Re-Thinking Paris: A New Vision of Parisian Cultural Life from 1880 to 1913
from the Perspective of Gabriel Astruc
(research director: Dr. Jonathan Glixon)

Gabriel Astruc (1864-1938), a French impresario of Jewish background, is mostly known for his collaborative work as an impresario with Sergei Diaghilev and his Ballets Russes. His role, however, was much broader. He was a critic, a creator of cultural periodicals, a producer of both musical and circus events, and a music publisher, and corresponded with many of the most important cultural figures of his day. In the scholarly literature, however, although frequently mentioned, he has never been studied. Clearly, the importance of Astruc and his role in French cultural life demand scholarly inquiry for greater clarification and understanding.

Following the revisionist initiatives of previous scholars (Pasler, Huebner, Pistone, etc.), this project will attempt to offer a new understanding of Parisian cultural life between 1880 and 1913. It consists of a compilation and a comparative analysis of all of Astruc’s available materials. In other words, a new panoramic perspective of the Parisian cultural milieu as understood by a single participant and observer. The uniqueness of the present dissertation project lies in the originality of its approach. Unlike the earlier studies, this project utilizes surviving publications, printed musical criticism, printed literature and manuscript material, all originating from the same source.