

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2021-22 was the year we came back to campus. This was no small feat, requiring that we re-adapt our pedagogy to a changed inperson environment and a new policy landscape amidst the rise of ever more threatening COVID variants. Given these continued challenges, it would have been enough to simply survive the year or get as close to "normal" as possible after a year and a half of being virtual. Yet, our department did much more than that. We became better teachers, gained greater recognition for our research, reinvigorated our intellectual community, and opened our doors to a record number of visiting and adjunct faculty. What is more, we engaged in an unprecedented inquiry into issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion in the pedagogical and intellectual mission of our department.

Among our faculty's many accomplishments in research, Alessia Ricciardi was invested with the Herman and Beulah Pearce Miller Research professorship in WCAS and she went on to win the American Association of Italian Studies Book Prize for her third book, Finding Ferrante, Authorship and the Politics of World Literature (Columbia University Press, 2021). Chris Bush received a yearlong fellowship from National Endowment for the Humanities for his book project "Unexpected Apparitions: The Modernist Haiku as World Literature." Domietta Torlasco was featured in numerous talks and promotional appearances for her 2021 book, The Rhythm of Images: Cinema Beyond Measure (University of Minnesota Press, 2021), her recently released film essay Garfield Park, USA, and her new book project on time, matter, and race. This year also marked the launch of Flipped French, the groundbrwweaking next-generation digital textbook for second-year French authored by Aude Raymond, Christiane Rey, and Patricia Scarampi. Special congratulations to Aude, in particular, on her well-deserved promotion to Professor of Instruction.

In teaching, our faculty consolidated the lessons learned from remote instruction and brought new ideas to the classroom. We also welcomed an uncommonly large number of visiting faculty and adjuncts this year, including Michelangelo Zaccarello, distinguished Fulbright Chair in Italian Studies, and Anne Emmannuelle Berger, the Edith Kreeger Wolf Distinguished Visiting Professor in French at Northwestern. Through their pathbreaking research and inspiring teaching, Michelangelo and Anne both substantially enriched our intellectual community in the spring quarter. Earlier in the year, we were joined by PhD graduate Tamara Tasevksa as a Visiting Assistant Professor and by Italian lecturer Anna Maria Fantuzzi, as well as French lecturer Maggie O'Brien. This, in addition to advanced grad student adjuncts Maïté Marciano, Ibou Tall, and Noran Mohamed.



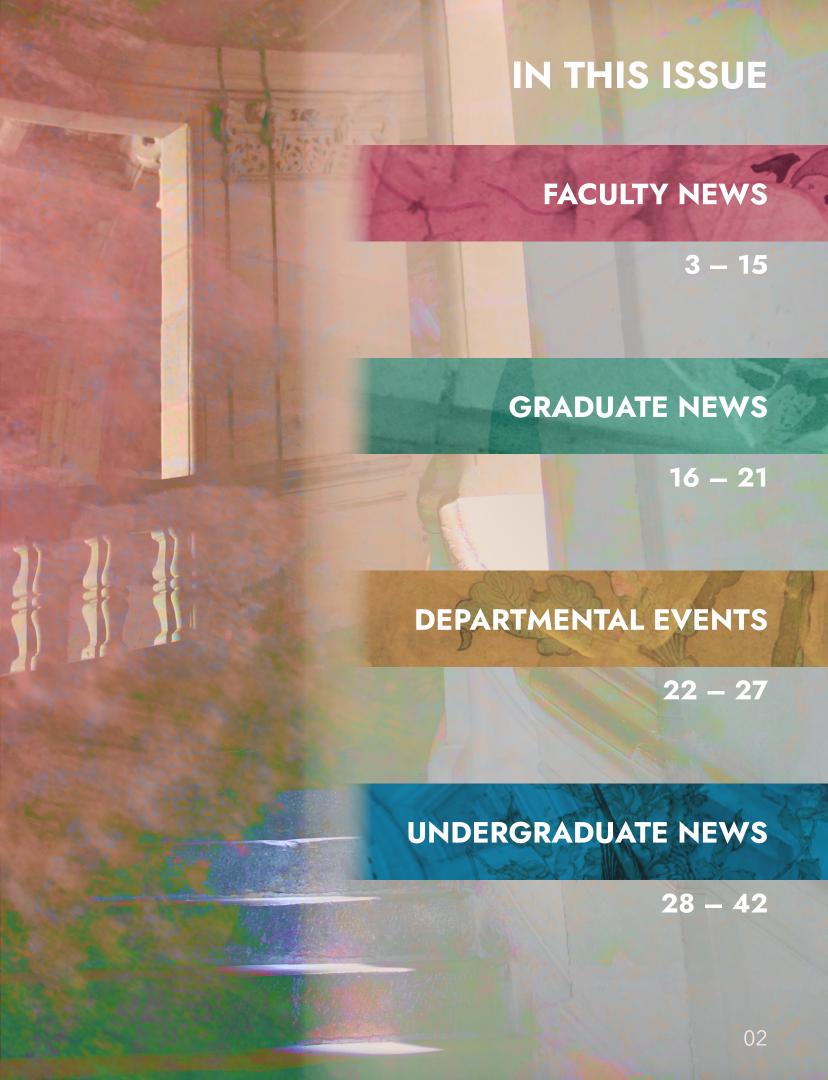
Along with our visiting faculty, we invited numerous speakers to our department, thus bringing our events to pre-pandemic levels. Highlights include a lecture and graduate workshop by NYU's Hannah Freed-Thall, a series of events exploring nonbinary gender inclusivity in Italian and French, a faculty colloquium with Domietta Torlasco, lectures by visiting professors Zaccarello and Berger, and a series of events on gender, sexuality, and feminism featuring Anne Berger. We also enjoyed the full return of *Rosa La Rose*, a literary magazine featuring work by undergraduates in French and Italian, at our end-of-year celebration.

Such a successful return to campus would not have been possible without the hard work of our faculty, our program leadership, our graduate students, and our staff. Hearty thanks to Nasrin Qader for her highly engaged and inspiring direction of the graduate program, to Cynthia Nazarian and Paola Nasti for their consistently motivating and imaginative leadership of our undergraduate programs and for growing our undergraduate numbers so steadily, and to Margaret Dempster and Paola Morgavi for expertly guiding our language programs through yet another year of transition. Thanks also to our staff — Liz Murray, Lisa Byrnes, and our newest member, Leon Hedstrom, for their astonishing dedication and unflagging support of our endeavors.

As the year came to a close, we celebrated the illustrious careers of Alessandra Visconti and Jane Winston, two of the greatest teachers our department has known. Jane's singular commitment to our students and colleagues, to the profession, and to the substantial intellectual questions to which she devoted her research will inspire us for years to come. Similarly, we will always remember Alessandra's steadfast dedication to the Italian program, her passion for equity, or her utter kindness. As we wish them well, we also look forward to new arrivals and other transitions. In the fall, we will welcome Daniele Biffanti, Ph.D. Stanford, as Assistant Professor of Instruction in Italian, and Michal Ginsburg, who will teach a graduate seminar for us as emeritus professor.

As I myself step down after a three-year term, I would like to thank the faculty, graduate students, and staff for everything you have done to support our collective mission as well as my initiatives as chair. In addition to assisting our faculty and graduate students through COVID, we achieved course load equity for our language faculty, while also exploring anti-racism, equity, and inclusion in the department for the first time. There will surely be more good things to come, thanks to our colleague Nasrin Qader, who fortuitously said yes to our department in its time of need. I cannot imagine a more experienced, talented, or charismatic leader for the coming year, and I wish her and all of you the best as you forge our path ahead in a post-COVID universe.





## **FACULTY NEWS**

In the first half of 2022, **CHRISTOPHER BUSH** presented papers at the Modern Language Association, the conference "1922/2022—Total Modernism" in Torino, Italy, and the congress of the International Comparative Literature Association. In the fall, he will present at the European Avantgrade and Modernist Studies conference in Lisbon, and the symposium "Fugitive Proust" at New York University. He has articles forthcoming in *Esprit créateur* (on Proust) and the *T. S. Eliot Studies Annual* in fall 2022, and is currently working on a book project on the modernist haiku, supported by a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Over the course of his second year at Northwestern, MASSIMILIANO DELFINO presented his research on Italian cinema at the SCMS conference and the Popular Culture Association National Conference, and presented on intercultural communicative competence at an ICC conference at University of Notre Dame. He joined the Study Abroad Committee on the Council for Language Instruction and attended several pedagogical workshops offered by the Searle Center. He also acted as facilitator for the Searle Center's Excellence in Teaching Alliance. In the department, he helped organize the Italian Film Series, and co-organized a departmental workshop on the gender binary in the Italian language that featured a keynote speech by Cecilia Robustelli. He is currently working toward the completion of his first monograph on representations of terrorism in Italian films and literature, and his first collection of poetry.

**MARGARET DEMPSTER** continues in her second year as Director of the French Language Program (DLP). While serving in this role, she enjoys working closely with the Chair of the French and Italian Department as well as colleagues, graduate teaching assistants, and undergraduate students.

This past year, in collaboration with her colleagues, Dominque Licops, Paola Morgavi, and Massimiliano Delfino, Margaret organized the Reading Group, "French and Italian language teaching and non-binary gender identities" and welcomed guest speakers in February 2022. Throughout the academic year, she also actively participated in various meetings and workshops on diversity, equity, and inclusion in teaching.

