MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR
October 8, 2021

Although 2020-21 will undoubtedly be remembered as the year we went entirely remote from beginning to end, what made it truly remarkable was the degree to which the Department of French and Italian consolidated its excellence in teaching and research, while also confronting the defining social, political, and institutional challenges of our times.

Among our greatest successes was the quality of our teaching. In spite of the limitations of remote instruction, our faculty not only maintained but increased their teaching effectiveness, with some receiving the strongest teaching evaluations of their careers. No fewer than nine faculty members—including Matthieu Dupas, Paola Nasti, Cynthia Nazarian, Alessia Ricciardi, Domietta Torlasco, Nasrin Qader, Jane Winston, and Daniela Pozzi-Pavan—offered new content courses this year. Our pedagogical mission was further energized by the talents of three new professors. Massimiliano Delfino, Assistant Professor of Instruction in Italian, joined us from the Ph.D. program in Italian at Columbia and quickly began inspiring students through his dynamic teaching and summer course on film-making. Recent Ph.D. Rachel Grimm became Visiting Assistant Professor of French and designed a course on “flânerie” in modern Paris. In the spring, Distinguished Fulbright Chair Emilia Di Rocco joined us from Sapienza University of Rome and offered our only two in-person courses of the year, on wonder and mythology in Italian literature, respectively. To top it off, Thao Nguyen and Patricia Scarampi won the ASG Faculty Honor Roll award and Dominique Licops received the Council on Foreign Language (CLI) Excellence in Language Teaching Award.

Supporting our faculty during COVID meant not only finding ways to mitigate pandemic-related burdens, but also ensuring that the workload of our language faculty was on par with those of their peers in the College. Thanks to a sustained and concerted effort by an alliance of language chairs, together with the forward-thinking vision and generosity of Dean Adrian Randolph and Associate Dean Ann Bradlow, we achieved our longstanding goal of instituting course load equity for all teaching track faculty in languages beginning in Fall 2021. This effort was greatly assisted by the tireless efforts of our own language program directors—Dominique Licops and Paola Morgavi—as well as the support of faculty and former chairs over the years.

In terms of research and professional advancement, several our faculty had exceptional success. Special congratulations go to Domietta Torlasco, who published her third book The Rhythm of Images: Cinema Beyond Measure (Minneapolis, 2021), and completed a film project on race and exclusion in Chicago’s Garfield Park. In addition, Domietta was promoted to full professor in the Spring. Alessia Ricciardi also published her third book entitled Finding Ferrante: Authorship and the Politics of World Literature (Columbia, 2021) and she was named Herman and Beulah Pearce Miller Research Professor in Literature in Winter 2021. Alessia successfully completed her first term as chair of Comparative Literature, and is poised to begin a second. Two additional faculty members were promoted in recognition of their accomplishments in teaching, service, and professional development: Thao Nguyen, to Associate Professor of Instruction, and Dominique Licops, to Professor of Instruction. Dominique also completed a 9-year term as Director of the French Language Program.

Our events reflected and sustained the vitality of our intellectual community, while also pushing us to engage social and institutional problems directly. Highlights include lectures by distinguished guests Peter Szendy (Brown University), Antonio Montefusco (Ca’ Foscari University, Venice), and Emilia Di Rocco; a graduate colloquium featuring Etienne Lussier and Jessica Passos, and an event on Francophone documentary organized by Tamara Tasevska. Especially notable was our department’s creation of the “Racial Justice and Equity Reading Group” in order to address systemic anti-black racism in our society at the national, transnational, and local levels, and to explore what each of us can do to combat it. This involved coming together around a common set of readings and discussing their relevance to our work inside and outside the classroom. Relatedly, we organized two mandatory workshops on inclusive teaching for faculty and graduate students, respectively, featuring Dr. Omari Keeles, Assistant Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the Searle Center. Our DEI work expanded to include a review of the French and Italian language curriculum in the Winter of 2021, thus revealing several areas of growth for the department. This inspired professors Paola Morgavi, Max Delfino, and Daniela Pozzi-Pavan to successfully compete for a Weinberg Summer Teaching Grant to support inclusive pedagogies in Italian.

2020-21 was a great year for our students as well. Our graduate students succeeded not only in their exams, coursework and dissertation writing, but also in obtaining fellowships. Congratulations to Ibou Tall and Eloïsa Bressan on their Buffett Global Impacts Fellowships, to Moussa Seck on his Paris Program fellowship, to Jessica Passos for her Châteaubriand Fellowship, and to Tamara Tasevska on completing her dissertation on chromaticism in French cinema.

Above all, I would like to thank the officers of the Department of French and Italian for their hard work and collaboration this year. Our stellar DGS, Nasrin Qader, provided tremendous support to our graduate students by organizing events on grant writing and career options, along with regular town hall meetings via zoom. Our DUS’s in French (Cynthia Nazarian) and Italian (Paola Nasti) were no less effective, driving an impressive increase in our numbers of majors and minors. Paola also revised the Italian minor requirements. Heartfelt thanks go to our DLPs Dominique Licops and Paola Morgavi, for keeping our language programs going strong and attending to our faculty as they continued to transition courses online.

Last but not least, we would not be where we are now without the support of our amazing staff—Liz Murray, Phil Hoskins, and Lisa Byrnes. Special thanks to Phil for his exceptional editorial and design work on this newsletter. The cover reflects his sense that what we have all needed during the pandemic has been a compass, and that is precisely what the members of the Department of French and Italian have provided for one another: direction in a time of uncertainty. Although Phil is leaving our department to assume a new position, he will always be a part of our community. What follows in these pages is just a snapshot of where we have traveled together on our collective journey this past year.

Sincerely,

Doris L. Garraway
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
CHRISTOPHER BUSH was an Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities fellow and also completed his five-year term as coeditor of the journal Modernism/modernity. The past two years he also served as editor of its Print Plus (https://modernismmodernity.org/) platform, which received the Council of Editors of Learned Journals’ Best Digital Feature award for 2020. This past spring, he gave talks (via Zoom) for the Department of Asian Studies at the University of Texas, Austin, and the Center for International Studies at Cornell University. His article “A Modernism that Has Not Yet Been: Untimely Segalen” appeared in the collection 1913: The Year of French Modernism (Manchester University Press).

MASSIMILIANO DELFINO has an article titled “Reaffirming the Author: Gesualdo Bufalino’s Calende greche and Autofiction Between Sadism and Masochism” coming out in the Italian Studies journal Italica (Volume 98,1 Spring 2021). A further research article on intercultural communicative competence is currently under review at a language pedagogy journal. He presented his research on language pedagogy at NEMLA and on Italian cinema at the SCMS conference. He also helped organize the Italian Film Series and the Tavola Italiana, joined the Council for Language Instruction and attended several pedagogical workshops, such as the Practicum on Foundations of Online Teaching and the Advanced Practicum. This summer, thanks to the Weinberg College Summer Teaching Grant, he worked on the “Diversity and Inclusion in the Intermediate Italian Curriculum” project. He is currently working towards the completion of his first monograph on representations of terrorism in Italian films and literature.

MARGARET DEMPSTER will assume the role of Director of the French Language Program for a three-year term starting Fall 2021. She looks forward to working closely with the Chair of the French and Italian Department as well as colleagues, graduate teaching assistants, and students as Northwestern returns to in-person learning. An active member of the Council on Language Instruction (CLI), Margaret will continue as Co-Chair of the Study Abroad Committee. As associate chair of the International Studies Residential College (ISRC), since 2018, she looks forward to interacting with residents in person! She also coordinates the Table française where participants meet and speak French over lunch. Margaret plans to present a paper at the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) convention in New Orleans with her colleague, Aude Raymond, in July 2022. Margaret leads a pace group for the Chicago Area Runners Association - currently training for the Chicago Marathon which will take place (in person!) in October, 2021.

