

In addition, foreign researchers must also manage to distribute the results of their work, thereby making them accessible. The creation of Canadian Studies journals in most countries provides one means to distribute this knowledge. However, the consideration of these articles in Québec is not ensured, yet this is as important as the simple fact of publishing them. The diffusion of knowledge nevertheless constitutes only one of the aspects of the full participation of foreign *québécois* in the discourse on Québec. One must also foresee their integration in the refereeing of texts (be it through editorial committees, juries, or the publication of their book reviews), their participation in research and publication programs, and in the full achievement of a reciprocity of interests.

CONCLUSION AND PROJECTS

The point of developing Québec Studies around the world is not simply to maintain a

university network, but to favour scientific exchanges and a better understanding of minority cultures. The idea of “cultural diversity,” directly inspired by the ecological concept of “biological diversity,” promotes the richness and necessity of diversity, which by extension involves the flourishing and understanding of the cultures of small nations.

Today’s Québec draws on many advantages from the network of Québec Studies which was patiently created by several passionate researchers who invested their time and knowledge in its development. The most evident sign of this activity is “an enhanced international value of Québec culture at the same time as an opening up towards the thought of the Other,”¹²² which permitted the redefinition of the parametres within which to understand this culture. The network has also guaranteed a wider diffusion of work

122. Rachel Killick, *op. cit.*, p. 172 (our translation).

through translation, university teaching,¹²³ conferences, but also more recently, in Denmark¹²⁴ and the United Kingdom,¹²⁵ by the development of a Québec curriculum at the college level, in which we invest our best wishes.

In political science, Québec Studies have increased the influence of Québec thinkers

123. For example, at the Warsaw Institute of Roman Studies alone, seventeen Masters theses have been defended in the field of Québec literature (Józef Kwaterko, *op. cit.*, p. 105).

124. "In Denmark, according to the 1998 decree on the teaching competencies of Danish colleges, French professors must have 'a certain level of knowledge of Francophone literature' as well as of the history and civilization of 'other francophone countries.'" (Elizabeth Lauridsen, *op. cit.*, p. 332 [our translation]). The effects of this decree were felt immediately. Québec, considered as a francophonie with parallels to Denmark, was the object of pedagogical publications. A colloquium on Québec, organized by Lise Toft at the University of Copenhagen in March 2001, attracted nearly 200 teachers from all regions of the country.

125. We already count two books devoted to Québec literature published by Bristol Classical Press, one dealing with Michel Tremblay and the other with Roch Carrier.

like Fernand Dumont, Simon Langlois and Charles Taylor, whose works are considered by foreign researchers. One also recognizes the positive effects this has had on Québec diplomacy just about everywhere, as one meets foreign specialists in the United States and Europe who defend Québec's political, cultural and linguistic point of view.

The biggest successes of this network are nevertheless found outside the journals, the programs and the publications devoted to Québec Studies. In fact, when disciplinary journals,¹²⁶ newspapers, and even publishers¹²⁷ begin to be interested in Québec culture

126. Jaap Lintvelt raises two examples in the Netherlands : "The Dutch journal *Bzzlletin* presented an introduction to the Québec and English Canadian literatures. In order to make Québec known, the Dutch journal of French language and literature, *Rapports-Het Franse Boek*, devoted a thematic issue to Québec." (Jaap Lintvelt, *op. cit.*, p. 167 [our translation]).

127. "In the *Handbuch Französisch*, the big encyclopedia on the French language and on Francophone literatures and civilizations (forthcoming soon from Erich Schmidt Verlag, Berlin) Québec clearly occupies the second rank after

and society, one senses that the effect of the structuring of Québec Studies extends beyond its strict field of application and makes it possible to integrate Québec among the world's cultures and societies. All in all, this is the biggest contribution and gain of foreign *québécois*.

Curiously, even in enhancing the value of its cultural and social difference by investing in studies conceived along the lines of the Anglo-American model of "area studies," Québec has supported everywhere, perhaps beyond its financial and logistical capacity, interdisciplinary studies programs – which are institutionally more fragile than departments – in a language which has endured significant set-backs. At the same time, we observe that teaching about Québec reaches its full potential and touches a vaster public when the

France – another first in the history of university textbooks of the German or Austrian *Romanistik*." (Peter Klaus and Ingo Kolboom, *op. cit.*, p. 264 [our translation]).

problématiques that underlie it are inscribed in pre-existing networks (of diffusion, teaching and research) which require only minimal support, since they are already financed by their respective countries' programs of diffusion, teaching and research. In time, it seems desirable, albeit paradoxical, that in order to favour Québec Studies, one must seek to incorporate them in regular structures, even while ensuring that these structures can adapt to the methodological necessities implied by such studies.