During her teaching quarter sabbatical in Spring 2022, Margaret traveled to France where she carried out research, interviews, and professional development primarily for her French 309: French for the Professions course, "Français des Affaires." In May 2022, she completed a workshop in Cannes, France, and learned innovative ways to incorporate video and film in the

classroom. Having the opportunity to attend several films at the Cannes Film Festival, she even shared the experience with the actors and the directors of the films! To fulfill her passion for running and community, she ran her second Paris Marathon as well as several 10K races with friends in Paris.

In July 2022, Margaret attended the annual American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) convention in New Orleans where she participated in sessions and successfully presented, with her colleague, Aude Raymond, their talk entitled, "Le travail, c'est la santé!"

When not teaching or acting as DLP, Margaret loves to travel, read, collect books, watch foreign films, and run! Since 2009, Margaret leads a pace group for the Chicago Area Runners Association and is training for the Chicago Marathon on October 9, 2022.

MATTHIEU DUPAS participated in several conferences this year. The first, organized by the University of Paris VII, was particularly thrilling. Entitled "Sexualities," it brought together both psychoanalysts and scholars in the humanities working on gender and sexuality to consider the issue of sexual diversity. He gave a presentation on Théophile de Viau's "Sodomite Sonnet," for which the poet was sentenced to death. Within our department, he gave a talk at the graduate colloquium organized during prospective student weekend. His presentation addressed the aesthetics and politics of sexual representations in French gay author Guillaume Dustan's autofictions. He also participated in a panel discussion he co-organized with Professor Doris Garraway around Anne Emmanuelle Berger's The Queer Turn in Feminism, where he discussed what he thought were the most salient points of the author's argument.



While chairing the department, DORIS L. GARRAWAY continued work on her book manuscript, Liberty's Print, Performance, and Theopolitical Sovereignty in the Haitian Kingdom of Henry Christophe. In November 2021, she delivered a lecture for the University of Pennsylvania's Department of French and Francophone Studies on "The Silencing of Slave Revolution in Postrevolutionary Haiti." This lecture was based on new research on the alliances between ex-slave insurgents and free people of color in Saint-Domingue in the early 1790s. revisions to her article, "Raising the Living Dead in Postrevolutionary Haiti: Glory, Salvation, and Theopolitical Sovereignty in the Kingdom of Henry Christophe," which is forthcoming in the journal, Atlantic Studies. She also spent a portion of the summer writing a summary report on anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion in the department. She will be on research leave during the academic year 2022-2023.

Autumn 2021 was intense. **PAOLA NASTI** is proud to have created and taught a new course on migration and transnationality in Italian culture and history (Voyage to Italy) which invited students to reflect on issues of identity, power, language, trauma, and nostalgia. Being a medievalist, teaching this course has been a great but worthy challenge and Paola owes its success to wonderful students.

Before the end of 2021 Paola was involved in several conferences organized to celebrate Dante's 700th anniversary. The highlight was a public keynote lecture ('Riteologizzare Dante?') that Paola gave for the Istituzione Biblioteca Classense of Ravenna. A written version of this lecture will soon appear in Letture Classensi. Dante oltre il centenario. Nuove prospettive per gli studi danteschi internazionali, vol. 50, a cura di G. Ledda, Ravenna: Longo, 2022 (forthcoming). Paola also gave talks for the Societa' Dantesca in Florence and at the UCLA conference titled "Afterlives: Dante in Dialogue with East Asian Buddhism." A few weeks before, Paola also had fun recording a video-dialogue for the Dante Society of America with her colleague Professor Maldina (University of Bologna) on St Francis in Dante's Paradiso. Recording is not easy!

In Spring 2022, Paola had the chance to go to sunny Rome for a conference organized by Notre Dante and see the city teeming again with tourists and people.

Between September and May, these chapters Paola authored finally saw the light: "The Monarchia," in Dante's Other Works, ed. by Z.G. Baranski and T. Cachey, 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 Convivo 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. She has submitted "Biblical Signa and Dante's Words: for a Taxonomy of Biblical Intertextuality in the Comedy," in In the Footsteps of Dante, ed. by T. Bartolomei S.E. J. Tolentino de Mendonça, Berlin: De Gruyter, 2022 (forthcoming) and she is currently working on several projects: an edited collection with Professor Duba: "The Schools of the Religious Orders and the Disputations of the Philosophers," Academic Culture and Knowledge Exchange in Dante's Time, ed. by W. Duba and P. Nasti, Notre Dame: Notre Dame University Press, 2023 (forthcoming), and a chapter which will be included in this volume "Erudition and Popular Culture in Dante and Remigio de Girolami's Quaestiones (Ms G3. 456)." Paola is also finalizing two additional articles, one on voice in Dante and another which is a bibliographical essay on Dante and religious studies. Paola looks forward to finishing all of this work and teaching more Dante to NU students.

**DANIELA POZZI PAVAN** has been busy in the past year. In addition to being nominated to serve as the new CLI Advisory Board Representative for French and Italian, she also organized several well-attended workshops on inclusivity and diversity in the language classroom in her

# **FACULTY NEWS**

capacity as co-chair of the Meeting and Orientation Committee (MOC), and she participated in the three-week Practicum on Inclusive Teaching. Thanks to this workshop, and the inspiring cohort discussions she participated in, Daniela was able to review the language curricula for racial bias and cultural insensitivity and foster substantive changes and enhance the degree of equity and inclusivity of her pedagogy. Daniela was also invited to present a new pedagogical project at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore of Milan, Italy. This project, based on the analysis of the movie Bangla, directed by the second-generation Italian Phiam Buyian, aims at guiding students to foster the three modes of communication while delving into the intricate topic of identity and integration. In the spring, Daniela was also invited as a panelist to participate in the TeachX panel titled "The Next Normal: Teaching in a Post-Remote World." Together with four other faculty members from different disciplines, panelists presented on how their remote and in-person teaching experiences informed each other and how the pandemic experience fundamentally changed their teaching or attitude about teaching. Daniela was also a panelist at a Northwestern IT Extended Staff Meeting, where she spoke, alongside two other faculty members, on the topic of teaching in a postremote world.



Domietta Torlasco, Garfield Park, USA

In the last year, **DOMIETTA TORLASCO** has screened her new film essay Garfield Park, USA at a number of venues, including the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, the Block Cinema at Northwestern University, the Slought Foundation, the Centre for Postcolonial and Gender Studies at the University of Naples "L'Orientale," and at the Centre for Humanities Research at the University of the Western Cape. Combining original footage, archival clips, and interviews, Garfield Park, USA unfolds as a work-in-progress, reframing narratives of crime and criminality by looking at Chicago as a palimpsest of borderlines and an overlay of patterns of exploitation. These are the consequence of measures that reach back to the origins of racial capitalism. The film thus asks us to think about how close to the surface history sits in cities, despite the decades of modernisation aimed at erasing it from vision, and about our own complex relationships to the spaces and communities we inhabit.

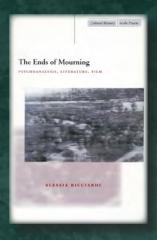
# FEATURED FACULTY ALESSIA RICCIARDI

**Congratulations** to Alessia Ricciardi on her investiture as the Herman and Beulah Pearce Miller Research Professor in Literature on March 10, 2022!

Alessia is best known by members of our department for her award-winning and highly influential books and her broad-ranging teaching, through which she consistently engages with the most pressing ethical, political, and theoretical concerns in the humanities and the culture at large. Alessia has also established herself as a leader in program-building and administration in three fields of inquiry: Italian Studies, Comparative Literary Studies, and Psychoanalysis. This, in addition to maintaining strong intellectual and institutional commitments to continental philosophy, film studies, political philosophy, and gender studies, among other fields of inquiry.

A graduate of the Ph.D. program in Comparative Literature at Yale University, with previous training in Psychoanalysis and Philosophy at the Sorbonne in Paris and at the University of Pisa, Italy, Alessia has held regular and visiting appointments at a number of prestigious institutions including UC Berkeley and the University of Paris VIII. She has also been a senior fellow a the IFK International Research Center for Cultural Knowledge of the Kunstuniverstat Linz in Vienna, Austria. At Northwestern, Alessia has made her greatest impact over more than two decades in the Departments of French and Italian and Comparative Literary Studies. Along the way, she has produced a powerful intellectual oeuvre marked by sweeping theoretical erudition, astute close readings, and uncompromising critiques of the political and ethical bankruptcy of our contemporary culture, corrupted by capitalist consumer society and the mass media.

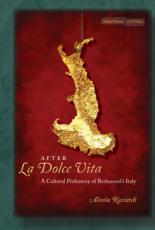
her first book, The Ends of Mourning: Psychoanalysis, Film (Stanford UP, 2003), Alessia posed the question: What happens to mourning in a world in which the dominant popular culture seeks either to avoid or deny loss, together with the historical past, or portray it as a mere spectacle to be consumed in the cultural marketplace? Seeing in postmodernism, as represented by the theoretical and literary masterpieces of Jacques Lacan and Marcel Proust, a problematic complicity with late capitalism's flight from mourning, as well as from any serious engagement with the morally and politically transformative powers of art, Alessia indicts postmodernism's failure to "provide a nuanced, ethical response to the claims of the past." By contrast, she proposes Jacques Derrida's category of spectrality as a compelling alternative to postmodernism's commodified forms of nostalgia. Beginning with an account of the problematic of mourning in the transition between modernism and postmodernism, the book thus goes on to explore the poetic and cinematic oeuvre of Pier Paolo Pasolini and Jean-Luc Godard as models of a critical and creative process that reveals the presence of the past neither as a melancholic recuperation, nor a consumerist



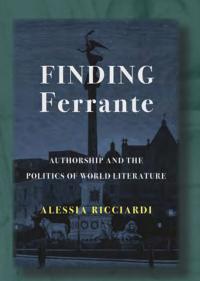
recycling, but rather as an event that opens up an ethically and politically hopeful future. This book garnered Alessia the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Comparative Literary Studies from the Modern Language Association.

