

Subjectivities: A History of Self-Representation in Britain, 1832-1920 by Regenia Gagnier. New York and London: Oxford University Press, 1991. ISBN 0-19-506096-2. Pp. vii, 323. \$35.00

The construction of the subject has been one of the most fruitful topics from which to leverage a critique of bourgeois culture and ideology. Contrasting working class autobiographies with canonic Victorian texts, Regenia Gagnier resists the temptation to dichotomize by class or gender, and instead examines multiple subjectivities through two primary social relation-

ships borrowed from Robert Unger's theories: a fear of others, or antagonistic resistance to dominant narratives, and a longing for others, or participation/approximation of working class narratives to the hegemony. Examining strategies of intersubjectivity, the "pragmatics of self-representation," which privilege rhetorical intentions over historical "facts" (4), Gagnier analyzes working class and women's communitarian intentions and the failures of individualist models to account for the construction of non-hegemonic subjectivities. Drawing on feminism, cultural studies, and poststructuralist theories, Gagnier contextualizes