Schooling the Daughters of Marianne: Textbooks and the Socialization of Girls in Modern French Primary Schools

Linda L. Clark


This book, by Linda L. Clark, is a significant contribution to the field of French education history. It provides a comprehensive analysis of the role of textbooks in the socialization of girls in modern French primary schools. Clark's research is based on a detailed examination of the content of textbooks used in schools during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Clark begins by discussing the historical context of girls' education in France, highlighting the challenges faced by girls and their families. She then goes on to analyze the content of textbooks used in schools, focusing on themes such as discipline, citizenship, and gender roles.

One of the key insights of this book is the way in which textbooks were used as tools for social control. Clark argues that the content of textbooks was designed to reinforce gender roles and social norms, and to prepare girls for their roles as future wives and mothers. She also explores the ways in which girls responded to this socialization, and the ways in which they negotiated or resisted these norms.

Overall, this book provides a rich and nuanced understanding of the role of textbooks in the socialization of girls in modern French primary schools. It is a valuable resource for historians of education, gender scholars, and anyone interested in the history of French society.

Yolande Charbonneau

University of Montreal