Alessia's book, After La Dolce Vita: A Cultural Prehistory of Berlusconi's Italy (Stanford UP, 2012), also a winner of the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize in Italian Studies, extends her critique of the dominant capitalist consumer culture. This time, she examines the leftist intellectual establishment's failure in 1980s Italy to provide an adequate bulwark against this trend,

retreating instead behind a nihilist form of postmodernism. Examining several instances of what she considers to be the demise of the Italian Left in film, literature, philosophy, and art criticism, After La Dolce Vita provides trenchant readings of works by Fellini, Calvino, Vattimo, and Bonito Oliva.



# FEATURED FACULTY ALESSIA RICCIARDI



This past year, Alessia added a third book to her bibliography, one that breaks new ground and establishes her as the leading specialist of the bestselling contemporary Italian writer Elena Ferrante. In *Finding Ferrante: Authorship and the Politics of World Literature* (Columbia UP, 2021), Alessia addresses the mystery surrounding the pseudonymous author to show how the problem of authorship is deeply intertwined with the novels' literary ambition and politics. Going beyond the local and national cultures of Naples and Italy, she foregrounds Ferrante's engagement with German literature and criticism, particularly that of Goethe, Walter Benjamin, and Christa Wolf, along with Italian thinkers such as Antonio Gramsci, Carla Lonzi, and the Milan Women's Bookstore Collective. Furthermore, through her extensive readings of Ferrante's treatment of sexuality, work, politics, and place, Alessia elucidates the author's deep concern with feminist and cultural politics and the ethical and political stakes of literature.

These books, substantial as they are, comprise only a portion of Alessia's many publications, which encompass dozens of articles, book chapters, reviews and translations. And yet, Alessia has also made important contributions through the leadership roles she has assumed in the College and beyond. In recent years, she has not only co-founded and co-directed a highly successful Summer Institute of Psychoanalysis and Media, with her colleague, Isabelle Alfandary of the Sorbonne Nouvelle, she is a two-time director of the Program in Comparative Literature, where she has solidified the ranking of the graduate program as one of the best in the country. What is more, Alessia has been a leader in the efforts in our department to expand the faculty of the Italian section to include a Dante specialist. Thanks to her efforts, Northwestern now boasts one of the most distinguished Italian undergraduate programs in the nation.



In light of these and many other accomplishments, therefore, the College bestowed on Alessia this tremendous honor, which was celebrated during an investiture ceremony on March 10, 2022. The ceremony was attended by most all of the faculty in French and Italian.

**Doris L. Garraway** 

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT ANNE EMMANUELLE BERGER

Thanks to the support of Dean Adrian Randolph and Associate Dean Ann Bradlow, our department hosted Professor Anne Emmanuelle Berger as the Edith Kreeger Wolf Distinguished Visiting Professor in Weinberg College for Spring Quarter 2022. The Kreeger Wolf Visiting Professorship brings scholars to Northwestern who will "deepen students' familiarity with fields of study fostered largely by women, and with the realms of knowledge that emerge when the role and treatment of women is included." Previously, Anne Berger held positions as Professor of French Literature at Cornell University, as well as Professor of Gender Studies and French Literature at the University of Paris 8 Vincennes -Saint-Denis, where she co-chaired the Centre d'études féminines et d'études de genre and directed the Institut du Genre. She is the author of several books and edited volumes on modern and contemporary French literature, poetics, and philosophy, including, most recently, The Queer Turn in Feminism: Identities, Sexualities, and the Theater of Gender (Fordham University Press, 2014). During her visit with us, Anne taught a highly successful graduate course and participated in three stimulating events that brought together students and faculty at Northwestern and beyond. As such, she became an important presence in our department and helped us fully recover our intellectual community after COVID. In what follows, graduate student Fanny Marchaisse shares her insights into what made each of these events so compelling.

Visiting professor Anne Emmanuelle Berger went on an intellectually enriching voyage with her Northwestern students during spring 2022. From life sciences to cultural theory, from philosophy to politics, Berger showcased how the human body has been the focus, object, or target of unprecedented attention in the 20th- and 21st-centuries. Via psychoanalysis, phenomenology, cultural anthropology, gender theory, neurosciences,

and ecocriticism, Berger presented the importance of the shifts in the epistemology of the body. In doing so, she enabled students to see the evolution of this notion of embodiment unfold amongst critical thinkers. Through Freud's de-biologization of the human body, then Beauvoir's sexed/sexual body of second-wave feminism, and later Butler's post-feminist gendered body, the students were

able to reach Fanon and Foucault's concept of "body politics." The idea of beyond the nature/culture divide was discussed via Haraway's work, and Berger finished this quarter by pushing the idea of the body to its utter limit and beyond with Haraway and Halberstam's posthuman body. These figures are the intellectuals that Berger shows as having enriched our understanding and experience of embodiment, while upsetting traditional Western dualisms and partitions, to begin with the nature/culture and the body/mind divides. But Berger accomplished more than a simple history lesson, she also questioned the ways in which they have affected gender theory or have been associated with it, in an attempt to ascertain their stakes for both feminist and postfeminist thought as well as politics.

a lecture by
Distinguished Edith Kreeger Wolf Visiting Professor
Anne Emmanuelle Berger



#### THE END OF SEXUALITY

Feminist Theory, Body Talk and the Biological Conundrum

> Friday, April 22, 3:00pm Harris Hall 108

Beyond the classroom, Professor Berger was invited to speak at several public events. On Friday, April 22 she presented a public lecture entitled "The End of Sexuality: Feminist Theory, Body Talk and the Biological Conundrum." In a lecture that attracted students and professors from multiple departments, Professor Berger considered a certain biological (re)turn in feminist theory. Her fascinating presentation explored part of a larger project concerned with the epistemological, political and cultural demise of "sexuality" as an epistemic paradigm, a key concept for the understanding of subjectivity and a biopolitical apparatus. The talk engaged with the idea of the neurobiologization and biomedicalization of sexuality, the politics of trauma and-of course-the queer turn in feminism, expressed via an interest in medicalization as a necessity in feminist theory. Professor Berger analyzed the (re)turn to reality in both continental philosophy and the psyche, the new understanding of trauma and the new

# **FACULTY SPOTLIGHT**

#### ANNE EMMANUELLE BERGER

#### QUEERING FEMINISM, **QUESTIONING GENDÉR:**

A CONVERSATION WITH

ANNE BERGER EDITH KREEGER WOLF DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR

KYLE KAPLAN LECTURER, MUSICAL STUDIES, DEPAUL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

**PENNY DEUTSCHER** JOAN AND SAREPTA HARRISON PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

MATTHIEU DUPAS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF FRENCH, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, MAY 20 12:00PM KRESGE 1-515

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED!



La politique de la langue en France:

Le débat public autour du langage "inclusif"

Northwestern Department of French and Italian

Friday, May 27, 12:00pm Kaplan Seminar Room (Kresge 2-351) Lunch will be served!

politics of trauma through the texts of Catherine Malabou (Changing Difference), Elizabeth Willson, and Beatriz Preciado (Testo Junkie). She answered questions from the attendees in a lively discussion during the lecture and the dinner reception that followed. The students present for this lecture found this conversation provocative, stimulating, and informative.

Later in the spring quarter, Professor Berger was featured by the Department of French and Italian in a public luncheon/conversation with three respondents specialists of gender studies, queer theory, and feminism. Kyle Kaplan (Lecturer, Musical Studies, DePaul University School of Music), Penny Deutscher (Joan and Sarepta Harrison Professor of Philosophy, Northwestern University), and Matthieu Dupas (Assistant Professor of French, Northwestern University) engaged Anne Emmanuelle Berger about the most pressing issues in the field today, drawing inspiration from her 2013 book, The Queer Turn in Feminism: Identities, Sexualities, and the Theater of Gender. While Matthieu Dupas developed on his thoughts and questions regarding the book, Kyle Kaplan focused on the audience, characters, and the queer theory movement with its anti-normative commitment, and Penny Deutscher discussed Berger's book within the context of feminist theory and post-feminist questions. Lastly, Professor Berger thanked the respondents for the interest and attentive reading and explained the context in which the book was written and the aim she had tried to achieve, calling it a book with no "unity" and an "attempt at showing that feminism and post-feminism are linked but

Professor Berger's final public event, "La politique de la langue en France: Le débat public autour du langage 'inclusif," drew a very large audience composed of graduate and undergraduate students, as well as faculty from departments across campus. During this lunchtime causerie, Professor Berger presented the history both old and new of the French debate around inclusive language. From the Ordonnance de Villers-Cotterêts in 1539 to recent disputes around gendered titles (l'Assemblée nationale Tuesday 14 January 2014: "Monsieur la députée", "Madame le président"), her fascinating presentation explored the ways French language has been minimizing the symbolic representations of women by having the neutral and the universal be masculine. Professor Berger described the power relationship between the genders as taking place on the symbolic order in language. As she explained: "La langue Française est une affaire d'état" (language is a matter of state), making the diffusion of the republican school in France a platform for the masculinization of the French language.

