

Edna Pontellier's Odyssey from 'home' to 'Home'

A Study of the Lost Androgynous Space in

Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*

從“小家”到“大家”：凱特蕭邦“覺醒”裏愛德娜漂泊之旅的
空間探索——“覺醒”中雙性空間的失落

Nina Chang

張妮娜

Lecturer

English Department

Wen Tzao College of Modern Languages

文藻外語學院英文系講師

Abstract

In *The Awakening*, Kate Chopin's 19th century fin-de-siecle novel, the female protagonist Edna Pontellier's awakening experience is closely related to her awakening spatial awareness. My paper explores how Edna adventures through marital, romantic, and erotic spaces with three male characters in the novel, and how she comes to realize that the kind of androgynous space her awakening self longs for is not to be found yet, owing to the dominant conventional gender ideology. Edna's odyssey does not end with a familiar 'home-coming' unless we interpret her final death in the ocean as a symbolic 'Home-coming'. *The Awakening* can be read as Chopin's urge for the birth of an evolved androgynous space, different from the traditional bi-sexual spaces of rigid role-playing or sex exchange.

Keywords: spatial awareness, androgynous space

中文摘要

美國小說家凱特·蕭邦於十九世紀末年發表「覺醒」一作。女主角愛德娜龐德里業的生命覺醒歷程與她的空間意識覺醒息息關聯。本文穿越小說中愛德娜與三位男性角色分別歷經的婚姻空間，浪漫童話空間，及情色空間來探索愛德娜於覺醒旅程中一路顛簸追求的理想雙性空間之失落。小說結尾愛德娜的覺醒之旅並未以歸家終結，除非我們將她的葬身大海視為象徵意義的返家，因為之前她的新生正肇始於海泳。「覺醒」可視為凱特蕭邦於十九世紀末為進化的雙性空間催生之作。小說中難產的理想空間，有別於傳統社會裏為滿足僵化角色需求或色慾交換功能的兩性空間，當更宜於人整體生命的發展。

關鍵詞：空間意識 雙性空間