

## PHD RESEARCH

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**Dancing on a volcano. Victor J. Brunclair as a representative of the activist anti-tradition in Flemish literature (1899-1944)** - [Original Title :

*Dansen op een vulkaan. Victor J. Brunclair als representant van de activistische tegentraditie in de Vlaamse letteren (1899–1944)]*

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The central topic of this work is the complex role played by Victor J. Brunclair (1899-1944) –one of Flanders’ most important pioneers of literary expressionism – in both politics and culture during the interwar years (1919-39). His general value as a cultural ‘symbol’ was primarily connected to his struggles with the duality of ethical and aesthetic concerns which are inherent to every politically conscious writer. The fact that his Flemish idealism was to a large extent influenced by Flemish Activism and its post-war after-effects, is of the utmost importance. This thesis successively treats Brunclair’s early steps as a writer in the broader context of the pro-Flemish climate during the First World War, his colorful role as an avant-garde artist during the 1920s, his battle for artistic freedom during the 1930s, and finally his role as resistance hero (for one side) and collaborationist activist (for the other side) during the Second World War, ending with his death in a German concentration camp.