Abstract
The pathos of modern democracy has been described in several ways, tough commonly in a univocal sense. Sometimes, the age of equality is said to exhibit a dispassionate reflexivity and self-control; other times, modernity is depicted as a process of exacerbation of desires, or as a great transformation of passions into reasonable interests. Moreover, democratic passions are viewed frequently as petty domestic feelings, alienated from public sphere, managed into a closed intimacy, and subject to a tutelary administration. Tocqueville who was a privileged and uncommon witness of the transition from the aristocratic pathos to democratic passions provides us with a subtle interpretation of the various nuances and complex bonds which shape modern affections. In this article we analyze Tocqueville’s prognosis on the course of democratic pathos, but we also pay attention to his fears concerning an emotional tutelary management.

Keywords
Democratic equality, passions, interests, emotional management.