

# Contemporary French Civilization

**40 years of Contemporary French Civilization Conference**  
**Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel**  
**September 3-5, 2015**

## **Program Committee**

Nicoleta Bazgan, University of Maryland Baltimore County  
Sue Harris, Queen Mary University of London  
Denis M. Provencher, University of Maryland Baltimore County

## **Sponsoring Organizations**

Liverpool University Press, publisher of *Contemporary French Civilization*  
*French Cultural Studies* (published by Sage)  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
University of Maryland Baltimore County

## **PROGRAM**

**Registration begins at 10 am on Thursday 3 September and continues throughout the weekend:** Location: 5<sup>th</sup> Floor of Renaissance Hotel (Rooms: Watertable A, B, and C)

### **Thursday 3 September**

**1:00 - 2:45 pm**

#### **Cinéma-monde** (Watertable A)

Chair: *Florence Martin, Goucher College*

“Lost at Sea or Charting a New Course? Mapping the Contours of ‘Cinéma-monde’ in Floating Francophone Films”

*Michael Gott, University of Cincinnati*

“French in Rithy Panh’s *cinéma-monde*”

*Joseph Mai, Clemson University*

“A l’écran du monde: le ‘cinéma-monde’”

*Florence Martin, Goucher College*

“Pics or it didn’t happen: Spectatorship and the Networked lens”

*Emily Ming Yao, Columbia University*

**Why Literature? Reading, Reception, Prizes** (Watertable B)

Chair: *Eric Trudel, Bard College*

“Art and Politics in the Crime Fiction of Jean-François Vilar”

*Margaret Attack, University of Leeds*

“Literary prizes, women and the middlebrow”

*Diana Holmes, University of Leeds*

“Is Reading French Literature a Marketable Skill? If So, Then What?”

*Mortimer Martin Guiney, Kenyon College*

“‘Je lis Michel’: (Against) memism”

*Murray Pratt, Nottingham Trent University*

**Commemoration, Media, and Memory** (Watertable C)

Chair: *Christopher Tinker, Heriot-Watt University*

“Dancing D-Day”

*Felicia McCarren, Tulane University*

“Media, Memory and Nostalgia in Contemporary France: between Commemoration, Memorialisation, Reflection and Restoration”

*Christopher Tinker, Heriot-Watt University*

“Social Media and the French State, or The Brief, Wondrous Life of *L’Exception Culturelle – Acte II*”

*Charlie Michael, University of Georgia*

**Coffee break** (in front of Watertable ABC)

**2:45 - 3:15 pm**

**Thursday 3 September**

**3:15 - 5:00 pm**

**Global France/Littérature-Monde** (Watertable A)

Chair: *Alessandra Benedicty, The City College of New York, CUNY*

“Translated Stories: Effacing Otherness in Translingual Francophonie”

*Ioanna Chatzidimitriou, Muhlenberg College*

“Contemporary French Civilization as Translation Zone”

*Charles Forsdick, Liverpool University*

“France Meets World: From Francophonie to Global French”

*Subha Xavier, Emory University*

“‘Littérature-monde’ and ‘French Global’: Signs Taken for Wonders?”

*Oana Panaité, University of Indiana, Bloomington*



**Cities, Neighborhoods, Texts** (Watertable B)

Chair: *Derek Schilling, Johns Hopkins University*

“Pourquoi ‘la ville’?”

