

# “Fluid Identities in (Modern and Contemporary French Women) Writers’ Letters”

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“Ordinary correspondence” (between lovers, spouses, partners, and friends, for example) is a dynamic form of writing in which identities are often presented in relational terms, as oppositional or fluctuating. Roger Chartier (1991) reminds us that, perhaps more than for any other form of expression, the letter underscores the tension between social structure and subjectivity insofar as it is both public (influenced by social norms) and intimate. But what about letters that circulate among (women) writers, often about writers and writing? How is the relationship between writers’ public and private selves articulated or rendered in their letters to one another, whether these letters take the form of one-time missives, sometimes intended for publication, or feature in an extended correspondence?