Fanny Marchaisse

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT MICHELANGELO ZACCARELLO

In spring 2022, distinguished Professor Michelangelo Zaccarello of the University of Pisa joined the Italian faculty as the Distinguished Fulbright Chair in Italian Studies for 2021-22. He offered two iconic courses to our students. His 200-level course in English, entitled "The Country of Belcanto: The Language of Opera from Libretto to Stage," explored the early stages of operatic theatre in Europe and the influence of Petrarchism on the language and style of librettos. He also offered a course in Italian, entitled "'Dimmi come mangi'; Art and Science in Italian Cookery" which guided our students through the principles of Medieval and Renaissance medicine to see how they were used in 14th and 15th century cookbooks. Students who took his courses were also offered the opportunity to attend the opening plenary of the international conference "Mapping the Intersections of Text, Space, & Pilgrimage Sites," held at Loyola.

Professor Zaccarello also contributed to the research activities of our department by offering a masterful talk on the early transmission and reception of Dante's Comedy entitled "Dante and Memory: Composition, Publication, and Performance in the Textual Transmission of the Divine Comedy." With elegance and grace, Professor Zaccarello introduced a delighted audience to the mysteries and legend of Dante's amazing memory and wisdom, and discussed the role of orality and performance on the early transmission of the 'sacred poem'. Besides his invaluable contribution to academic learning and teaching, Professor Zaccarello brought a distinct sense of positivity and enthusiasm to our community. He enjoyed all our parties and events as if he were one of our own and shared many happy moments with us. We are grateful for his unwavering

expertise. He will be missed.

commitment, joyful presence and, of course, deep

Paola Nasti

SPRING QUARTER 2022
PROFESSOR ZACCARELLO
TTh 9:30-10:50 am

ITH 9:30-10:50 am

Throughout the Renaissance, Italian has established itself as a truly European language of culture because of the Petrarchan tradition of love lyric. Just like most courtly poetry of the period, even Shakespeare's sonnets follow several schemes and stereotypes of Rerum Vulgarium Fragmenta, the masterpiece by Francesco Petrarca (1304-1374). At the end of the 18th century, with the birth of Italian meladrama pioneered by the likes of Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643). Italian replay became a language widely used by European courtiers and aristocrats, and operatic plays—whether of sacred or lay inspiration, Classical or Medieval—were more and more often petrormed in courtly contexts, especially to mark special occasions (weddings, victories, coronations and so forth). Italian was, more often than not, the language of such belearnd, and it trapidly became acustomary for high-class people to study it. In 17th-century England, for example, John Florio and Giovanni Torriano wrote dictionaries and grammars that became best sellers. This course will attempt to draw an untiline of the early stages of operatic theatre in Europe, in association with the rapid spread of Petrarchism in the language and style of librettos that were set to music.

"DIMMI COMME MANGI"

RRT AND SCIENCE IN ITALIAN COOKERY

ART AND S

increasingly used for pharmacology soon after, the only way to intervene over human body was nutrition and medicines were essentially a combination of natural elements ("semplici"): thus, human complexion was seen - after a long Classical tradition started by the likes of Hyppocrates and Galenus as a combination of elements whose balance could be threatened by illness and had to be restored by means of ingestion of counterbalancing principles. Consequently, there was a thin line between the principles of medicine and pharmacology on the one side and those of cookery on the other; the reaction of some dishes - including some classics of Italian cuisinel - can indeed be understood as an attempt to create balanced food that respects the natural complexion of human beings. The course will introduce to the principles of Medieval and Renaissance medicine and how they are reflected in contemporary cookbooks, with examples mainly from Italian texts of the l4th and 15th centuries, that will be examined in their specific language, often influenced by regionalism.

Northwestern Department of French and Italian

## **FACULTY SPOTLIGHT** MICHELANGELO ZACCARELLO

Northwestern French and Italian

# **DANTE AND MEMORY:** COMPOSITION, PUBLICATION, AND PERFORMANCE IN THE TEXTUAL TRANSMISSION OF THE DIVINE COMEDY

A LECTURE BY DISTINGUISHED **FULBRIGHT CHAIR IN** ITALIAN STUDIES MICHELANGELO ZACCARELLO

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 3:00pm KRESGE 1515 Reception to follow

and **Memory:** Composition, Publication, and Performance in the Textual Transmission of the Divine Comedy

Looking at the remarkable unity and macrotextual solidity of Dante's Comedy, it's easy to forget that the Comedy was initially conceived as a "trilogy" of cantiche, and was never published in its entirety by its author. Delving into the problem of the Comedy's early circulation - as suggested by extant documentation - and related chronological issues, this talk attempts to sum up recent acquisitions on such matters, paying due attention to the influence of orality and memory in the composition, performance, and diffusion of literary works. Although often difficult to assess, the latter is a paramount factor in the poem's itinerary of knowledge. Moreover, the possible impact of orality and memory in both the Comedy's composition and publication must be taken into account, in light of medieval practices southwestern Europe.

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT CHRIS BUSH







Illustrations by Juan José Tablada

Chris Bush is the lucky recipient of an NEH Fellowship Grant for 2022-23. Below he gives us a glimpse of the exciting project he'll be working on while on leave.



In a span of about twenty years, starting around the turn of the twentieth century, the haiku went from being almost unknown outside of Japan to become a thriving form of modernist world literature. Following several landmark translations, original haiku began to be written in French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, English, Italian, and many other languages. Far from limiting themselves to exoticist themes, these poems engaged with many of the central issues of modernity: life in the metropolis, new media, political revolution, racial injustice, the World Wars, and, not least, their sense that Japan was increasingly becoming a center of cultural and political power in the world.

Unexpected Apparitions: The Modernist Haiku as World Literature reads haiku and poetry criticism of the 1910s to the 1930s in the context of this transnational literary history. My readings focus on the various ways the modernist haiku aspired to link the immediate and local to the distant and global. This included reimagining the relationship between the poets' own national literatures and potential world literatures. The first chapter analyzes the Latin American avant-gardes' paradoxical-seeming desire to use the haiku to help forge national literatures (focusing on Mexico and Brazil). Chapter two reads Western European modernist (primarily French-language) haiku and criticism in the context of debates about the decline of the West following the First World War. My final chapter tracks the heightened cultural-political contradictions of the haiku during the peak of Japanese imperialism in the 1930s, when Japan appealed both to anti-Western anti-colonialists and to right-wing modernists like Ezra Pound. My conclusion then considers the place of haiku in debates about "world literature" in Japan itself.

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT AUDE RAYMOND

**Congratulations** to Aude Raymond, who was promoted to Professor of Instruction this past spring. As the esteemed teacher and coordinator of both of our multisection intermediate-level French sequences, and instructor of 200-level bridge courses and French 309 (French for the Medical Profession), Aude has an outsized impact on students at all levels of the French language curriculum. What is more, through her co-authorship, with colleagues Christiane Rey and Patricia Scarampi, of the second-year digital textbook *Flipped French*, she has emerged as leader in French pedagogical materials at the postsecondary level at NU and beyond.

Flipped French is a direct product of Aude's longstanding passion for creative experimentation in language learning media and her interest in combining innovations in language pedagogy, IT, and learning technologies. Aude has contributed to the development of all six components of the courseware: grammar, listening comprehension, vocabulary, reading comprehension, pronunciation, and topical video segments. She has been especially active in the production of more than 60 introductory videos for each unit, as well as the vocabulary component, which presents lexical elements in novel ways.

In recent years, Aude created a new course at the 300 level (French 309) which introduces students to specialist terminology in the medical professions and considers different healthcare systems in the Francophone world in their cultural, social, and political contexts and in relation to one another. The course adopts the lens of the medical humanities in engaging with different approaches to health and healing. Aude curated the pedagogical materials herself, and her efforts have been rewarded with enthusiastic acclaim on the part of students. In addition to her accomplishments in teaching and research, Aude serves as our French Placement Advisor, as well as Language Proficiency Adviser in the College, and ISRC fellow.

Hearty **congratulations** again, Aude, on your well-deserved promotion, and many thanks for all that you do for the department!



Doris L. Garraway

# FLIPPED FRENCH SPOTLIGHT

**Congratualiations** to the authors of Flipped French – Aude Raymond, Christiane Rey, and Patricia Scarampi – on successfully launching the courseware in spring quarter! Below they share a brief overview of this new pedagogical program.

Professors Aude Raymond, Christiane Rey, and Patricia Scarampi have been working for the last six years on developing Flipped French, a comprehensive courseware that will serve as the primary learning resource for all three quarters of second-year French at Northwestern. It was launched in French 125-1 in Spring 2022 and will be used in French 121 next year.

Flipped French includes 12 units of six components each: grammar, listening comprehension, vocabulary, reading comprehension, pronunciation as well as introductory videos of native French speakers interviewed on the theme of each unit. The grammar component presents two major innovations: an adaptive tool that offers a unique learning path to each student and tailored formative feedback for all grammar activities. The goal of the courseware is twofold. First, it increases students' exposure to French outside of the classroom, in order to devote class time entirely to meaningful communicative activities and enable

students to practice the material learned online. Second, it aims to improve students' comprehension and retention of the material by providing an approach tailored to individual levels, needs and styles. Flipped French applies principles of Backward Design and Universal Design. It offers students a rich cultural French-speaking context with authentic material and an immersive audio-visual experience with extensive exposure to spoken French and ample practice to make substantial progress and increase fluency in the language.

MADstudio, Northwestern, has developed the courseware and provided the technical support. With the intent of reducing the cost of textbooks for students, the development of this project received the support of the Department of French and Italian and the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. Flipped French is free of charge and available to students through Canvas.



Students' comments after the first quarter in French 125-1:

"I think the regimen and order of the program is amazing. The overall approach from so many angles is extremely helpful to understand concepts."

"The variety of mediums (videos, readings, practice exercises) was definitely a benefit."

