

**Né italiano, né francese. La poesia in “patois”  
come zona di contatto ibrida nell’Italia  
francofona: l’esempio della Valle d’Aosta\***

VALENTINA GOSETTI

*University of New England, Australia*

*Abstract*

*Neither French nor Italian. Poetry in “Patois” as a hybrid contact zone in francophone Italy: the example of the Aosta Valley.*

*This article reflects on the role of poetry from the Alpine region of the Aosta Valley as a hybrid contact zone that challenges the borders of the nation state and the boundaries between French and “Patois”. It investigates some examples of poetry in French and in Patois Valdostano, a variety of Francoprovençal, written during the Nineteenth and Twentieth centuries by such authors as Irma Bonfillon, JeanBaptiste Cerlogne, Eugénie Martinet, Marco Gal. Additionally, it considers some transalpine comparative examples of poetry written in France by Amélie Gex (Patois Savoyard) and Jules*

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*Mousseron (Picard). The overall objectives are to encourage 1. A more nuanced, multilingual, and diversified discourse around the very meaning of “Francophonie”; 2. A broader reflection aimed at challenging the stale nexus between linguistic unity and the nationstate; 3. A transprovincial outlook that revalues the idea of provincialism as an empowering, multicultural tool, rather than a derogatory word denoting narrowmindedness.*

**Keywords:** Francoprovençal; minority languages; provincialism; provincial poetry; regionalism.