While chairing the department, DORIS L. GARRAWAY has continued work on her book manuscript, entitled Liberty’s Majesty: Print, Performance, and Sovereignty in the Haitian Kingdom of Henry Christophe. In March she co-chaired a panel and presented a paper at the conference of the Society of Early Americanists entitled “Tragedy, Majesty, and Theopolitical Sovereignty in the Haitian Kingdom of Henry Christophe.” She was also active in events at Northwestern. In addition to leading the Department’s Racial Equity and Justice Reading Group this year, in early June she gave a presentation on fellow Caribbeanist Mark Hauser’s newly released archaeological study, Mapping Water in Dominica: Enslavement and Environment Under Colonialism (U. Washington Press, 2021). She was also invited to chair a panel of the international conference “Decolonizing Universality, Decolonizing the University”, which featured the renowned philosopher Paulin J. Hountondji (National University Benin), on June 17. The next day she gave a eulogy for her late father-in-law, David Lee Baker (1939-2021).
DOMINIQUE LICOPS completed her third three-year term as the Director of the French Language Program. In her last year as DLP, Dominique worked closely with the French Teaching-Track Faculty, the Italian DLP, and the Chair on three projects: transitioning our language courses online, the course-load reform for language faculty, and the antiracist curriculum review for 100-level language courses. Dominique participated in A Seat at the Table: Centering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Learning and Teaching (Remote Learning Edition), Foundations of Online Teaching Practicum, a three-week introduction to core principles, best practices, and standards of online course design, as well as Diversity, Decolonization, and the French Curriculum (DDFC) workshops. Dominique was promoted to Professor of Instruction and received the Council on Language Instruction Excellence in Teaching Award. Her work on her book manuscript, Per una storia sociale del tradurre e pratica della traduzione in Dante’, in The Triumph of Love: ‘religious culture’ in ‘Dante’s Divine Comedy’, and were published in the edited volume Teaching Diversity and Inclusion. Examples from a French-Speaking Classroom (Routledge).

PAOLA MORGAVI published her article “Literature in the Language Class: A Resource to Attract Millennials” in NeMLA Italian Studies. Journal of Italian Studies, vol. XLI, Fall 2020. In the same quarter, she served as a member of the Fulbright US Student Program National Screening Committee “ETA in Italy,” and was reappointed for the upcoming academic year. In addition, she continued her collaboration with college board for the AP Italian exam. She also recorded an interview for the BBC (“Dante’s Inferno”, on Beyond Belief: Religion and the present in the Los Angeles Review of Books, and has continued to work on her book manuscript, Violent Sympathies. Literature, Sovereignty and the Hazards of Fellow Feeling. She is looking forward to another year of working with our majoring and minoring students as Director of Undergraduate Studies in French!

PAOLA NASTI has been busy participating in many international initiatives organized world-wide to celebrate the 700th centenary of Dante Alighieri’s death. She gave several ‘virtual talks,’ lectures, and interviews. In December 2020 she was invited by The Newberry Library to give The Annual Dante Lecture (‘The Triumph of Love: The Passion in the Divine Comedy’, 16 December 2020), which is available online. Other talks included ‘Religious Culture’, for “Themes, Traditions, and Cultures in Dante”, an International Workshop at Notre Dame-Rome Global Gateway (13-14 May 2021), ‘La Vita nova e l’ordine dell’amore’, an invited lecture at the University of Bologna (17 April 2021), ‘Dante’s Biblical Charisma’, a lecture for the Medieval Colloquium at Northwestern University (6 April 2021), ‘Dottrina e dannazione: il Convivio e l’Inferno’, Voci sull’Inferno di Dante: Viaggio verso il Settimo Centenario 2019-2021, a talk for International Series of Conferences at the University of Basel (21 October 2020) and ‘Del vendere e del comprare: giustizia e carisma evangelico in Dante’, a paper for Tra Monarchia e Commedia filosofia e poesia della giustizia, International Conference at the University of Turin (1-2 Ottobre 2020). Professor Nasti also recorded an interview for the BBC (“Dante’s Inferno”, on Beyond Belief, hosted by Ernie Rea, (BBC RADIO 4: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000vh5t) and has been invited on several digital platforms to discuss the work of Dante. During this busy time she has submitted and/or published several articles on Dante: ‘Vita nova XXV-XXVII’, in The Vita Nova: a Collaborative Reading, ed. by Z. Baranski, D. Bowe, H. Webb, Notre Dame: Notre Dame University Press, 2022; ‘Anatomia di una pericope biblica: la Purificazione del Tempio in Paradiso XVIII e nell’evo medio’, in Dante: filosofia e poesia della giustizia, a cura di E. Ardissino e V. Gigliotti, Milano: Mimesis, September 2021, pp. 127-152; ‘Dottrina e dannazione: il Convivio e l’Inferno’ in Voci sull’Inferno di Dante, a cura di Z. Baranski e M. A. Terzoli, Roma: Carocci, September 2021, pp. 431-454; ‘To speak in tongues. Appunti sulla teoria e pratica della traduzione in Dante’, in Toscana bilingue (1260 ca.-1430 ca.): A Social History of Medieval Translating, ed. by S. Bischetti, M. Lodone, C. Lorenzi and A. Montefusco, Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021, pp. 297-332; ‘Corse, e corroendo li parve esser tardo’, in Citando Dante. Espressioni dantesche per l’Italiano d’oggi, a cura di I. Chirico e M. Galdi, Atene: ETP Books, 2021, pp. 226-228. She is looking forward to more Dante events in 2021. Prof. Nasti also has been busy as the DUS of Italian Studies working with colleagues to strengthen the Italian Programme and Admissions.

Like many, CYNTHIA NAZARIAN has spent the year putting out logistical fires caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In between blazes, she gave an invited talk for Harvard University’s Mahindra Humanities Center. Another scheduled lecture for Princeton’s Department of Comparative Literature was postponed. She published two OpEds highlighting connections between the Renaissance and the present in the Los Angeles Review of Books, and has continued to work on her book manuscript, Violent Sympathies: Literature, Sovereignty and the Hazards of Fellow Feeling. She is looking forward to another year of working with our majoring and minoring students as Director of Undergraduate Studies in French!
DANIELA POZZI PAVAN, as new co-chair of the Meetings and Orientation Committee of the CLI, organized several very well attended workshops for all language faculty. The workshops focused on crucial topics such as strategies for remote learning and inclusivity, and diversity in the language classroom.

Daniela developed and taught a new course “Italian in the Business World,” which introduced students to the language of business and commerce, the Italian business culture, its entrepreneurs, and the success of Made in Italy brands.

Together with PAOLA MORGAVI and MASSIMILIANO DELFINO, Daniela was awarded a Weinberg College Summer Teaching Grant to support the project “Diversity and Inclusion in the Intermediate Italian Curriculum,” a project that aims to develop three thematic pedagogical modules from which students will acquire a renewed understanding of Italian society as a multicultural and diverse space.

Thanks to the Practicum in Foundations of Online Teaching, Daniela completely revamped the Elementary Italian Canvas website so that students can easily find all course content in one click! She also updated the curriculum by adopting a new and more accessible textbook, and she created innovative pedagogical activities and assessments specifically geared to remote teaching.

She organized gatherings for students such as a virtual tour of Milan where an invited speakers led students to discover hidden stories and places in Milan in an intercultural perspective.

Finally, she presented one of her pedagogical projects at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore of Milan, Italy.

NASRIN QADER continued to serve as the Director of Graduate Studies in French during the academic year 2020-2021, while advancing her book project on play in Francophone African literature. Most recently, she has published an article on the cinema of the acclaimed Moroccan director and Chicago resident, Hakim Belabbes, entitled “The Fragmentary Cinema of Hakim Belabbes” in CLS (spring 2021) and another on the work of Maurice Blanchot and Mohammed Dib in a special volume of Substance entitled “Terror of the Image: Maurice Blanchot and Mohammed Dib in Conversation” (summer 2021). In November, she presented on her current project at Northwestern’s Global Lunchbox and, in March, she was invited to speak at a special event on the Moroccan thinker Abdelkebir Khatibi on the occasion of the publication of a new edited volume on his work by Liverpool University Press.

In addition to coordinating and teaching French 121, KATIA VIOT-SOUTHARD has been working on redesigning French 204 (Acting French). In the Winter 2021, she participated in a roundtable on “French through Theater” organized by the University of Chicago. She is looking forward to teaching “Acting French” again next Spring. Last Fall, Professor Viot-Southard was awarded a grant from the French Embassy to be part of the iFOS Program (online training in “French for Professional Purposes” for professors of French working in American universities): https://frenchhighereducation.org/12338-2020-ifos-training-grants. She completed the program in Spring 2021. In addition, Professor Viot-Southard is the new co-chair of the Chicago Language Symposium organizing committee. The Chicago Language Symposium will be organized at Northwestern in 2023.
EMILIA DI ROCCO, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature in the Department of European, American, and Interdisciplinary Studies, at Sapienza Università di Roma, joined the Department for Spring Quarter 2021, teaching two courses and presenting a public lecture. Her research interests include literature and theology, literature and the Bible, and the rewritings of ancient myth in medieval and modern literature. At present she is writing a book on the parable of the prodigal son in western literature. We are grateful to Emilia for making the trip and for enlivening our “virtual” department with her in-person presence.

