Part II

Gendered Representations. Introductory Remarks

Delphine Diaz and Régis Schlagdenhauffen

The topic of the second part of the book is gender as a critique of representations of supposedly masculine and feminine skills. Echoing the article on the telegraph in the previous section, the first contribution elucidates the representations of the *demoiselles du téléphone* through a controversy that took place in 1904 and that confronted a famous actress with the employees responsible for establishing telephone communications. This incident, which snowballed into an ‘Affair’ discussed by all the press of that time, shed light on really diverse representations of the femininity, confronting an ‘emancipated’ woman (with her own phone service) with the phone operators. Dominique Pinsolle contextualises Miss Sylviac’s epic in the intricacies of the telegraph and telephone administration. His contribution tackles the different conceptions of femininity during the *Belle Époque* and analyses how the media of that time regarded women’s relationships with information and communication technologies. The second contribution of this part applies a comparative perspective to the use of information and communications technology in France and Germany. Through a diachronic study, Marion Dalibert and Simona De Iulio highlight how in children’s magazines, gender representations, age categories and uses of information and communications technology interact and are mutually formed.