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Voicing a Sense of Un/belonging and Identity Insecurity for Caribbean Diasporas: An Analysis of Jean Rhys's *Voyage in the Dark*.

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Axe du colloque:

Belonging and exclusion in Western and/or postcolonial spaces

Résumé de la communication

Following the colonial period, people of subaltern groups have encountered many problems as a result of colonialism. Among the confronted repercussions stand the issue of identity crisis and of un/belonging to one's land. The themes of un/belonging and identity crisis are well-established in postcolonial literature in general and in Caribbean literature in particular. Being victims of colonialism and its repercussions (displacement), several Caribbean women writers reflect their experience Caribbean Diasporas in the metropolis London. Jean Rhys is among this wave of expatriate writers who transmits her personal experience of exclusion from both the western world and her homeland and her quest for identity through her female character Anna. The present paper examines the issue of un/belonging and identity crisis for individuals in postcolonial Caribbean society as it is evoked through Rhys's *Voyage in the Dark*. It investigates the split of the self and the question of belonging and/or not belonging of Anna Morgan. Accordingly, the novel will be analyzed in the light of W.E.B. Du Bois' concept of Double Consciousness. Although Du Bois' concept was developed in the context of African-Americans, it is relevant to the contemporary world and it could be adapted to the postcolonial context to examine the split of identity of Anna Morgan and her struggle to belong. Through Anna's voice, Rhys manages to reflect her experience as a woman writer who was denied a literary voice by her male counterpart.

Mots clés: un/belonging, diaspora, postcolonial world, western world, identity crisis, double-consciousness, the veil, two-ness.