The Department of FRENCH & ITALIAN presents

**From the Region of Unlikeness to the Vision of God: Dante’s Journey as Prodigal Son in the Commedia**

A lecture by

EMILIA DI ROCCO
Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer Chair

This lecture explores the homecoming of the prodigal son as a paradigm for the pilgrim’s journey in the Commedia. The story of the ‘lost son’ echoes throughout the Comedy and, although there is no direct quotation from the parable, there are numerous allusions, themes, images and motifs that belong to the ‘imaginaire’ of the prodigal son. I will look at the ‘well-travelled’ terrain of the prologue scene, the fatherly figures that Dante meets during his journey, as well as those passages where motifs from the parable have been identified, namely the scene with Filippo Argenti in Inferno and the pilgrim’s encounter with Manfredi in Purgatory. I will also focus on motherly figures and women in the poem that fill an important gap in the Gospel narrative.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2021 3:00PM**

**Northwestern Department of French and Italian**
In this edition of the newsletter, we feature Domietta Torlasco, who achieved promotion to Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature in the spring. Her promotion to the highest rank in academia reflects her outstanding and sustained contributions to the fields of film theory and aesthetics and Italian and French cinema, as well as film practice.

This past spring marked the appearance of her third book, *The Rhythm of Images: Cinema Beyond Measure* (University of Minnesota Press, 2021). Drawing on the work of Agamben, Barthes, Deleuze, and Irigaray, as well as a range of contemporary films, Domietta elaborates an original theoretical conception of “rhythm” as an ontological force of contingency and fluidity with the potential to transgress and resist power. An active filmmaker, Domietta also recently completed a video essay on race, botany, and exclusion in Chicago’s Garfield Park neighborhood. In this film, she juxtaposes issues of play—both child’s play, and the more elite play epitomized by the Garfield Park Botanical Garden and the larger field of botany that it supports—with the problem of the economic desolation of the urban environment surrounding the park. This place is characterized by a history of racial segregation and redlining, where botanical life seems to be the only form of life that is truly thriving.

These works add to Domietta’s long repertoire of scholarly and creative publications and reflect her wide-ranging theoretical and methodological interests. She is a specialist of critical theory, psychoanalysis, and feminist theory, as well as Italian and French cinema, the SF and noir genres, and time-based media arts. Her previous books include *The Heretical Archive: Digital Memory at the End of Film* (University of Minnesota Press, 2013), and *The Time of the Crime: Phenomenology, Psychoanalysis, Italian Film* (Stanford University Press, 2008). She is also the author of several previous video essays, which explore questions of domestic labor, borders, surveillance, and debt. They have screened at several national and international venues, including the Galerie Campagne Première in Berlin, the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles.

Below we survey the full range of Domietta’s book publications and include still images from her 2016 documentary, “Sunken Gardens.” Congratulations, Domietta!

*Doris L. Garraway*

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Focusing attention on a concept much neglected in the study of film, *The Rhythm of Images* opens new possibilities for thinking about expanded perception and idiosyncratic modes of being. Author Domietta Torlasco engages with both philosophy and cinema to elaborate a notion of rhythm in its pre-Socratic sense as a “manner of flowing”—a fugitive mode that privileges contingency and calls up the forgotten fluidity of forms. In asking what it would mean to take this rhythm as an ontological force in its own right, she creatively draws on thinkers such as Giorgio Agamben, Roland Barthes, Gilles Deleuze, and Luce Irigaray. Rhythm emerges here as a form that eludes measure, a key to redefining the relation between the aesthetic and the political, and thus a pivotal means of resistance to power.

Working with constellations of films and videos by international artists—from Michelangelo Antonioni, Jean-Luc Godard, and David Lynch to Harun Farocki and Victor Burgin, among others—Torlasco brings to bear on them her distinctive concept of rhythm with respect to four interrelated domains: life, labor, memory, and medium. With innovative readings of artworks and critical texts alike, *The Rhythm of Images* fashions a vibrant, provocative theory of rhythm as the excess or potential of perception.

Ultimately, the book reconceives the relation between rhythm and the world-making power of images. The result is a vision of cinema as a hybrid medium endowed with the capacity not only to reinvent corporeal boundaries but also to find new ways of living together.
**The Heretical Archive** examines the relationship between memory and creation in contemporary artworks that use digital technology while appropriating film materials. Domietta Torlasco argues that these digital films and multimedia installations radically transform our memory of cinema and our understanding of the archive. Indeed, such works define a notion of archiving not as the passive preservation of audiovisual signs but as an intervention and the creative rearticulation of cinema’s perceptual and political textures.

Torlasco’s central claim is that if the archives of psychoanalysis and cinema have long privileged the lineage that runs from Oedipus to Freud, the archives of the digital age—what she calls the “heretical archive”—can help us imagine an unruly, porous, multifaceted legacy, one in which marginal figures return to speak of lost life as much as of life that demands to be lived.

**The Time of the Crime** interrogates the relationship between time and vision as it emerges in five Italian films from the sixties and seventies: Antonioni’s *Blow-Up* and *The Passenger*, Bertolucci’s *The Spider’s Stratagem*, Cavani’s *The Night Porter*, and Pasolini’s *Oedipus Rex*. The center around which these films revolve is the image of the crime scene—the spatial and temporal configuration in which a crime is committed, witnessed, and investigated. By pushing the detective story to its extreme limits, they articulate forms of time that defy any clear-cut distinction between past, present, and future—presenting an uncertain temporality that can be made visible but not calculated, and challenging notions of visual mastery and social control. If the detective story proper begins with a death that has already taken place, the death that seems to count the most in these films is the one that is yet to occur—the investigator’s own death. In a time of relentless anticipation, what appears in front of the investigator’s eyes is not the past as it was, but the past as it will have been in relation to the time of his or her search.
Congratulations to DOMINIQUE LICOPS, professor of French language and culture courses and our outgoing Director of the French Language Program, who was promoted to Professor of Instruction this spring. A leader in French language pedagogy and foreign language literature pedagogy with nearly two decades of experience at Northwestern, Dominique has for nine years shepherded our students through the language program while assisting our faculty and graduate students in advancing their teaching effectiveness and reaching their career goals. Dominique exemplifies the distinguishing qualities that she herself has sought to foster in our language program. In addition to creating and sustaining an inspiring, student-centered learning environment in the classroom, she constantly keeps up with the newest and most innovative teaching methodologies, most notably those that focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Furthermore, Dominique has always been ready to help with massive projects, such as the implementation of the 6-course load for teaching track faculty in languages. On this point, the department is grateful for everything Dominique has contributed to making course load equity a reality for our faculty.

In her teaching, Dominique has excelled most recently as an instructor of bridge courses 210, 211, and 271, in which she put into practice the unified language-and-content curriculum encouraged by the Modern Language Association. These courses also demonstrate her skillful incorporation of inclusive teaching pedagogies in the foreign language literature classroom. An expert in the domain, she has published two articles on this topic in the past five years.

In addition to her promotion, Dominique garnered the CLI Excellence in Foreign Language Teaching Award in 2021. This honor adds to a long line of major milestones of her career, including her receipt, in 2016, of an international fellowship from the French Department of Foreign Affairs, and her elevation, in 2019, to the French civil nobility at the rank of Chevalier dans l’ordre des Palmes Académiques. Congratulations again, and thank you, Dominique, for your distinguished service as DLP!

Doris L. Garraway

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: PHIL HOSKINS

Farewell to Phil, our Program Assistant for the last seven years!

An integral part of our community, Phil has contributed in innumerable ways to the work we do every day. In addition to being a thoughtful, fun-loving, and dependable presence in the office, Phil has infused his artistic brilliance into every visual representation our department has produced over nearly a decade. This newsletter itself illustrates just how much our collective identity is defined by Phil’s creative imagination and design savvy. Above all, he has always been attentive to us as people and as friends.

We will miss you, Phil, and we wish you the best!

Sincerely,
The Department of French and Italian
The Color-Image: Chromaticism and the Multiplicity of Worlds in Jean-Luc Godard and Claire Denis
Dissertation by Tamara Tasevska, defended in August 2021
Directed by Scott Durham

In this project, Tamara Tasevska studies the formal experimentation with color in postwar cinema as a paradigm for exploring larger theoretical and political questions relating to postwar aesthetics. Borrowing from an understudied concept of Gilles Deleuze’s theory, “the color-image,” her first chapter shifts the conversation away from reading color as strictly symbolic or referential, and instead foregrounds color as a quality of the seen, heard, dreamed, feared, or unrealized worlds of individuals and communities.