*Monique Yaari, The Pennsylvania State University*

“Borders and Borderlands Proposal: the Marais and Bastille areas of Paris”

*Keith Reader, Visiting Emeritus at the University of London Institute in Paris/Emeritus University of Glasgow*

“The Extramural Effect: Urban Expansion, Regional Planning, and the Discursive Futures of Greater Paris”

*Derek Schilling, Johns Hopkins University*

**Visual Culture and Media: Part I** (Watertable C)

Chair: *Nicole Hudgins, University of Baltimore*

“Mythologies Postcoloniales: quand la culture populaire (ne) fait (pas) signe”

*Etienne Achille, Villanova University*

“From Post-Cards to Pop Art: Cross-Cultural Representations of the Veil”

*Adrienne Barbo, The Ohio State University*

“The Semiotics of Naming and the Myth of Frenchness in the Beauty Industry”

*Samira Hassa, Manhattan College*

“A Graphic Turn: Transnational Tides in Marjane Satrapi’s *Persepolis*”

*Abby Broughton, University of Maryland, College Park*

**Thursday 3 September**

**6:00 - 7:30 pm:**

**Welcoming Remarks** (Watertable ABC)

**Followed by Opening Toast & Reception** (Foyer adjacent to Watertable ABC)

**Sponsored by French Cultural Studies**



**Friday, 4 September**

**9:00 - 10:30 am**

**New Directions in Teaching French Civilization I** (Watertable A)

Chair: *Scott Gunther, Wellesley College*

“*Au-delà des murs: French Civilization, Technology, and the Distance Education Classroom*”

*Luke Eilderts, Southern Connecticut State University*

“‘America Through French Eyes’: from Graduate seminar to Freshman distribution requirement to Massive open online course”

*Julie Fette, Rice University*

“Interdisciplinarity in the Classroom: Modern Paris through the Humanities and Design”

*Andrea Goulet and Eugenie Birch, University of Pennsylvania*

“French studies and digital literacy”

*Alison Levine, University of Virginia*

**French-Mediterranean-Maghrebi Literary Connections** (Watertable B)

Chair: *Dana Strand, Carleton College*

“Mediterranean Bodies, French Minds: The Idea of Mediterranean Fusion in French Algeria, 1889-1909”

*Yuval Tal, Johns Hopkins University*

“Cut the Sound: Squat Performance in Leïla Sebbar’s *Shérazade: 17 ans, brune, frisée, les yeux verts* (1982)”

*Jennifer Solheim, University of Illinois, Chicago*

“Intertext and Audience: Reading Local Texts in North African Novels”

*Erin Twohig, Georgetown University*

“Reading Camus in Oran: Postcolonialism and Kemal Daoud’s *Meursault, contre-enquête*”

*Dana Strand, Carleton College*

**Coffee break** (in front of Watertable ABC)

**10:30 - 11:00 am**

**Friday, 4 September**

**11:00 am - 12:30 pm**

**“Contemporary French Civilization” and the Field of French Cultural Studies** (Watertable A)

Chair: *Seth Whidden, Villanova University*

“Place de la civilisation française et francophone dans les revues professionnelles scientifiques”

*Marie-Christine Koop, University of North Texas*

“Revisiting the ‘French Cultural Studies’ debate in *Contemporary French Civilization* (1997-2002)”

*Jean-Philippe Mathy, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*

“Publishing in *Contemporary French Civilization*”

*Denis M. Provencher, University of Maryland Baltimore County*

**Gender, Youth, and Disability in Contemporary Cinema and Culture** (Watertable B)

Chair: *Nicoleta Bazgan, University of Maryland, Baltimore County*

“Parité, égalité, réalité: le cinéma comme exception française?”

*Caroline Eades, University of Maryland, College Park*

“Love, Disability, and Identity in Contemporary Québécois Cinema”

*Mercédès Baillargeon, University of Maryland, College Park*

“Girlhood in Contemporary French Civilization”

*Emma Wilson, Cambridge University*

**LUNCH BREAK: 12:30 - 2:00 pm**

**Friday, 4 September**

**2:00 - 3:30 pm**

**Québec and the Americas** (Watertable A)

Chair: *Nathalie Dupont, Bucknell University*

“The *récit paysan* in the Americas: A comparative reading of regionalist discourse in Haiti and Canada”

*Chelsea Stieber, The Catholic University of America*

“French Canadian Backwoodsmen As Ecocritical Motif”

