

Goldman's Nietzschean Anarchism: A Greimasian Reading of Minorities Versus Majorities

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In this paper I conduct a close reading of Emma Goldman's essay "Minorities versus Majorities," published in her book *Anarchism and Other Essays*, taking methodological cues from the work of semiotician Algirdas Julien Greimas. Specifically, I construct semiotic squares to expose traces of Goldman's thoughts on the possibility of moving beyond the dichotomy of the essay's title. In conducting this reading, I aim to illuminate the Nietzschean influence that resonates throughout the essay (and which Goldman herself acknowledges), and to complicate the frequent criticisms that this influence entails a complete denial of the possibility of collective emancipatory action in favour of a radical individualism. [Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2011 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]

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Emma Goldman's first book, *Anarchism and Other Essays*, was published in 1910. In her original preface, she elaborates her motivation for compiling the collection and seriously embracing writing. By this time, she had already given many public speeches but felt frustrated at what she considered obstacles to adequately conveying theory via oral communication. She writes that "no one, unless intensely interested in progressive ideas, will bother with serious books" whereas many attend lectures due to newspaper sensationalism or "because they expect to be

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