

**“NO OTHER COUNTRY IS SO FAVOURED AS THIS COUNTRY”:
NATIONAL AND SELF-STEREOTYPES AS PLOT-GENERATING
DEVICES IN DICKENS’S AND THACKERAY’S NOVELS**

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Abstract: *The paper explores the way Dickens and Thackeray derive narrative capital out of stereotypes of self and other in national-ethnic terms and exploit it for creating significant plot turns. The focus falls on the French characters in some of Dickens’s and Thackeray’s novels. Seemingly secondary or even marginal, these characters are placed in situations of conflict with the protagonists and erode the fixity of their self-images. The contention is that the space allotted to national self-stereotypes, as well as stereotypes of each other, create the energy necessary for the breach of canonicity ensuring surprise and narrative interest.*