*Annie Rehill, University of Maryland, College Park*

**New Directions in Teaching French Civilization II** (Watertable B)

Chair: *William Poulin-Deltour, Middlebury College*

“Teaching Global France through War and Memory”

*N. Christine Brookes, Central Michigan University*

“*Le Vent souffle en Arizona*: Les études hip-hop dans le cursus universitaire américain”

*Alain-Philippe Durand, University of Arizona*

“Sports from the French-Speaking World in the University Curriculum”

*Roxanna Curto, University of Iowa*

“Beyond reflection and transparency: Using media critically in the French civilization curriculum”

*Matthieu Dalle, University of Louisville*



**Coffee break** (in front of Watertable ABC)  
**3:30 - 4:00 pm**

**Friday, 4 September**  
**4:00 - 5:15 pm**

***Cinema: Artists, Auteurs and Archives*** (Watertable A)  
Chair: *Sue Harris, Queen Mary University of London*

“Occupation or Preoccupation?: Jean Yanne’s 1974 *Les Chinois à Paris*”  
*Catherine Clark, Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

“*Auteur, Auteur: French Cinema and the Discourse of Artistic Sovereignty*”  
*Codruta Morari, Wellesley College*

“The auteur’s not dead yet! Or when the filmmaker himself becomes the archive”  
*Sue Harris, Queen Mary University of London*

***French Language and Culture: Living and Learning*** (Watertable B)  
Chair: *Chadia Chambers-Samadi, Augustana College*

“Approaching Culture in the French ‘Civilization’ Course”  
*John Murphy, Gettysburg College*

“Exploring the role of culturally-informed language ideologies in motivation to learn French as a second language”  
*Kris Knisley, University of South Dakota*

“Claire Underwood’s Impossible French”  
*Michael Johnson, Central Washington University*

**Friday, 4 September**  
**6:00 - 8:00 pm:**

**Plenary Session** (Watertable ABC)  
**Followed by Cash Bar and Reception** (Foyer adjacent to Watertable ABC)



***Mireille Rosello, University of Amsterdam***  
**“Contemporary French Civilization in Times of Precarity: Is Global French Sustainable?”**

**Saturday, 5 September,**  
**9:00 - 10:30 am**

**New Directions in French Studies** (Watertable A)

Chair: *Denis M. Provencher, University of Maryland Baltimore County*

"Writing One's Family History: A New Direction for Historians of France?"

*Stéphane Gerson, New York University*

"On n'a plus d'économie mais on a des économistes"

*Stéphane Spoiden, University of Michigan, Dearborn*

"'Happiness' and Everyday Life in Contemporary France: Unlikely Bedfellows?"

*Jennifer Willging, The Ohio State University*

**Transnational and Transcultural Cinema** (Watertable B)

Chair: *Gemma King, University of Melbourne*

"American Landscapes and Culture in the Films of Rachid Bouchareb"

*Leslie Kealhofer-Kemp, University of Rhode Island*

"Franco-Arab Cinema: Transnational and Transcultural Crossings"

*Cybelle McFadden, University of North Carolina, Greensboro*

"There are no heroes in the Maghreb"

*Zakaria Fatih, University of Maryland Baltimore County*

**Urban Landscapes, Memory, and Texts** (Watertable C)

Chair: *Sue Harris, Queen Mary University of London*

"Cultures of Landscape in the Promenades of Paris"

*Gideon Shapiro, University of Pennsylvania*

"Industrial Memory: Rebuilding Cultural Identity in Today's Angoulême"

*Carl Cornell, The Pennsylvania State University*

"Translating the Text, Translating the City"

*Lynn Palermo and Catherine Dent, Susquehanna University*

**UMBC**

**A N H O N O R S U N I V E R S I T Y I N M A R Y L A N D**

**Coffee break** (in front of Watertable ABC)  
**10:30 - 11:00 am**

**Saturday, 5 September**  
**11:00 am - 12:15 pm**

***Teaching the Republic and Empire*** (Watertable A)  
Chair: *Anne O'Neil-Henry, Georgetown University*

"Teaching Republican France Cartographically: Vidal de la Blache's 1885 *France Départements*"  
*Kory Olson, Stockton University*

