In this presentation, Jennifer Tamas (Rutgers University) will show how the "male gaze" prevailed in establishing the French classics and their reception. By selecting authors deemed essential to our literary heritage and by erasing the works of women writers, the patriarchal gaze undervalued female agency in well-known works of fiction such as Andromague, La Princesse de Clèves, or Little Red Riding Hood.

Prof. Tamas’ study also unveils women's resistance at a time when galanterie was at once a means of seduction and an ideal shaped by both men and women. Surprisingly, heroines of the Grand Siècle can empower us with accounts of their struggle and help us reclaim an undervalued literary matrimoine.

Jennifer Tamas is Associate Professor of French at Rutgers University. She is the author of Le Silence trahi. Racine ou la déclaration tragique, (Genève, Droz, 2018) and Au NON des femmes. Libérer nos classiques du regard masculin (Paris, Seuil, 2023)

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