"The grammar explanations are easily the best part. They are clear and it is easy to navigate through them. It's designed better than any other online textbook I've used since it's very simple."

"I like that it's made by people at NU. I think learning from different French faculty at the school is cool."

"The strength of Flipped French is that it allows you to work on material and have questions ready and prepared for class with the material you don't understand. Furthermore, you can re-watch videos as much as you can to try to understand the material. Which is not a luxury you have in a live classroom setting."

# FAREWELL TO RETIRING FACULTY

This year we bid a bittersweet farewell to Alessandra Visconti and Jane Winston, who will both retire in August 2022.

Jane Winston has been a visionary and impactful teacher, scholar, and leader in the department and in the College since she joined the faculty in 1994. Over her nearly three decades of service, which included two terms as chair, she became our department's resident expert in three fields that are central to the training of both undergraduate and graduate students: French feminism and women's writing; Southeast Asian Francophone literature; and Guy Debord and the Situationists. Through her committed teaching and scholarship, Jane single-handedly established our department's national reputation in these domains.

A pathbreaking scholar, Jane is the author of Postcolonial Duras: Cultural Memory in Postwar France (Palgrave 2001) and co-editor, with Leakthina Chau-Peck Ollier, of Of Vietnam: Identities in Dialogue (Palgrave 2001). She has also published articles on Duras, Linda Lê, Dionys Mascolo, Robert Antelme, and the larger rue Saint-Benoît group, as well as on gender, sexuality and the modern French novel. In recent years, she has been working on Guy Debord and the social and political function of culture, while developing new courses in the field of environmental humanities.

Jane Winston's award-winning teaching in the department is legendary, as she has been loved and revered by undergraduate and graduate students alike. Her popular undergraduate seminars on Marguerite Duras and colonial/postcolonial Vietnam, and her senior seminar on Guy Debord and the International Situationists, have captivated and politically awakened multiple generations of undergraduates. At the graduate level, her rigorous teaching of

French feminism and the Marxist critical tradition and her committed mentorship have decisively shaped the intellectual careers of dozens of students.

Jane has had an equal if not greater impact on her colleagues. She recruited no less than seven faculty members to Northwestern during her years as chair, and she has mentored numerous colleagues in the department at all ranks. There are few faculty members in our department's history who have touched more lives than Jane. And, in the process of

achieving all of this, Jane raised two daughters on her own – Shannon and Erin. There could be no greater evidence of the significance of her accomplishments, nor of the interconnectedness of her personal, political, and professional commitments.

As she moves on to the next chapter of her intellectually rich life, we thank her for her service and look forward to keeping in touch with her as professor emerita!

Alessandra Visconti, in her fourteen years at Northwestern, has brought together her passion for Italian and her extensive experience in historic music, vocal performance, and Italian diction in the operatic repertoire to bear on her pedagogy and the many extracurricular activities she has organized. A superlative teacher, Alessandra also has an extensive publication record as the author of two Italian language-learning manuals: *Practice Makes Perfect: Italian Problem Solver*; and *Practice Makes Perfect: Basic Italian*, both published by McGraw Hill. She has also translated numerous essays and other works into English.

In addition, Alessandra has made a significant impact on her colleagues in both sections of the department through her kind, generous, and professional demeanor, and her unwavering commitment to equity in the institution.

She demonstrated great courage by recently serving as our department's representative on the Academic Senate for a three-year term. In this capacity, she spoke passionately on behalf of our department before representatives from throughout the university—including other schools and research units. She performed this service out of a commitment to shared governance at Northwestern. She has furthermore proven herself to be a visionary and an outspoken advocate for course load equity for language faculty, and she was a co-founder of the Northwestern chapter of the AAUP.

For her pedagogical excellence, her committed service, her courage and her activism, as well as the smaller ways in which she has shown caring, concern, and respect for all in our community, we thank you, Alessandra. We will miss you!

Doris L. Garraway



# WELCOME TO DANIELLE BIFFANTI

Daniele Biffanti, Assistant Professor of Instruction in Italian, earned his B.A. in Modern Literature and M.A. in Modern Philology from the Università degli Studi di Padova, and his Ph.D. in Italian from Stanford University.

Daniele has taught several courses on Italian language and culture at Stanford University and Bard College. While at Stanford, he also worked as a Resident Fellow at Casa Italiana, was awarded a Centennial Teaching Award, and was a Dissertation Fellow at the Stanford Humanities Center. He holds an ACTFL Full Certification as OPI Tester in Italian.

His methodology in both lower- and upper-level language courses is based on a communicative and proficiency-oriented approach. Striving to weave genuine cultural materials into language classes, he seeks to provide students with a nuanced and current understanding of Italian culture, beyond its traditional and stereotypical elements.

His research focuses on post-WWII literature, cinema, and political history, and second language acquisition. He is currently working on a book manuscript that considers how the founding myth of the Italian Republic—the resistance against Nazi-Fascism and subsequent liberation—has

against Nazi-Fascism and subsequent liberation—has generated different narrative legacies in literature and cinema, and how the development of these legacies in the 20th and 21st century can be interpreted as a form of narrative mythologization.

In his free time he likes to watch and talk about movies, TV series, calcio, and honing his baking skills.



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT LEON HEDSTROM



An avid reader of speculative fiction and a frequent cooker of baby bok choy, Leon graduated from the University of Chicago with a master's degree in literature and visual culture in 2020 before joining the Department of French and Italian in October of 2021.

Leon has spent the last year learning the particulars of course scheduling, event planning, and all the many ins and outs of the Department of French and Italian. With a background in editorial, desgin, and production, Leon has also enjoyed creating visuals for many of the department's events and courses this past year.

Outside of the office, Leon enjoys listening to music, writing meandering essays, and eating at different Chicago restaurants.

More than anything, Leon is grateful to be a part of such a welcoming academic department and looks forward to the upcoming year with the Department of French and Italian!

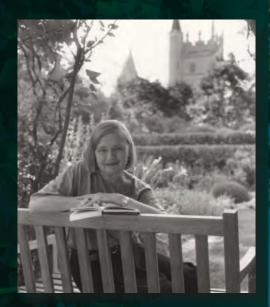
# REMEMBERING TILDE SANKOVITCH

In February, our department was saddened to learn of the passing of Tilde Sankovitch, professor emerita of French and former chair of the department. Tilde was a truly legendary member of our department who was loved and remembered decades after her retirement in 1999 for her great deeds as a professor, colleague, and friend to so many in our community. Her joy and infectious passion for French, for languages, for intellectual work, and for her colleagues shaped our department's mission and sense of identity from early on.

To honor her memory, fellow emeritus colleague Bill Paden penned the lovely obituary below, and the Department voted to rename our undergraduate prize for best essay in French for Tilde. The first recipient of the Tilde Sankovitch Distinguished Essay in French, awarded in June 2022, was Kristina Feikova, author of the essay "Le mythe des Jeux Olympiques." In addition, Jane Winston led the department in raising \$1100 to donate in honor of Tilde to the Central Park Conservancy, a place she visited often.

We will forever be grateful to Tilde for the immense contributions she made to the department during her lifetime. May her memory and legacy live on through these initiatives, and through our continued passion for French and Italian.

**Doris L. Garraway** 



Tilde Sankovitch, professor emerita of French at Northwestern, passed away on February 27, 2022, of metastatic cancer. She was at the home of her daughter, Nina Sankovitch, in Westport, Connecticut. She died in her sleep beside Tola, her husband of almost sixty-five years.

Tilde joined our department in 1968 as a lecturer (now called professor of instruction). She was persuaded to do so by the newly arrived chair, Norman Spector, who became her mentor and a good friend of the Sankovitch family. She had studied Romance Languages at the University of Louvain in her native Belgium, where she met Tola in a philosophy class. After one year at Northwestern as a lecturer, she became a graduate student and TA. She completed the PhD four years later, in 1973, with a dissertation on Renaissance comedy, and was appointed an Assistant Professor. She rose quickly through the ranks, served as chair of the department, and held a named chair as Harold H. and Virginia Anderson Professor of French and Italian. She also served as Director of Women's Studies from 1994 to 1996. She taught with great success in French, Women's Studies, and History (in a team-taught course with Robert Lerner). In 1999 she retired. She and Tola moved to New York City, where their three daughters lived.

I who am writing these lines, Bill Paden, remember meeting Tilde one day in 1968-69, when she came to the department with her three daughters, Anne-Marie, Natasha, and Nina. As she introduced them, they stood in the doorway of my office in the basement of Kresge, aged about ten, eight, and six. Now that they were all in school, she was ready to explore opportunities outside the home. Tola was a surgeon, born in Belarus, educated in Poland and Germany, trained as a physician at Louvain, now practicing in the Evanston/Chicago area. When Tilde became a graduate student, I was one of those fortunate enough to teach her. She took my course on the troubadours. She, Patricia Stäblein (now Gillies), and I collaborated on an edition of the troubadour Bertran de Born that occupied us off and on for sixteen years. The three of us would meet in a study in the library to work on the edition. She was unfailingly brilliant in interpreting the language and meaning of the poems. I recall one day when we took a break and I mentioned that I was looking at the medieval German poet Walther von der Vogelweide. She was interested, so I showed her the book. She had never seen a text in Middle High German before, but she read that one right off the page and translated it effortlessly. She was helped by her Flemish, which was her first language, but also by uncommon intelligence.