"The Tragedy of Republican Education"  
*Leon Sachs, University of Kentucky*

"Teaching the Legacy of France's North American Empire"  
*Jane Moss, Duke University/Colby College*

***Visual Culture and Media: Part II*** (Watertable B)  
Chair: *Mélanie Giraud, Loyola University of Maryland*

"French Views on Two American Presidents: Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson in the French Press, January 1919"  
*Dominique Laurent, Dickinson College*

"Houellebecq acteur: DST, kidnapping et NDE"  
*François Massonnat, Villanova University*

"Gender, race and political representation in France in the third millennium"  
*Bronwyn Winter, The University of Sydney*

***French Cinema: Genres, Intertexts, Reception*** (Watertable C)  
Chair: *Renaud Lagabrielle, University of Vienna*

"Connaît-on la chanson? Le film en chanté français, un nouveau genre du cinéma français?"  
*Renaud Lagabrielle, University of Vienna*

"From *The Burning Brazier* to *The Rules of the Game*: Silent Ivan Mosjoukine Speaking to Jean Renoir"  
*Anna Navrotskaya, The Pennsylvania State University*

"Réception et transmission spectatorielle de *la Haine* et *la Désintégration*"  
*Annie Jouan-Westlund, Cleveland State University*

**LUNCH BREAK: 12:15 - 1:30 pm**



**Contemporary  
French  
Civilization**



**Saturday, 5 September**

**1:30 - 3:00 pm**

**Je suis Charlie** (Watertable A)

Chair: *Catherine Raissiguier, Hunter College, CUNY*

“The Impossible Subject of *Charlie Hebdo*”

*Catherine Raissiguier, Hunter College, CUNY*

“Free Speech Rights: France as a Case in Point”

*Meaghan Emery, University of Vermont*

“Situating (and Teaching) the Charlie Hebdo Attacks in a Sociological, Historical, and Literary Context

*Kathryn Kleppinger, The George Washington University*

**Food and Culture** (Watertable B)

Chair: *Vera Mark, The Pennsylvania State University*

“Espaces transdisciplinaires de la convivialité: La table à l’intersection des savoirs”

*Philippe Dubois, Bucknell University*

“‘Fais-moi du couscous chéri’: Digesting Decolonization”

*Sylvie Durmelat, Georgetown University*

“Bocuse Imperator”

*Michael Garval, North Carolina State University*

“Global Extensions and Transformations of French Food Culture: Denis, Kechiche, and *Le Cinéma de la cuisine*”

*Julia Abramson, University of Oklahoma*

**Wylie, Rosello, and the Self in French Civilization Studies** (Watertable C)

Chair: *Julie Fette, Rice University*

“Lawrence Wylie and the French Civilizing Mission”

*Janet Horne, University of Virginia*

“Stereotypes for study abroad: National preconceptions, Mireille Rosello, and Laurence Wylie”

*Mehammed Mack, Smith College*

“Whither Wylie? Field notes from Middlebury College”

*Paula Schwartz, Middlebury College*

**Coffee break** (in front of Watertable ABC)

**3:00 - 3:30 pm**

**Saturday, 5 September**

**3:30 - 4:45 pm**

**East meets West: Franco-Russian Connections** (Watertable A)

Chair: *Andrew Sobanet, Georgetown University*

“Andreï Makine à la rescousse de la mémoire nationale française”

*Isabelle Dotan, Bar Ilan University, Israel*

“Oliver Rolin’s *Le Météorologue*: Vicarious Witnessing and the Gulag”  
*Andrew Sobanet, Georgetown University*

**Parisian Landscapes and Urban Parks** (Watertable B)

Chair: Masha Belenky, *George Washington University*

“Paris parks: the invention of nature & the nature of invention”  
*John Dixon Hunt, University of Pennsylvania*

