Voicing desire: family and sexuality in Diderot's narrative

This study offers a reappraisal of Diderot's practice as an author of prose fiction. Traditional considerations of genre and influence are put in perspective by an examination of the themes of sexuality and the family as they are treated by this major figure of the French Enlightenment. Fowler demonstrates the importance of Diderot's constant return to these themes, and the extent to which he represents them as intertwined.

The French Review

These essays are subtle, spirited and ingenious.

The Modern Language Review

Fowler’s] approach, convincingly based on close textual reading and theoretically sophisticated without being drowned in jargon, makes for a lively, refreshing, and enjoyable read.

Diderot Studies

This emphasis on sexual desire allows for surprisingly new readings of some of Diderot’s most canonical texts.