As a professor Tilde received repeated Distinguished Teaching Awards from the Northwestern Alumnae and the College of Arts and Sciences. She developed a course called Introduction to Theatre, which became Introduction to Comedy, and thrilled her students with a wide range of texts from medieval to contemporary. She also taught the Introduction to French Literature, which she once called her favorite, and the advanced course in great writers of the Renaissance. Her sections were always full. She was one of our many colleagues who convinced me that excellent teaching was the department's standard. She and I cotaught a graduate course in Medieval Women Writers, such as Christine de Pizan. She prepared meticulous lectures probing what it meant to be a woman and a writer in that time. Later she published French Women Writers and the Book, with chapters on Marie de France in the Middle Ages, the Dames des Roches in the Renaissance, Simone de Beauvoir, and Hélène Cixous. Tilde was instrumental in bringing Hélène Cixous to the department as a Visiting Professor several times and nominated her for an honorary doctorate, which Cixous received in 1996.

Tilde Sankovitch was an extraordinary scholar, a gifted teacher, an invaluable colleague, and an unforgettable friend. She enriched our lives.

# MESSAGE FROM THE DGS

It is hard to believe yet another year has gone by and we are on the cusp of academic year 2022-2023. However, our fast-paced year was in many ways a welcome change from the slowdown and restrictions brought about by COVID 19. While this virus is proving itself much too resilient for our comfort, endowed with a shifting and adapting nature, we too have learnt to adapt with excellent results. I want to congratulate all our graduate students for their flexibility and ability to move with the times as teachers, students and researchers. Returning to campus and to in-person teaching and events was certainly not easy, but ultimately our community was energized and enlivened by it as the pace of our activities picked up. We therefore look forward to 2022-23.

Once again, students contributed willingly and generously to our intellectual life. Ibou Tall and Noran Mohamed presented their suggestive research at our fall colloquium and Maïté Marciano presented in a departmental faculty-student colloquium in winter 2022. Maïté's presentation was all the more exciting for us as she was preparing to defend her innovative dissertation, which she did in the spring quarter. We heartily congratulate Maïté for this achievement under such challenging conditions these few years. Ibou and Noran have also advanced significantly and are on the verge of defending during fall of 2023. A special congratulations to Moussa Seck for having secured a position of lecturer at Georgia State beginning August 1st 2022, with a dissertation defense planned for early fall. In this challenging job market, this achievement is a testimony to Moussa's exceptional profile as a scholar and teacher of French.

In addition, Fanny Marchaise completed her PhD exams and has garnered a fellowship to participate in the Paris Program in Critical Theory. Similarly, Céline Cotton has successfully completed her PhD exams. Both Fanny and Céline are in the process of developing their research projects. We congratulate them and wish them every success at the prospectus stage. As for Xinyi Wei, she brilliantly defended her prospectus and is hard at work writing her dissertation.



We also congratulate Louise Barbosa, the winner of this year's graduate essay prize for the insightful paper she wrote on Marcel Proust entitled "Question of Truth in Photography."

This year, the department inaugurated its "Excellence in Graduate Language Teaching Award." The aim of this award is to recognize the achievements and hard work of our graduate students as teachers of French language. Amanda Parraguez received this year's award in recognition of her excellent pedagogical skills and innovative teaching strategies in the classroom. **Congratulations** to Amanda.

In addition to the achievements of our current students, we are truly delighted to learn that our former student, currently Assistant Professor of French at Loyola University, Eliana Vagalau, published her first book in May 2022, co-edited with Martin Munro, on the Haitian writer Jean-Claude Charles. We congratulate Eliana and look forward to reading her book and learning from her innovative work on this great writer.

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, Leon Hedstrom, and Elizabeth Murray for their continued dedication to the department's administration in general and to the graduate program, in particular. Our deepest gratitude also goes our chair, Doris Garraway, as she completes her term of three years. She has always been an unfailing support to the graduate program. We wish her a productive and recuperative sabbatical year. While I take over a department chair, I leave the graduate program in the very capable hands of Christopher "Topher" Davis, who as DGS will bring his own special energy and vision to the program.

Looking very much forward to 2022-2023.

**Nasrin Qader**Director of Graduate Studies

# **GRADUATE NEWS**

**LOUISE BARBOSA** joined her classmates in Evanston for the 2021-22 school year. She looks forward to continuing her role as student liaison as she enters her third year of studies. She is the recipient of the Graduate Essay Prize for her paper on Proust's work titled "The Question of Truth in Photography." She used the philosophies of Bacon, Deleuze, and Kracauer to study how photography, as a medium with potential for distortion, provides an aesthetic experience in which sensation and memories can make visible certain truths that reside beyond perception.

With the support of the department, she is conducting research in France during summer 2022. This includes attending a Molière Conference in Avignon, attending a weeklong course on Les Femmes Françaises at the Sorbonne, and performing independent research at la Bibliothèque Nationale de France.



In addition to completing his second year of coursework requirements and teaching intermediate French, **GUILLAUME DE BROUX** wrote two article manuscripts – one on the affinities between Watteau and Proust, and another on a fairy tale by seventeenth-century writer Charles Perrault, both of which are currently under consideration by specialist journals. Outside of class, he also enjoyed exploring Chicago and organizing screenings of classic French films for members of the Northwestern community.

MAÏTÉ MARCIANO defended her dissertation in May. She presented a paper on Jean Echenoz, "Affect, Mourning, and the Image in L'Occupation des Sols" at the 39th Annual 20th- and 21st-Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquiumfor which she received an honorable mention for the Prix « Recherche au Présent ». In the spring, she presented a paper entitled "In Solidarity: Albert Camus' Mediterranean Culture and Southern Thought" at the annual meeting of ACLA. Her first article, "L'absence et le neutre. Analyse d'un écart entre Camus, Duras et Blanchot" was published in the Revue des lettres modernes on Marquerite Duras (Classiques Garnier Press.)

**NYI NYI OHN MYINT** withdrew from the Ph.D. program in July for personal reasons after having returned to southeast Asia for the summer. Although circumstances

led him to take a different path, he asked us to relay the following: "I will always cherish my time spent at Northwestern and I wish everyone the best."



Since summer 2021 FANNY MARCHAISSE has successfully passed her qualifying exam on bodies and power in French fairy tales of the late seventeenth century. She was also selected for the prestigious Paris Program in Critical Theory for the upcoming academic year of 2022-2023. She attended several talks at the Groupe de Recherches Interdisciplinaires sur l'Histoire du Littéraire (G.R.I.H.L) given by prominent seventeenth century specialists like Alain Cantillon and Sophie Houdard. She also served as research assistant to Edith Kreeger Wolf Distinguished Visiting Professor Anne Emmanuelle Berger, who was invited to the department for the spring quarter 2022. Fanny Marchaisse also assisted the chair in tabulating undergraduate responses to the Survey on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in French and Italian and published summaries of Professor Berger's events in the 2021-2022 French and Italian Newsletter.



**MAUREEN WINTER** spent the 2021-2022 academic year working on her dissertation in Turin, Italy. In the fall, she gave a talk at the *Colloque International Désoeuvrer* entitled "Désoeuvrement with or without Aesthetics: The Case of Ugo La Pietra." In the spring she was invited to give a lecture on Agnès Varda's *Cléo de 5 à 7* at Sciences Po Reims. With a colleague from Johns Hopkins, she wrote a short essay on feminism and Margaret C. Anderson's magazine *The Little Review* which is forthcoming from an independent press. She is currently co-authoring an article with Jessica Passos on Antonin Artaud's radio play *Pour en finir avec le jugement de dieu* and transference. In the summer she participated in the Summer Institute for Psychoanalysis that took place at the Sorbonne Nouvelle. She is currently finishing her dissertation.

# GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT MAÏTÉ MARCIANO

**Congratulations** to Maïté Marciano, who defended her dissertation in spring 2022 under the direction of Alessia Ricciardi! She shares with us her abstract here.

Strangers to Ourselves: The Politics of Disaffection in Modern and Contemporary French Literature recounts a history of French literature from the Vichy years to the end of the twentieth century, framed by ethical and political issues arising from disaffection. It conceptualizes disaffection in relation to the French notion of désaffection, which is closer to disinterest or detachment. Building upon and departing from Roland Barthes's notion of écriture blanche, it proposes a heuristic of the disengaged yet critical literature I call disaffected writing: a literary mode stripped of pathos, based on non-cathartic feelings. By examining writings by Albert Camus, Marguerite Duras, Jean Echenoz, and Michel Houellebecg, this dissertation reveals how writers critically mobilized indifference, impassivity, and ataraxia and acedia to address issues of violence, trauma, gender and sexuality, power, and posthumanism. It examines how disaffection translates into and affects literary form, and, how criticism's reception of these forms highlights changing norms and shifts in the social understanding of disaffection across the twentieth century. Through attention to stylistic features, representations, and narratives supplemented by historical (intellectual history, history of psychiatry, etc.) and theoretical perspectives (Albert Memmi, Catherine Malabou, Guy Debord, Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida, and others), it engages a multiplicity of approaches to reading disaffection and its different instantiations in order to render visible a shift in French literature in the twentieth century.







## **A GRADUATE STUDENT** COLLOQUIUM

### **Featuring NORAN MOHAMED AND GORGUI I. TALL**



Noran will be presenting an excerpt from a chapter of her dissertation. Her presentation title is "Touch and Smell in Ahlam Mostaghanemi's Memory in the Flesh and Chaos in the Senses."



Gorgui will be presenting "Espaces d'amitié: Friendship in Mariama Ba's Une si longue lettre." This is a part of his research on identity production in postcolonial Francophone African Literature.

# FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3 1:30pm

#### **ZOOM INFO**

https://northwestern. zoom.us/j/93967114680

Northwestern French and Italian



Northwestern French and Italian

PRESENTS

A JOINT
GRADUATE
STUDENT-FACULTY
COLLOQUIUM



UNIVERSITY HALL HAGSTRUM ROOM

**FEATURING** 

PHD CANDIDATE
MAÏTÉ MARCIANO
THE IMPASSIVE NOVEL: JEAN ECHENOZ
AND LITERARY CRITICISM

PROFESSOR MATTHIEU DUPAS

GUILLAUME DUSTAN'S GAY SCIENCE: WRITING SEX AND GENDER IN THE AGE OF THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC



For everyone's safety, we strongly recommend that all attendees wear a mask.



# **INCOMING GRADUATE STUDENTS**



YOUSSEF BOUCETTA is an incoming PhD student in Comparative Literary Studies at Northwestern, with a home department in French and Francophone studies. Youssef graduated Magna Cum Laude from Amherst College with a B.A in Comparative Literature. His interdisciplinary honors thesis titled: "Moroccan Darija: Of Vulgar Eloquence in the 21st century" detailed the emergence of a new poetics of Darija, the dominant Moroccan hybrid vernacular language, through digital media, film and music. His main scholarly interests revolve around youth cultures in Europe and the Arab world, linguistic exchanges and hybridity in North Africa, new media and the digital age, literature and cinema of the banlieue, as well as postcolonial theory. As a translator, he has published a new French rendition of Borges's "Pierre Menard: Author of the Quixote" in *Translation Review* and a Darija version of "Borges and I" for Panorapost.com. He is currently finishing his first feature documentary film "Moroccan Roll" produced by Nabil Ayouch and 2M TV, for which he is a Meditalents 2022 Lab Doc Resident. Youssef is a Mellon Cluster Fellow in Middle Eastern and North African studies and speaks French, Spanish, English, Italian and Moroccan Darija. In his spare time, he can mostly be found skateboarding.

**EMILY LYNN JACKSON** is a PhD student in French and Francophone Studies and Mellon Cluster Fellow in Asian Studies at Northwestern University. She received her B.A. in Music and B.A. in Modern Language Studies: French from Texas Christian University in 2022. Her undergraduate thesis advanced a queer re-reading of autofictional literary works from French Indochina including Marguerite Duras's *L'amant* and Kim Lefèvre's *Métisse Blanche*, analyzing the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, and coloniality as identities affecting the marginalization and resilience of the works' protagonists. Her current research interests include (post-)colonial studies, gender and sexuality studies, twentieth-century studies, Francophone women authors, and literature and authors of the Francophone Asia Pacific.





IAIN MILLAR received his BA in International Relations from the University of St Andrews in Scotland. He is currently interested in self-writing, with strong emphasis in critical and literary theory, while remaining open to branching out. More specifically, he is thinking about the ways in which queer self-writing balances the tensions between self-writing as a means of reconstructing a queer self and the challenge of representing queer experiences on a collective level. While his research thus far has focused on the French canon, he wishes to explore how self-writing has developed historically and globally.

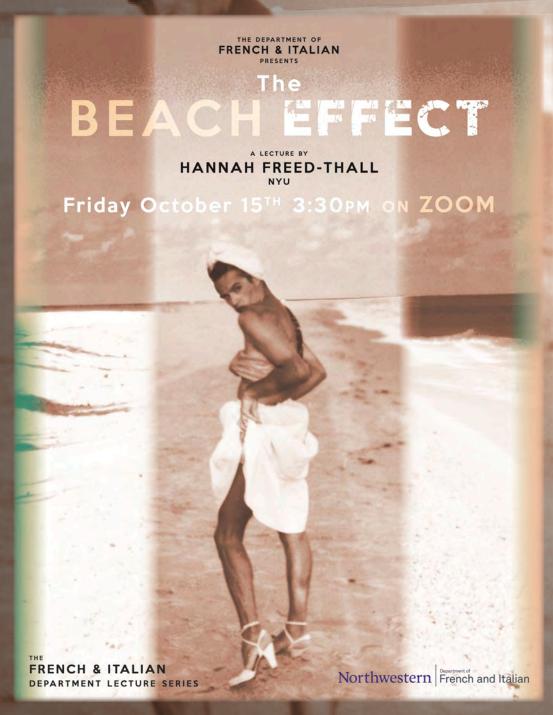
**MADELYN STEURER** is an incoming graduate student in the Department of French & Italian. After having studied both French and Italian, Madelyn graduated from the University of Notre Dame in May 2020 with a degree in Romance Languages as well as a degree in Marketing from the Mendoza College of Business. She received her master's degree in French & Francophone Studies with a minor in Screen Cultures from the University of Notre Dame shortly after in May 2022. Throughout her time at Notre Dame, she studied abroad in Siena, Italy to study the political and religious significance of Marian imagery and worked as both the French and Italian gallery teacher on campus at the Snite Museum of Art. Inspired by visual cultures, her research interests encompass the ideological effects of the basic cinematographic apparatus and how psychoanalysis and film function unilaterally to manipulate its spectators. Madelyn is particularly interested in the idea of voyeurism through images of pain and the ethics of viewing Michael Haneke's films through the lens of Lacanian film theory.





#### The Beach Effect

What becomes visible when we consider *In Search of Lost Time* from the vantage point of the beach? This talk proposes that Proust's beach resort, Balbec, stages a reconfiguration of social ritual and corporeal style. Balbec is both an enormous casino and the "springboard" for a loosely scripted, habit-disrupting social choreography. In contrast to both the aristocratic salons of Paris and the bourgeois family nucleus that characterizes Combray, Proust's beach is an improvisatory space. As such, it facilitates place-based, contingent (rather than congenital) forms of queer movement and desire.



**Hannah Freed-Thall** is a specialist of 20th-century French literature and comparative modernisms. Her research and teaching interests include environmental humanities; aesthetic theory and the sociology of culture; queer and feminist theory; and theory of the novel. Before arriving at NYU, she was Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at Brown University, and she has held postdoctoral fellowships in the Princeton Society of Fellows and the Brown Pembroke Center. Her first book, *Spoiled Distinctions: Aesthetics and the Ordinary in French Modernism* (NY: Oxford, 2015), was awarded the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for French and Francophone Studies and the Modernist Studies Association Prize for a First Book. She is currently completing a manuscript titled *The Beach Effect*, which is under contract with Columbia University Press.





In recent years, the visibility of non-binary people who identify beyond the binary gender has greatly increased on both sides of the Atlantic. While the singular "they" has gained favor with many in English-speaking spaces, non-binary French-speaking people have faced other challenges regarding language and syntax, given the binary nature of French grammar. Increasingly, students of French and other binary-gendered languages are asking instructors for guidance on how to navigate and express non-binary gender in those languages. It is important to respond in ways that are linguistically coherent and also culturally situated. For this workshop, Louisa Mackenzie and Vinay Swamy consider the non-binary challenge in the French classroom and present inclusive pedagogical possibilities by foregrounding various on-going strategies that foster equitable, inclusive and expansive possibilities within Francophone linguistic, cultural and educational spaces.

PRONOUN: THE FRENCH LANGUAGE & INCLUSIVE PEDAGOGY

a workshop with

LOUISA MACKENZIE

(University of Washington, Seattle)

& VINAY SWAMY

(Vassar College)

Tuesday, February 1 3:00 p.m.

https://northwestern.zoom. us/j/94005494268

# THE DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH & ITALIAN presents

ITALIAN
LANGUAGE &
GENDER ISSUES:
BETWEEN SEXISM
& INCLUSIVITY

a workshop with

PROFESSOR

CECILIA ROBUSTELLI

(University of Modena and Reggio Emilia)

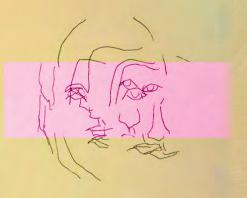
Tuesday, February 8
4:00 p.m.
https://northwestern.zoom.
us/j/91231597507

The discussion on the relationship language and sexual between difference has developed in Italy since the 1970s. The studies on linguistic sexism that had already begun in the USA and France led to a series of investigations the grammatical semantic dissymmetries in the Italian language regarding the representation of women and men, and to proposals for a linguistic representation of women that was not reductive with respect to men in everyday language and the media. With the introduction of the concept of gender, the imbalance between female and male genders has also been interpreted in terms of power, extending attention to the language used in institutional communication. Recent proposals to replace grammatical endings with a symbol in order to make the Italian language more inclusive have aroused wide discussion because of the rich morphology of the Italian language and its ways of assigning grammatical gender and creating agreement.

# Unselfing: Global French Literature at the Limits of Consciousness

Altered states consciousness-including experiences of deprivation, pain, hallucination, fear, desire, alienation, spiritual transcendencecan transform the ordinary experience of selfhood. In her forthcoming book, Michaela Hulstyn explores the nature of disruptive self-experiences and the different shapes they have taken in French-language literature from Valéry to Khatibi. The book focuses on the tension between rival philosophies of unselfing as either a form of productive self-transcendence or a form of alienating self-loss. This talk will sketch out the shapes and meanings that unselfing takes using the framework of the alobal French literary world, encompassing texts by modernist figures in France and Belgium writers from alongside Algeria, Rwanda, and Morocco. Drawing on cognitive science and phenomenology, Unselfing provides methodology new approaching texts that give shape to the fringes of conscious experience.