In her second chapter, Tamara explores such a trajectory of color in Jean-Luc Godard’s avant-garde films from the sixties, which often depict intolerable situations such as bloodletting with an excess of red paint or the delusional suicide of the protagonist painting his face in blue against the blue of the vast seascape in Pierrot le fou (1965). She shows how color comes to act as a sensory image, rendering visible multiple worlds at once: the worlds of concrete historical and political tensions, along with a diabolical desire to overturn this world, making visible a new dimension as a possible world.

Finally, in her third chapter, Tamara traces this treatment of color in the more recent films of Claire Denis which combine color in different media—digital images, analogue film, installation art—to portray politically vexed situations, specifically tied to contexts of colonial and environmental violence.

Looking at Denis’s multifaceted images—as in White Material’s (2009) encompassing green of the African bush and brown of the colonial coffee plantations in the midst of a civil war, or the disastrous world of fluorescent-synthetic lights in High Life (2018)—Tamara underlines how color exceeds the limits of allegorical and referential representations, including the typically evoked reference to Blackness in Denis’s oeuvre. She demonstrates that the film-maker’s chromatic aesthetic conjures up an atmosphere of possible imagined subjectivities out of the potentialities of color itself.

Congratulations to Tamara, who, upon completion of her dissertation, went on to be appointed Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department in Fall 2021!
When we completed the academic year 2019-2020, under unprecedented new conditions imposed by COVID-19, most of us could not anticipate the challenges that were ahead nor the number of months that the shadow of this difficult and tragic pandemic, with devastating losses and other demanding circumstances would pursue us and the world. Now, a year later, we are grateful to have made it together to the end of academic year 2020-2021, hopefully with greater wisdom, patience, and continued perseverance mixed with some optimism for the near future. I want to heartily congratulate all of our graduate students for all their achievements as they managed academic demands and rose effectively and with grace to their teaching and family responsibilities, in many cases coping with the direct effects of COVID-19 on family and friends.

We welcomed to the department Louise Barbosa, Guillaume de Broux, Anne-Marie Kommers, Nyi Nyi Ohn Myint, and Amanda Parraguez. Their presence and intellectual contributions, though exclusively virtual, enriched our community despite the far from ideal conditions under which they began their graduate studies. Several of our students continued to remain abroad conducting research, making up for lost time and opportunity during the strict lockdown periods. We applaud them for their dedication to their ongoing research and are delighted to see them thrive so well in spite of everything.

Students contributed willingly and generously to our intellectual life. In winter 2021, Etienne Lussier and Jessica Passos gave engaging presentations at the departmental graduate colloquium, while Tamara Tasevska curated an exciting, timely, and very well-attended Zoom event at the Block Cinema entitled, "Cinéma Direct Action: 1960s Student Activism in Francophone Documentary." We look forward to their contributions to our collective intellectual life in the coming year. Congratulations also to Guillaume de Broux for having garnered the department’s graduate essay prize for "Un été à Stockholm ou la saison au paradis d’Abdelkébir Khatibi" written in Fall Quarter 2020.

We have much to look forward to in 2021-2022. Xinyi Wei completed her PhD exams and is hard at work on her prospectus. Raja Ben Hammed defended her prospectus and was awarded a highly competitive fellowship to participate in the Paris Program in Critical Theory for 2021-2022, working with Professor Samuel Weber and other prominent figures in Critical Theory. Jessica Passos received a prestigious Chateaubriand Fellowship, enabling her to continue her research in France, while Eloisa Bressan obtained the competitive Northwestern Buffett Institute Global Impacts Graduate Fellowship for the 2021-2022. We are also delighted to learn that our former student, Caitlyn Doyle, has been appointed as Visiting Postdoctoral Associate Professor at MIT. Many congratulations for all these achievements.

In winter, we welcomed to the department two of our Alumnae, Jessica Neushwander and Genevieve Amaral, who conducted an informative and engaging virtual event on career development. They shared with us their experiences of finding their highly successful jobs as a private high school teacher and as an associate dean, respectively. This event was part of our ongoing effort to address the new challenges students might face in the near future on the job market.

As always, the mission of the department was richly sustained by the contributions and support of the faculty and the hard work of our staff. Thanks to Lisa Brynes, Phil Hoskins, and Elizabeth Murray for their continued cheerful dedication to the department’s administration in general and to the graduate program in particular. They remained heroically unfailing in their attention to unprecedented questions and concerns—of which there have been many—from faculty and students.

I also extend a hearty gratitude to our department chair, Doris Garraway, who, with her tireless attention and endless generosity continued, to guide us skillfully and kindly through the vicissitudes of this year. We are very fortunate to have her at the helm of our department.

Looking very much forward to 2021-2022.

Nasrin Qader
Director of Graduate Studies
Louise Barbosa is entering her second year of the French PhD program and is looking forward to joining her peers for in-person classes this fall. She will serve as the student-faculty liaison for the 2021-2022 school term. At the moment, her research interests are aligned with 17th century literature. Specifically, she would like to continue learning about the social function of fairy tales and the subversive themes that underlie their moral teachings.

Raja Ben Hammed has successfully defended her prospectus tentatively entitled “Hasard and Necessity in Francophone and Surreal French Novels of the Twentieth Century.” She received the Panofsky Award to conduct archival research about the history of colonialism and nationalism in North and sub-Saharan Africa. She has been selected to participate in the Paris Program in Critical Theory during the academic year 2021-2022. She is working now on her first chapter tentatively entitled “Hasard and Politics of death in Les méduses by Tchicaya U Tam’si.”

Eloisa Bressan defended her prospectus, tentatively titled “‘Living Philology’: Gramsci’s literary praxis as political creativity” in October 2020. She has since presented a part of her first chapter “Fighting secular Jesuitism in the Prison Notebooks” at the online ACLA conference in a panel on “Gramsci and the Question of Literature” she co-organized with Alessia Ricciardi. She successfully completed the SEARLE Teaching Certificate and acted as the graduate event coordinator for the French Department. She has been awarded the Buffett Institute “Global Impacts” fellowship for the academic year 2021-2022.

In his first year of doctoral coursework, Guillaume de Broux wrote papers on topics as varied as troubadour poetry, Renaissance Humanism, modernism, post-structuralism, francophone literature, and film. As a fellow of the Global Avant-Garde cluster, he also pursued research on the milieu Philippe Sollers established around Tel Quel (1960-1982), and the connections between this review and the broader moment of cultural change in postwar France. Guillaume received the Department’s Graduate Essay Prize for the 2020-2021 academic year.
Noran Mohamed worked on writing and editing her dissertation throughout the year from her "home office". In the Spring quarter, she presented a paper virtually at the NeMLA conference, entitled, *A Journey Without End: Khaïr-Eddine's Légende et Vie D'Agounchich*. Later in the quarter, she served as a co-convenor for the conference *Decolonizing Universality, Decolonizing the University*, hosted by Northwestern University’s Program of Critical Theory. She was one of the respondents to Nadia Yala Kisukidi from the University of Paris 8.

Maïté Marciano completed an article entitled “De l’absence au neutre: analyse d’un écart entre Camus, Duras, et Blanchot,” which challenges the connection between absence and the neuter in Maurice Blanchot’s reading of Albert Camus and Marguerite Duras. This piece is forthcoming in the 7th volume of the Série Marguerite Duras in *La Revue des Lettres modernes*. Marciano gave a talk in the Fall on her second project at the Diversity, Decolonization, and the French Curriculum Conference entitled “Re-Imagining the French Literary Canon from Marseille and the Mediterranean Sea.” In the Spring, she organized a seminar at the ACLA conference, “Forms of (dis-) action,” where she also presented a paper, “Literature at the Trial of Disaffection: Style, Politics, and Affect in The Stranger.” She also shared a longer version of this paper at the Affect and Emotion Workshop at the University of Chicago and was invited to respond to Leif Turner’s paper entitled “Us” in theory:

Fanny Alice Marchaisse was the student-faculty liaison for the department during the year 2020-2021. During this year she attended various webinars, workshops (*Construire l’histoire du handicap et de la surdité au travers des siècles* Séminaire mensuel d’étude francophone 2021-2022, SPAN Workshop 2021 - Body Fixes: Entanglements of Sexuality, Disability, and Health Confirmation, amongst others) and reading groups pertaining to her research: literary representations of disability in the seventeenth century. While teaching French 121 and taking classes she worked on preparing for her qualifying exam. This upcoming winter Fanny Alice will be giving a presentation in the Department of French and Italian at Northwestern.

Étienne Lussier spent the last academic year in Paris. He completed the first section of his dissertation which revolved around the question of prehistory in the work of Georges Bataille. He presented some of his work at Northwestern University and he also gave a workshop on the notion of “base materialism” at University Paris Sorbonne-Nouvelle. During the upcoming fall, he will be presenting at Texas Tech University and will be participating in Samuel Weber’s seminar of the Paris Program in Critical Theory.

