

DECEIT

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DESIRE

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There is no 'authentic' or spontaneous desire, but only the imitation of other people's desires: desire is always mediated by the desire of the various models that the individual, more or less consciously, chooses. René Girard's "mimetic theory", which has been acknowledged as a breakthrough contribution to 20th-century critical thinking, was first developed in *Mensonge romantique et vérité romanesque* (Engl. Trans. *Deceit, Desire and the Novel*, 1965). 2011 marks the 50th anniversary of its publication and provides the occasion for a series of colloquia engaging scholars with theoretical approaches to literature in a discussion of mimetic theory and its contemporary and future uses in literary studies, including film and media studies. Participants will reflect upon *Deceit, Desire and the Novel* and consider its possible applications for their current and future work, as well as propose critiques, amplifications, or new perspectives on the main tenets in that book in particular, but also in Girard's other works on literature. The series of colloquia ([www.deceitdesireandthenovel.org](http://www.deceitdesireandthenovel.org)) is coordinated by Pierpaolo Antonello (Cambridge) and Heather Webb (Ohio State) and sponsored by Imitatio ([www.imitatio.org](http://www.imitatio.org)).

# MIMETIC THEORY AND LITERARY STUDIES

LITERARY STUDIES

MIMETIC THEORY AND

10-11 JUNE

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14-15 April 2011

6 May 2011

10-11 June 2011

Stanford University, USA

University of Cambridge, St John's College, UK

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1-3 September 2011

14 October 2011

Espaço Cultural É Realizações, São Paulo, Brazil

Yale University, USA

AND THE

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