonial context. After having examined novels by Guadeloupean and Reunionese authors, the final stopover of my trans-oceanic journey has taken me to the archipelago of New Caledonia, and more precisely to the short stories of French-born writer Claudine Jacques, whose body of work offers an extraordinary insight into the social, historical and cultural complexities of this former French penal colony. If you would like to know more about New Caledonian literature and culture, please come along. I would be extremely grateful to have some feedback before I submit my chapter to my supervisor.