Etienne Lussier spent the last academic year in Paris. He completed the first section of his dissertation which revolved around the question of prehistory in the work of Georges Bataille. He presented some of his work at Northwestern University and he also gave a workshop on the notion of “base materialism” at University Paris Sorbonne-Nouvelle. During the upcoming fall, he will be presenting at Texas Tech University and will be participating in Samuel Weber’s seminar of the Paris Program in Critical Theory.
Jessica Passos spent 2020/2021 in Paris, where she organized the monthly seminar Causeries Critiques at Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle under the supervision of Isabelle Alfandary. She presented at the department's Graduate Student Colloquium and was invited to participate in the seminar Penser et/ou panser le monde: Intentions, signification, limites organized by MHiC-Lab (Medical Humanities in Context) a Franco-British collaboration between Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle and Durham University. In this occasion, she presented the paper “La Clef des Songes: l’apport politique de la voix poétique à la radio.” This academic year, she also taught two discussion sections of The Literature of Existentialism under the supervision of Scott Durham, thus completing her teaching assignments. Recently, Jessica became a recipient of the Chateaubriand Fellowship offered by the Embassy of France in the United States. This grant will support her continuing research in France next academic year.

Xinyi Wei recently became a PhD candidate. She presented on the first draft of her dissertation prospectus at the Comparative Literary Studies department in May, tentatively titled “Embracing estrangement with Professional Strangers -- 20th century French, Francophone, and East Asian writers and filmmakers from estrangement to creativity,” and she is now in the process of finalizing her prospectus. Outside the university, she presented her paper “Falling in Love with Flaubert and Proust” at the Nineteenth Annual Conference of the Society of Dix-Neuviémistes in March. In May, she also presented her paper “In Search of Miniature: Proustian Japonisme and Scale” at the online conference “Marcel Proust: Contested Legacies” organized by the University of Chicago. She has recently completed a month-long summer program at the Institute of World Literature.

Maureen Winter spent the past year in Paris researching and writing her dissertation. She completed her second chapter entitled “Dying Inside: Gesture and Domestic Interiors in Varda and Akerman.” In the Winter she presented a paper entitled “Bare Life and Surplus Populations: Re-reading Marx with Agamben” at the annual ACLA conference. In the Spring she presented a paper with the collective Chicago Girls at the University of Chicago Interdisciplinary Conference “What is Left?” The paper proposed a rigorously Marxian intersectional politics based on a value-theory reading of the imbrications of race, class, and gender. This summer she attended the annual Deleuze and Guattari Camp and went on to present a paper entitled "Film Fabulation: Lazslo Nemes’s Son of Saul" at the conference. She recently published an exhibition review on the Paris Institute for Critical Thinking’s online platform “The Thinking Cap” entitled “Giacometti/Beckett: Between Failure and Theatricality.” This Fall she will move to Turin, Italy where she will continue writing and research.
The Department of FRENCH & ITALIAN

Fall Q. 2020 Events

SEPT. 25, FRI., 4-5pm  Department Fall Party

OCT. 7 WED., 6-8pm  Italian Mini Film Series: La mafia uccide solo d’estate

OCT. 9 FRI., 2-3pm  Career Options in the Humanities: Publishing, featuring Christopher Bush and Trevor Perri, moderated by Nasrin Qaderi

OCT. 20 TUES., 11:15AM-12:45pm  Causere with filmmaker and critic Nadia Melati: Les Visages de la France (Faces of France) Through Contemporary French Cinema

OCT. 23 FRI., 3:30-5pm  Racial Equity and Justice Reading Group I: Anti-Black Racism and its Critique in U.S. History and the Contemporary Context

OCT. 29, THURS., 6-8PM  Cine Club: Une femme, est une femme

NOV. 5 THURS., 7-9pm  Italian Mini Film Series: Tutto quello che vuoi

NOV. 6 FRI., 2-3:30pm  Grant Writing Workshop for Grads with Steve Hill, Office of Fellowships

NOV. 6 FRI., 3:30pm  Workshop for French and Italian Faculty on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Teaching, presented by Omari Keeles, Asst. Director of Diversity and Inclusion at the Searle Center

NOV. 17, TUES., 6-8PM  Cine Club: 8 femmes

NOV. 20 FRI., 3:30-5pm  Racial Equity and Justice Reading Group II: Race Riots, Segregation, and the Fight for an Open City in Post-War Chicago: Literary and Historical Perspectives

DEC. 1 TUES., 4-5:30pm  Department Winter Party

The Department of FRENCH & ITALIAN

WINTER 2021 EVENTS

Wednesday, January 27, 6:00pm

Friday, February 5, 2:30pm

Thursday, February 18, 12:30pm

Thursday, February 18, 5:00pm

Friday, February 26, 12:30pm

Friday, March 5, 12:30pm (GRADUATE WORKSHOP)

Friday, March 5, 3:30pm (PUBLIC LECTURE)

Monday, March 8, 3:30pm

UNDERGRADUATE CONVERSATION EVENTS

Mondays 12:15-1:15pm

Monday, February 8, 5:30pm

Friday, March 5, 4:30pm
The Department of
FRENCH & ITALIAN
WINTER 2021 EVENTS

Italian Mini Film Series: Benvenuti al Sud

Racial Equity and Justice Reading Group
CO-ORGANIZED BY MAITE MARCIANO & JESSICA PASSOS

Graduate Student Colloquium
WITH ETIENNE LUSSIER & JESSICA PASSOS

Italian Mini Film Series: Benvenuti al Nord

Grad Student Career Development Event
WITH GENEVIEVE AMARAL & JESSICA NEUSHWANDER

Department Lecture & Workshop
FEATURING PETER SZENDY,
DAVID HERLHY PROFESSOR OF HUMANITIES AND
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AT BROWN UNIVERSITY

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Teaching: A Workshop for Graduate Students in the Department of French and Italian
PRESENTED BY OMARI KEELES, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT THE SEARLE CENTER

UNDERGRADUATE CONVERSATION EVENTS

La Table Française

Tavola Italiana: in giro per l’Italia

Tavola Italiana: Giochiamo a carte

The Department of
FRENCH & ITALIAN
SPRING 2021 EVENTS

Spring Quarter 2021 Events

Wednesday, April 14, 6PM
Italian Film Screening:
Nuovomondo (2009) by Emanuele Crialese

Friday, April 16, 3PM
Lecture by Emilia Di Rocco (Italian Fulbright Chair):
From the Region of Unlikeness to the Vision of God: Dante’s Journey as Prodigal Son in the Commedia

Wednesday, April 28, 12PM
Cinéma Direct Action:
1960s Student Activism in Francophone Documentary
(THREE FILMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR STREAMING A WEEK BEFORE)
Featuring Professors Nora Alter (Temple University) and Scott Durham (Northwestern), and Moderator Michael Metzger (Block Museum). Organized by Tamara Tasevska

Thursday, April 29, 6PM
Italian Mini Film Series: Terraferma

Wednesday, May 5, 4PM
Lecture by Professor Christy Wampole (Princeton):
Realism and Degeneration

Thursday, May 13, 5PM
Italian Cultural Event: Milano: Virtual Tour

Friday, May 21, 3:30PM
Racial Equity and Justice Reading Group:
Exploring Black Student Experience, Institutional Inequities, and Anti-Racism at Northwestern

Friday, May 28, 12PM
Graduate Workshop with Prof. Antonio Montefusco (Universita Ca’ Foscari Venezia):
Roman de la Rose and its use in Dante

Friday, May 28, 3PM
Lecture with Prof. Antonio Montefusco:
How a Franciscan Legend is Created: Saint Francis and the Wolf of Gubbio

Wednesday, June 2, 4:30PM
Undergraduate Awards Ceremony and Party

Friday, June 11, 3:30-5:00PM
Department Spring Party

Monday, June 14, 9:30PM
Reception for Graduating Seniors
The Department of FRENCH & ITALIAN presents

SHADOW ICONOMICS
and ROAD NETWORKS
of the VISIBLE

A lecture by

PETER SZENDY

DAVID HERLIHY
PROFESSOR OF HUMANITIES
AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
AT BROWN UNIVERSITY

Our world is increasingly saturated with images. Their number is growing so exponentially—on social networks and screens of all kinds—that the space in which we live is literally overflowing with images (we are approaching the limit which Walter Benjamin described as "a one hundred percent image space"). The question of storing or circulating them, their weight, the fluidity or viscosity of their exchanges, the fluctuations in their values—in short, the whole business of the image economy—is more relevant than ever. In order to analyze what is at stake in these new iconomics of our times, the lecture will offer a glimpse behind the scenes of visibility: on the one hand, into the road networks that route and reroute the circulation of images and gazes; on the other hand, into the history of shadows and their hidden transactions.

