GEORGIANA BANITA

“The Internationalization of Conscience:” Representing Ethics in Pat Barker’s *Double Vision*

Abstract: This article analyzes the representation of ethics in Pat Barker’s novel *Double Vision* (2003), exploring the effects of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the communities and individuals aggregated in the novel. In particular, it examines the ways in which an internationalization of empathy (shored up by media representation of global war, especially through the journalism of attachment) dovetails with the failure of the individual to internalize sympathy in its emotional underpinnings. The terrorist attacks of 9/11, which Barker places in the broader historical and geographical context of war atrocities and crimes, thus mark the point where the internationalization of empathy precipitates its domestic failure. By applying to the novel the critical apparatus on the cataleptic condition as proposed by ethicist Martha Nussbaum, this essay reveals the personal risks and benefits associated with the rotation of representational ethics around an international axis.