“The Parc de la Villette’s Serial Gardens: landscape as a cultural object”  
*Amanda Vincent, University of Florida*

“Landscapes of Michel Desvigne: The Esthetics of Process”  
*Malcolm Woollen, The Pennsylvania State University*

**New Directions: Letters, Photography and Minority Literatures** (Watertable C)

Chair: *Jeanne-Hélène Roy, University of Akron*

“Letters from a Junior in France: JYA in the Interwar Years”  
*Christine Cano, Case Western Reserve University*

“Paris as Process, or Thinking France through Photography”  
*Ari Blatt, University of Virginia*

“Carving out a Place for Minority (Regional and Immigration) Literatures in the Curriculum: The Challenges and Rewards of Teaching Contemporary French Civilization(s)”  
*David Spieser-Landes, University of Pittsburgh/ University of North Carolina, Wilmington*

**Saturday, 5 September**

**5:00 - 6:30 pm** (Maryland Ballroom Salon D)

**Roundtable on French Cultural Studies: A View from the Field(s)**

*Jennifer A. Boittin, The Pennsylvania State University*

*Zachary Hagins, Rhodes College*

*Hélène Huet, University of Florida*

*Audra Merfeld-Langston, Missouri University of Science and Technology*

*Fabrice Usman, Regis University*

*N. Christine Brookes, Central Michigan University*

*Kory Olson, Stockton University*

*Denise Rodríguez, The Pennsylvania State University*

*Willa Z. Silverman, The Pennsylvania State University*

**7:00 - 9:00 pm Conference Banquet** (Homeland Room)

## Acknowledgements

The conference organizers would like to thank the many individuals who have offered their assistance and support throughout this process. We'd like to extend a very warm thank you to Anthony Cond and Clare Hooper at Liverpool University Press who have provided very generous moral and financial support for the anniversary conference of the journal *Contemporary French Civilization (CFC)*. We'd also like to thank Nick Hewitt, whose organization of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference of *French Cultural Studies* in Marseille in 2013 inspired our first conversations about a follow-up conference in Baltimore to celebrate *CFC* and pursue our continued collaborations in the field. *French Cultural Studies* has also offered generous financial support for the welcoming events of the conference. Andrew Sobanet (Georgetown University) has shared with us much precious advice on conference planning. Jean-Philippe Mathy and the Department of French and Italian at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign have offered critical support throughout the conference planning. We'd like to extend a special thank you to Jennifer Reynolds and Michelle Marquart at the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning at the University of Illinois who did such a wonderful job with the conference website and registration system. At the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, we extend a warm thank you to Dr. Scott Casper, Dean of the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities, who offered his generous support and encouragement for the conference. Our administrative team -- Carolyn Good and Shahid Mokal -- have done a wonderful job in helping us produce the conference program. It has been an absolute pleasure working with everyone at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel, and especially Mel Hagen, whose attention to detail has helped everything to run smoothly. We would like to extend a very special thank you to our on-site conference support staff who took care of the registration table and book exhibit. This includes Dr. Dan Maroun, copy-editor of *CFC*, as well as UMBC graduate students Felix Burgos, Elena Bzhedugova, Christina Crise, Landry Digeon, Carolina Felipes Porco, José Gomez Garcia, Ogonna Owu, Shannon Pierre-Jerome, Saulio Saleta-Gonzalez, and Paula Villanueva de Miguel. We would also like to thank all conference presenters. Your expertise, passion, and on-going work are at the core of this endeavor and represent the future of the field.

Nicoleta Bazgan would like to thank the conference co-organizers, Sue Harris and Denis Provencher. Sue Harris would like to thank Denis Provencher for inviting her to be on the organizing committee, and colleagues at *French Cultural Studies* for their support. Denis Provencher would like to thank his husband Steve Woods who has patiently listened to almost daily conference updates over the past year!