FRIDAY MARCH 5, 2021
3:30-5:00PM

HTTPS://NORTHWESTERN.ZOOM.US/J/96341943846

For more information please contact
french-italian@northwestern.edu
The Department of French & Italian presents

SHADOW ICONOMICS
and ROAD NETWORKS
of the VISIBLE

A graduate student workshop with

PETER SZENDY

DAVID HERLIHY
PROFESSOR OF HUMANITIES
AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
AT BROWN UNIVERSITY

PETER SZENDY is Professor of Comparative Literature and Humanities at Brown University and musicological advisor for the concert programs at the Paris Philharmony. He has taught in the Philosophy Department at the University of Paris Nanterre and in the Music Department at the University of Strasbourg. His works include The Supermarket of the Visible: Towards a General Economy of Images (Fordham University Press, 2019); Of Stigmatology: Punctuation as Experience (Fordham University Press, 2017); All Ears: The Aesthetics of Espionage (Fordham University Press, 2016); Apocalypse-Cinema: 2012 and Other Ends of the World (Fordham University Press, 2015).

FRIDAY MARCH 5, 2021
12:30-2:00PM* -SPACE IS LIMITED-

For workshop readings—two chapters from Szendy’s book, The Supermarket of the Visible—please see attachment or contact the Department of French & Italian

HTTPS://NORTHEASTERN.ZOOM.US/MEETING/REGISTER/TJMSDU2GRJOJGDMSQ5GB3-CYFABVQERE0C7

*Registration is required. Attendance will be limited to 25 registrants. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.
HOW A FRANCISCAN LEGEND IS CREATED:
SAINT FRANCIS AND THE WOLF OF Gubbio

A PUBLIC LECTURE BY

PROFESSOR ANTONIO MONTEFUSCO  Ca’ Foscari University, Venice

True, false, or fake? The story of the wolf of Gubbio, the most famous Franciscan story, leaves us facing this disturbing question, which is at the root of History. When the great historian Carlo Ginzburg questioned himself about the relationship between fiction and the narration of history, he asked us to take a clear position with regard to the truth of an account. The assertion of truth in historical research is all the more important today for the very reason that, all around us, falsehoods—or, at any rate, the appearance of false and unverified claims—are increasing at breakneck speed. We will explore the story of the wolf of Gubbio starting from a paradox. The well-known Franciscan story is attested for the first time in written form in a document produced only a century after the death of Saint-Francis: the Actus beati Francisci, source of the famous Fioretti. Even the figurative reception of the story is surprising: the meeting between the wolf and Francis was represented only in around 1380 in Tuscany. Drawing on extensive documentary and textual research, we will inquire into the reasons for this paradox. The lecture will take up Ginzburg’s warning, and ask, once again, if the story of the wolf is true, false, or fake.

FRIDAY, MAY 28

Graduate Workshop: 12:00-1:30PM • Public Lecture: 3:00-5:00PM

HTTPS://NORTHWESTERN.ZOOM.US/J/99713018654 Northwestern French and Italian
PROFESSOR ANTONIO MONTEFUSCO  CA' FOSCARI UNIVERSITY, VENICE

ROMAN DE LA ROSE AND ITS USE IN DANTE

Friday, MAY 28
Graduate Workshop: 12:00-1:30PM • Public Lecture: 3:00-5:00PM

https://northwestern.zoom.us/j/91865376572 Northwestern French and Italian
THE DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH & ITALIAN PRESENTS

REALISM AND DEGENERATION

A LECTURE BY

CHRISTY WAMPOLE
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY MAY 5, 2021, 4:00 PM
HTTPS://NORTHWESTERN.ZOOM.US/J/92426568129

This talk explores a strand of contemporary French literary realism Wampole calls “degenerative realism.” These narratives tell of the worsening of life in France, Europe, and the West, and the form of these novels tends to break down alongside the declining civilizations they describe. The most well-known authors who’ve produced degenerative realist fictions include Houellebecq, Beigbeder, Moix. and Bellanger. This talk presents a few examples from their work and the work of others and tries to explain why this pattern in contemporary French fiction has been so pervasive and consistent since the beginning of the new millennium.

ORGANIZED BY CLS/FRENCH GRADUATE STUDENT ELOISA BRESSAN.
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT ELOISABRESSAN2020@U.NORTHWESTERN.EDU OR FRENCH-ITALIAN@NORTHWESTERN.EDU
LE DÉPARTEMENT
DE FRANÇAIS ET D’ITALIEN
PRÉSENTE UNE CAUSERIE AVEC

NADIA MEFLAH

LES VISAGES
DE LA FRANCE

La France est riche d’une histoire plurielle qui touche autant aux populations qui y vivent qu’à l’histoire des territoires qui la constituent. Le cinéma français contemporain investit ce champs de l’histoire française, encore problématique pour certains. Comment les cinéastes mettent en scène la pluralité du récit national au prisme des identités ? Existe-t-il un genre particulier ? Le plafond de verre touche-t-il aussi la fiction, à savoir existe-t-il un genre prédéterminé pour tout ce qui relève de la diversité et du multiculturalisme ?

MARDI 20 OCTOBRE
11H15-12H45

Northwestern | French and Italian
RACIAL EQUITY AND JUSTICE READING GROUP

SESSION I:
Anti-Black Racism and its Critique in the U.S.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23
FROM 3:30 TO 5:00PM

Readings by
TA-NEHISI COATES | CAROL ANDERSON | SIMON BALTO | MICHELLE ALEXANDER | ROBIN DI ANGELO

For more information or a copy of the readings, please contact french-italian@northwestern.edu or d-garaway@northwestern.edu
RACIAL EQUITY AND JUSTICE READING GROUP

SESSION II:
Race Riots, Segregation, and the Fight for an Open City in Post-War Chicago: Literary and Historical Perspectives

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20 | 3:30-5PM

Readings by
Lorraine Hansberry | Simon Balto | James Baldwin

For more information or a copy of the readings, please contact french-italian@northwestern.edu or d-garraway@northwestern.edu
The Department of French & Italian presents

RACIAL EQUITY AND JUSTICE READING GROUP

ANTI-RACIST ACTIVISM IN FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES

Readings by

Mame-Fatou Niang | Sitay Lotem | Ibram Kendi

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5 | 2:30PM

For more information or a copy of the readings, please contact MaiteMarciano2019@u.northwestern.edu, JessicaPassos2020@u.northwestern.edu, or french-italian@northwestern.edu
The Department of French & Italian presents

Racial Equity and Justice Reading Group
EXPLORING BLACK STUDENT EXPERIENCE, INSTITUTIONAL INEQUITIES, AND ANTI-RACISM AT NORTHWESTERN

FRIDAY, MAY 21  |  3:30PM
For more information or a copy of the readings, please contact FRENCH-ITALIAN@NORTHWESTERN.EDU
Northwestern Department of French and Italian
In a year of immense challenges, it has been inspiring to serve as Director of Undergraduate Students in French. Though our students have faced many difficulties, all have shown remarkable grit and grace before the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which fundamentally altered the ways we normally learn and live. Under such conditions, study itself is an accomplishment. To all our students who attended class online, who learned in isolation or cramped quarters, who submitted coursework and engaged with readings and responded to classmates under trying circumstances, the department proudly celebrates your achievements.

Enthusiastic congratulations go to our 10 graduating French majors and minors of the Class of 2021: Troy Rhys Hattler, Shaunmei Lim, Stephanie Mbida, Rowan Cusack Miller, Marta Amador Molina, Katharina Nachtigall, Isaac Sears, Annika de Vogel, Chrisjon Willis, and Siqi (Michelle) Zhou.

The Department also recognizes the outstanding written work produced by our students this year. We celebrated the recipients of our various undergraduate essay prizes at our virtual Undergraduate Awards Ceremony in June. This year’s winners were: Natalia Wang (2nd-year language), Ingrid Falls (3rd-year language), Grayson Welo (3rd-year literature), Eric Powers (4th-year language), Halle Petrie (4th-year literature), Rowan Cusak Miller (French for the Professions), Annika de Vogel received the prize for Distinguished Essay Written in English on a French Subject, and Stephanie Mbida won the award for Distinguished Essay in French. Stephanie Mbida also earned the highest undergraduate distinction in French studies within the department—the AATF (American Association for Teachers of French) Outstanding Senior Prize. This prize is conferred on the senior with a record of excellent academic achievement as well as leadership skills and an exceptional commitment to the study of French outside the classroom. Congratulations, Stephanie!

Félicitations also to Sarah Fernández Tabet, who was inducted as a junior into the national honor society, Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest academic honors society, which elects students who demonstrate exceptional academic excellence, breadth of intellectual perspective, cultivation of capacities of deliberation and ethical reflection, and love of learning.

Numerous faculty members and students generously gave of their time and effort to ensure the exceptional quality of our undergraduate program in French: the members of the Undergraduate Committee (Christopher Davis and Marie-Thérèse Pent) and the Essay Prize Committee (Katia Viot-Southard, chair, Christopher Davis and Marie-Thérèse Pent), as well as our Honors Coordinator (Fay Rosner). The Department also thanks our Student Advisory Board representatives, Sarah Fernández Tabet and Chloe Ponzo, and the dedicated volunteer tutors who staffed the French Language Instructional Center: Nigel Chew, Marc Deneve, Pablo Morales, and Annika de Vogel.

Last but not least, I would like to thank our extraordinary staff members, Liz Murray, Phil Hoskins, and Lisa Byrnes, who lent their expertise and unwavering support to all undergraduate affairs and events. The Department’s deepest gratitude goes to our exceptional chair, Doris Garraway, whose steady and supportive hand at the helm led us through the challenges of this extraordinary year.

With best wishes,

Cynthia Nazarian
Director of Undergraduate Studies in French
Associate Professor of French
Interested in majoring or minoring in FRENCH?

The Department holds open advising sessions online throughout the year with

Professor CYNTHIA NAZARIAN
DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN FRENCH

And she is always available at NAZARIAN@northwestern.edu!
Come and have lunch (*meal plan required) while also practicing your French language skills, meeting other French speakers, and getting to know your fellow students and professors in a casual setting.

**Mondays 12-1pm Allison Dining Hall-Teaching Kitchen 1820 Chicago Ave**

_hosted by the International Studies Residential College (ISRC). For information about the French Table lunches, contact Margaret Dempster & Katia Voy-Southard_
Cercle Francophone

The cercle francophone is a student-organized club that meets on a regular basis to have an opportunity to speak French in a relaxed and fun setting. Activities include film screenings, preparing and enjoying French cuisine, guest speakers and outings to French cultural events in Chicago. For more information, please e-mail french-italian@northwestern.edu.

Fun French Videos & Tongue Twisters!

Les virelangues
Tongue Twisters

Thursday
May 27, 2021
5:00pm

Zoom info:
https://northwestern.zoom.us/j/92628817978
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

The shift to teaching online was a challenge but, overall, things went better than we expected. Even though the interpersonal relationships prompted by the in-person classes were missing, an empathic and collaborative environment was built day after day.

The need to redesign the language programs—to meet the constraints as well as benefit from the possibilities of the online format—was also an opportunity to rethink content components, ways to deliver instruction, and assessment. The practicum we attended in summer 2020 provided us with the resources necessary to implement Universal Design for Learning (ULD) and to make our language courses more accessible, universal, and inclusive.

In order to supply what was missing from the face-to-face environment, we paid special attention to interaction and collaboration and maximized the use of Zoom built-in tools like chat, screen sharing, whiteboard, and breakout rooms. Also, engagement and sense of community were strengthened by the cultural events that we continued to offer remotely. Film screenings and the Tavola Italiana meetings were well attended and became forums for discussing relevant cultural themes beyond the classroom.

Finally, in order to compensate for the cancellation of the study abroad programs, to expose our students to different perspectives, to provide all of them with an international experience, and to encourage them to practice their spoken Italian, we created an exchange with the Liceo Scientifico di Fano (Winter 2021) and Università del Piemonte Orientale (Spring 2021). Our students at the intermediate level met regularly with their Italian peers and spoke alternatively in Italian and in English for 20-30 minutes on topics of their choice related to themes introduced in class.

A lot of time, commitment, and care went into the teaching and learning experience last year. We made huge efforts to preserve the best elements of the in-person education, to adapt to the online framework, and to innovate the curriculum. As we return to campus and re-engage face-to-face, we look forward to retaining and improving all the pedagogical and technological elements that transformed an unpredictable crisis into a success.

Paola Morgavi
Director of the Italian Language Program
Professor of Instruction in Italian

FALL QUARTER 2021 ITALIAN COURSES!

ITALIAN 101-1 20
-21
-22

Elementary Italian

ITALIAN 102-1 20
-21
-22

Intermediate Italian

ITALIAN 133-1 134-1

Intensive Italian
It has been a honour and pleasure to serve as the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Italian in 2020/2021. Even this year, we faced great challenges but all our students and Faculty worked hard to continue our educational journey at Northwestern. We have also become stronger as individuals and as a community, accepting our weaknesses, caring for others, holding on to hope. Our students have shown that dedication to learning is stronger than the challenges we faced. They kept engaged even if we were physically distant: reading, writing, sharing views, building their knowledge and ours. They have been true to one of the most famous of Italian verses:

‘YOU WERE NOT MADE TO LIVE LIKE BRUTES BUT TO PURSUE VIRTUE AND KNOWLEDGE’
(Inferno XXVI: 119-120)

These words, uttered by Ulysses in Dante’s *Inferno*, are, for most readers, words that celebrate intellectual curiosity; they speak of knowledge as a value that keeps us human, that makes us better. I was elated to see that our students have continued to pursue knowledge and virtue, to do better, not just for themselves but for the community.

All students in our classes produced first-class work, contributing in meaningful ways to discussions and activities. At the Undergraduate Awards Ceremony, which took place the end of the academic year, the following students were awarded the “Outstanding Achievement in Italian”: Kenneth Ryu (Elementary Italian), Chayda Harding (Intermediate Italian), Molly Van Gorp (Intensive Italian), Will Tansky, Grace Beste and Caitilin Carr-Smith (200-level in Italian), as well as Maddie Malueg (300-level in Italian). In addition, at the French and Italian Commencement Celebration, the accomplishments and the success of our minor—Julia Loverde—was recognized. A warm thank you goes to Julia Loverde, who served as Student Advisory Board representative. Also, special thanks to our two tutors: Melanie De Vincentis and Sarah Koluga.

All our students participated enthusiastically in the extracurricular activities that our faculty generously organized and which included a successful film screening series organized by Professor MASSIMILIANO DELFINO. The Department was also honoured to host three research talks on Italian medieval culture by Professor Antonio Montefusco from the University of Ca’ Foscari Venice and by Fulbright Distinguished Chair, Prof. Emilia di Rocco of La Sapienza University, Rome.

My warmest thanks go also to our faculty members who have made this a memorable year in spite of the difficulties we continued to face.

Paola Nasti
Director of Undergraduate Studies in Italian
Associate Professor of Italian
The Tavola Italiana events that we organized in the 2020/21 academic year as usual allowed students to connect outside of class and learn about new facets of Italian culture.

Students met via zoom, and we spoke about the Italian passion for coffee and how to make great coffee with an Italian moka. We also discussed how Italians meet for aperitivi and apericene, what they eat on those occasions, and shared tasty recipes with participants. Students furthermore learned how to speak using Italian gestures (gesti), and how to conduct a short conversation without uttering a word! A virtual walking tour of Milan and Rome showed students what it would be like to be in the streets of these two amazing cities, and a further event taught students secrets and curiosities of Milan. Students also learned how to play a popular Italian card game called “scopa,” and challenged each other in online matches!

We cannot wait to have more fun next year. A presto!

MASSIMILIANO DELFINO
The Department of French & Italian invites you to

Tavola Italiana

topic: “Giociamo a carte”
(Let’s play cards)

Friday March 5
4:30-5:30 pm
Zoom info forthcoming

Northwestern | French and Italian

MILANO:
HIDDEN STORIES

Featuring Guest Speaker
MARCO DISCALZI

Thursday May 13, 5-6PM

HTTPS://NORTHWESTERN.ZOOM.US//93074502347

STUDY ITALIAN!
at Northwestern University

Northwestern | French and Italian
During the 2020/21 academic year, the Film Series continued to showcase entertaining and informative Italian films. All films were shown via group online streaming and were attended by a large number of students. In the fall quarter, we showed a film on the Sicilian mafia, *La mafia uccide solo d’estate*, and a film about cross-generational understanding, *Tutto quello che vuoi*. In the winter quarter, students watched two comedies, *Benvenuti al sud* and *Benvenuti al nord*, which reflected on cultural stereotypes, cross-cultural understanding and friendship. In the spring quarter, we showed two films on migration: *Nuovomondo*, on the Italian migrants who left for the United States at the beginning of the 20th century, and *Terraferma*, on the recent waves of immigration to Italy from North Africa. Students thus could learn more about Italian culture and its history while discussing themes that centered around diversity, inclusion, and intercultural understanding. We hope to be returning to showing films in person soon!

MASSIMILIANO DELFINO
The Department of FRENCH & ITALIAN presents

**Benvenuti al Sud**
Un Film di Luca Miniero

Claudio Bisio  Alessandro Siani
Angela Finocchiaro  Valentina Lodovini  Nando Paone

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 6:00pm

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The Department of FRENCH & ITALIAN presents

**Benvenuti al Nord**
Un Film di Luca Miniero

Thursday, February 18, 2021

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The Department of FRENCH & ITALIAN presents

**NUOVOMONDO**
April 14, 6:00-8:00pm

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The Italian Mini Film Series: A Virtual Screening of

**Terraferma**
a film by EMANUELE CRIALESE

April 29, 6:00-8:00pm

English subtitles. Short discussion to follow. Open to all students. No registration required.
Rosa la Rose is the French & Italian literary magazine featuring student-submitted writing, poetry, artwork, and photography. Unfortunately, we were not able to produce a printed version for 2020-2021, but Professor MARIE-THÉRÈSE PENT was able to collect some of our students exceptional work for a presentation at the department’s Spring End-of-Year Undergraduate celebration. Included here are some selections from that presentation.

COS’È UNA FAMIGLIA?

SIENNA CAMMAROTA
PROFESSOR MORGAVI

È un gruppo che offre sincerità, sicurezza, solidarietà—qualche volta anche severità.

Non sono sempre tradizionali. Possono essere composte da parenti, solo amici, o forse anche conoscenti.

Una famiglia può crescere, come un grande albero, o può ridursi, ma non è meno sincera. Ma, cosa più importante di tutte, Una famiglia è chi vive per amarti.

Sais-tu pourquoi j’aime rêver sous les paupières fermées
Je vois les cieux lumineux
Nous marchons, nos mains entrelacées
À travers un champ d’arbres à feuilles persistantes
Dans la boue, nous laissons des traces
Nos empreintes s’embrassent
Mon talon est exposé, mais pour un autre baiser
Je prends le risque
Et enfermé dans la lumière, ensemble,
Je recommence à me sentir entier
Ignorant, je fais semblant
C’est un nouveau départ

Sais-tu pourquoi j’aime rêver sous les paupières fermées
Je vois les draps froissés que nous gardons proches
Lèvres douces pressent contre une toile tachetée
Les bouts des doigts qui tracent au-delà de mon regard
Contre le lit, les souvenirs reviennent
Un conflit interne et actif
Ne rate pas la liberté
Ne rate pas la force
Mais la chaleur disparaîtra
Et la douleur restera
Ignorant, je fais semblant
C’est un nouveau départ

Alors que le soleil se lève au-dessus, la réalité se révèle
Seulement une salle de silence pour entendre quand je proteste
Et avec ma tête baissée, je reconnais la vérité,

Moi,
Et,
Toi,
Séparés
Alors je succombe à la chance de me réunir comme un
J’imagine ton visage,
Encore je rêve de nous

SAIS-TU
POURQUOI J’AIME RÊVER
GRAYSON WELLO
PROFESSOR LICOPS
La somme des êtres humains est belle.
Nous sommes tous des miraculés
Nous avons échappé au désastre d’être communs
Nous avons tous des victoires et pertes

Les actions des autres sont belles.
Le sanglot isolé dans un hôpital
Les cris en courant dans un parc
Les soupirs quand la journée se termine
La somme des espoirs est belle.
On veut découvrir qui nous sommes
On veut une maison, des enfants, de l’argent
On veut soigner ceux qu’on aime

Je ne sais pas comment se passe la vie
Si ça en vaut toujours un peu la peine
Si après il y a le paradis
Si toujours on sera enchainé

La vie est complètement la chance
La famine et les horreurs ne lâchent pas
Les autres qui veulent voler
L’amour ne trouve pas d’asile
Nous ne savons pas le bien qu’on a
Jusqu’après qu’il est parti
Saurons-nous quoi chasser

On dit que le foyer est ouvert
Mais avec toujours une condition
Les barbelés sont pointus et macabres
Le système endeuille et épuisée

On dit que les solutions sont simples
Que la peur et l’angoisse ne comptent pas
Que les enquêtes ne mènent à rien
Que Chapeau ! On a tout sacrifié.

On dit qu’on ne peut faire plus
Que l’aube, là, est déjà finie
La crue est venue et passée
Qu’on ne peut plus réagir

Mais quand même les gens MEURENT !
Et la colère est une réaction digne !
UNE BELLE VIE

ECE AGALAR
PROFESSOR PENT

Tu te réveilles, un jour maussade,
Tu penses à toi,
Un jour agaçant...
Tu penses que ça c’est un jour agaçant,
Jusqu’à ce que tu sois trop faible pour sortir et que tu ne puisses même pas faire le tour en marchant.

Tu veux avoir une vie sociale, mais tes responsabilités sont abondantes,
Tu penses à toi,
Une vie isolée...
Tu penses que ça c’est une vie isolée,
Jusqu’à ce qu’un virus arrive et enferme tout le monde au frais.
Tu sors, tu manges dans le restaurant qui te plaît,
Tu as le pouvoir de faire toutes les choses que tu souhaites,
Acheter des vêtements et des chaussures et des bijoux que tu désires,
Mais oh mon dieu ! Cette paire de baskets est chère...
Tu penses à toi,
Une vie inéquitable...
Tu penses que ça c’est une vie inéquitable,
Jusqu’à ce que tu vois ces réfugiés mourir dans l’océan un par un.

Réalise que la vie est belle !

Tu es en bonne santé, en sécurité et aimé;
avec des personnes de toute beauté.

Alors, profite de la vie, arrête de te plaindre,
Accroche-toi à tout ce que tu as, avant de tout perdre.
La lingua italiana per me è la musica, è l’arte,
La bellezza, l’ingegno, la moda, l’eleganza e la storia.

Come una amica o una famiglia unita,
nonostante i nostri errori,
ci invita sempre a discorrere con Lei.
The Department of French & Italian
Northwestern University

Kenneth Ryu
Outstanding Achievement in Italian 101

Chayda Harding
Outstanding Achievement in Italian 102

Molly Van Gorp
Outstanding Achievement in Italian 133 & 134

Will Tanski
Outstanding Achievement in Italian 200 (in Italian)

Caitlin Carr-Smith
Outstanding Achievement in Italian 200 (in English)

Grace Beste
Outstanding Achievement in Italian 200 (in Italian)

Maddie Malueg
Outstanding Achievement in Italian 300

Julia Loverde
Student Advisory Board Representative, Italian

In Recognition of Outstanding Achievement in Italian and contributions to the department, the Department of French & Italian extends our gratitude.

Sincerely,

Doris L. Garraway
Department Chair

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The Department of French & Italian
Northwestern University

Annika de Vogel
A Man Escaped, but the Wind Blows Where It Wishes. Free Will, Grace, Immanence, and Transcendence in Du Gourmandin à mort s’est échappé

Stéphanie Mbida
L’âge de l’Instagram: comment l’espace virtuel change le monde réel

Natalia Wang
Réflexion sur l’immigration

Ingrid Falls
S’il meurt selon moi

Grayson Weil
Sais-tu pourquoi j’aime rêver

Eric Powers
La lune est rouge ce soir. peut-être orange…

Halle Petrie
Echapper à la mauvaise foi

Rowan Cusack Miller
Comparaison: Le système de santé au Mali et aux États-Unis

Stéphanie Mbida
AATF Outstanding Senior Award: The American Association of Teachers of French Outstanding Senior Award is given to a graduating French major with an outstanding GPA and a demonstrated extracurricular commitment to the department and French studies

Siggi (Michelle) Zhou
Senior Marshall: The Senior Marshall is a French major who is not only strong academically, but who also has made important contributions to the life and community of the department

Sarah Fernandez
Student Advisory Board Representative, French

Chloe Ponzo
Student Advisory Board Representative, French

In Recognition of Outstanding Achievement in French and contributions to the department, the Department of French & Italian extends our gratitude.

Sincerely,

2020-21

Doris L. Garraway
Department Chair
CONGRATULATIONS

Class of 2021!!

With all our support and appreciation, from the Department of French & Italian

The Department of

FRENCH & ITALIAN
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!
Your generous support and contributions help make possible all that we do. Thank you.