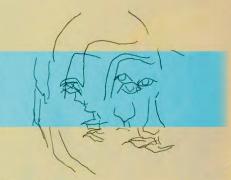
Unselfing: Global French Literature at the Limits of Consciousness





A graduate student lecture by Michaela Hulstyn (Lecturer, Stanford University)

Friday, May 27, 3:00pm on Zoom https://northwestern. zoom.us/j/95366121525



Northwestern French and Italian

**Michaela Hulstyn** teaches in Structured Liberal Education, a first-year

programat Stanford Waiversity. She received her B.A. from UCLA in French and Francophone Studies and Comparative Literature and her Ph.D. from Stanford in French. Her research interests center on 20th- and 21st-century French and Francophone literature, phenomenology of the self and intersubjectivity, cognitive approaches to transcultural literature, and literature as ethical philosophy. Her work has been published in MLN, Philosophy and Literature, and Contemporary French and Francophone Studies, among other places. Before returning to Stanford, she held academic appointments at Florida State University and Reed College.

# MESSAGE FROM THE FRENCH DUS

With our full return to campus this 2021-2022 academic year, our hallways and classrooms have once again rung with voices speaking French with renewed vigor and enthusiasm. It has been a privilege to serve as Director of Undergraduate Studies in French through this year's challenge and promise. While we have continued to feel the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our community, once again I have been amazed at the magnitude of our students' achievements – at your grit, at your grace, at your growth.

Warmest **congratulations** go to our graduating seniors of the Class of 2022: Ece Ağalar, Lia Assimakopoulos, Aldair Castellanos Trujillo, Martina Cavard, Mingqian (Mary) Cui, Kristína Feiková, Sarah Fernández, Wyatte Grantham-Philips, Virginia Guerrero, Elisa Hannum, Ayesha Lat, Kyra Lin, Gabrielle Olson, Halle Petrie, Chloe Ponzio, Abigail Ressen, Lili Salcedo-Watson, Sarah Stein, Casey Wells, Hong Xue, Julian Zighelboim, and Abigail Zuercher.



The French Department also recognizes the outstanding written work produced by our students in courses across 2021-2022. We were privileged to come together in person once again to celebrate the winners of our undergraduate essay prizes in June. This year's winners are: Fiona Roach (2nd-year language), Evelyn Perfall (3rd-year language), Michael Tinney (honorable mention: 3rd-year language), Bobby Yalam (3rd-year literature), Leila Narisetti (4th-year language), Chloe Ponzio (4th-year literature). Bintou Sonko received the prize for Distinguished Essay Written in English on a French Subject.

This year, our highest prize for a distinguished research paper written in French was renamed to honor the passing of Emerita Professor Tilde Sankovitch. In her distinguished career at Northwestern, Professor Sankovitch rose from graduate student to assistant professor and eventually to Harold H. and Virginia Anderson Professor of French and Italian. She chaired both the Department of French and Italian and Women's Studies at NU. In addition to authoring numerous scholarly books and articles, Professor Sankovitch was also an award-winning teacher and mentor. The French Department congratulates the winner of this year's inaugural Tilde Sankovitch Distinguished Essay in French prize, Kristína Feiková.

Kristína Feiková also shared the highest undergraduate distinction in French studies – the AATF (American Association for Teachers of French) Outstanding Senior Prize, along with fellow winner Mingqian (Mary) Cui. This prize is conferred on a 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**, Mary and Kristína!

**Félicitations** also go to Aldair Castellanos Trujillo, Kyra Lin, and Chloe Ponzio, who were inducted 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. Chloe Ponzio was also awarded the distinction of Senior Marshal, which goes to a graduating senior chosen both for academic excellence and for important contributions to the life of the department.

Numerous faculty members and students generously gave of their time and effort to ensure the exceptional quality of our undergraduate program in French. Special thanks go to the members of the Undergraduate Committee (Scott Durham, Marie-Thérèse Pent and Christopher Davis) and the Essay Prize Committee (Katia Viot-Southard – Chair, Scott Durham, and Lam-Thao Nguyen). The French Department also thanks our Student Advisory Board representatives, Chloe Ponzio and Halle Petrie, and the dedicated volunteer tutors who staffed the French Language Instructional Center: Khadija Al Moutaa, Nigel Chew, Nasser Nduhi, and Madeleine Williams.

The successes and celebrations of 2021-2022 would not have been possible without our extraordinary, dedicated staff members, Liz Murray, Leon Hedstrom, and Lisa Byrnes, who lent their expertise and unwavering support to all student affairs and events.

Finally, the French Department's gratitude goes to our outgoing chair, Professor Doris Garraway, for her exceptional leadership. Throughout the challenges of the past three years, Professor Garraway has led French and Italian with unparalleled dedication, responsiveness, and vision. Under her skilled leadership, we have adapted to unprecedented circumstances and flourished in spite of them. Mille fois merci, Professor Garraway!

Wishing you a restful summer and all the best for the coming school year,

Cynthia Nazarian

Director of Undergraduate Studies in French

interested in majoring or minoring in French,



Sign up for a 20-minute open advising session with

## **Professor CYNTHIA NAZARIAN**

**Director of Undergraduate Studies in French** 

Friday, June 3 10-12pm | Monday, June 6 2-4pm | Tuesday, June 7 10:30-12:30pm

Northwestern | Department of French and Italian

# MESSAGE FROM THE FRENCH DLP

As I reach the end of my first year as Director of the French Language Program (DLP), I would like to thank everyone in the Department of French and Italian for welcoming me. I really appreciate your support and I feel honored to have been chosen for the position. Thank you to Doris Garraway for her ongoing understanding and dedication to the Teaching Track Faculty during her time as Chair. And a special thank you to Dominique Licops for providing me with her invaluable guidance as I navigated the first months in the role!

Throughout the academic year, the teaching-track faculty and graduate teaching assistants continued to inspire students as we transitioned once again from online to inperson learning. We overcame the challenges due to the enthusiasm of the faculty, the motivation of our students—both graduate and undergraduate—and our tutors: Khadija Al Moutaa, Nigel Chew, Nasser Nduhi, and Madeleine Williams. I would like to thank you all wholeheartedly for your steadfast commitment to teaching, to mentoring, to learning and to the department.

I would also like to applaud Aude Raymond, Christiane Rey, and Patricia Scarampi, and the Media and Design Studio (MADS), for their remarkable work on the development of Flipped French the groundbreaking courseware for Intermediate French. After piloting it in French 125 this year, they will incorporate Flipped French in that course starting in Fall 2022 and in French 121 the following year. We are so proud of this impressive accomplishment!



In fall quarter, the department created a new reading group entitled, "French and Italian Language Teaching and Nonbinary Gender Identities," organized by Paola Morgavi, Max Delfino, Dominique Licops, and myself. The group read articles addressing non-binary language in both French and Italian to prepare for two workshops during winter quarter. For French, the invited speakers, Vinay Swamy and Louisa Mackenzie, presented "Beyond the Pronoun: The French Language and Inclusive Pedagogy." They enlightened the audience on this essential topic

and offered ways to consider the non-binary challenge in the French classroom. They explored possibilities for pedagogy by foregrounding ongoing strategies that foster equity and inclusivity within Francophone linguistic, cultural, and educational spaces.



During the week of May 16-20, professors of language instruction, along with student majors and minors, participated in the first annual Festival of Languages and Cultures organized by the Council on Language Instruction (CLI). The department arranged events including two gatherings at the Rock where faculty dressed in country-specific clothing, set up decorative tables, offered food and drink from the country or region, played music and games, advertised upcoming events, and discussed courses, study abroad and language learningopportunities with students. At the Department of French and Italian table, we distributed sunglasses and sweets – the French table gave away madeleine cookies to anyone who could correctly answer trivia about French and Francophone cultures.

We also held a special edition of the department's Table française, offered a unique French film showing and discussion sponsored by the Ciné-Club, and participated in the language and cultures variety show.

Allow me to offer a hearty thank you to my colleagues for all you do in the Department. I feel privileged to serve as DLP of the French and Italian Department and look forward to collaborating further with the faculty, chair, and staff as we embark on another adventure together!

Margast Deupoter

**Margaret Dempster**Director of the French Language Program

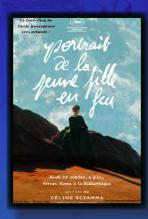
# THE RETURN OF CINÉ-CLUB!

It was a joy to be able to meet again in person for eleven film projections at the Forum Room in the University library.

It was wonderful to share screenings and spontaneously exchange ideas at the end of each viewing. The projection room is a place for aesthetical ecstasy and deep reflection. Le cinéma, c'est de la pensée. As a group, we spanned 82 years of French culture via the cinema, from *La Grande Illusion* made in 1937 by Jean Renoir to *Portrait de la jeune fille en feu* made in 2019 by Céline Sciamma. We need film in order to be provoked to think.

The **Ciné-Club** is open to all!



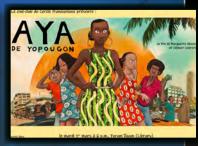
























# FRENCH TABLE

at the NU Festival of Languages and Cultures

Monday, May 16 12:00 - 1:00pm

Bring your own lunch and meet us in the Crowe Café area of Kresge!

Free snacks will be provided!



Northwestern French and Italian



## MESSAGE FROM THE ITALIAN DUS

Dun spiro spero. We will remember 2021-2022 as the year in which hope helped us reclaim our communal spaces of learning. It was not always easy—but it worked. It worked thanks to the dedication of our faculty, who put in the extra hours to make sure that all students could access learning when unwell, and thanks to our students who returned to class with greater enthusiasm than ever.

There have been plenty of occasions to get together in presence or remotely, to speak Italian, watch films, hear speakers and also celebrate. There has been a time to reflect, like when Professor Robustelli (University of Modena) introduced us to the complex relationship between language and gender in Italian, reminding us that power imbalances do have an impact on our linguistic choices (Language and Gender Issues: Between Sexism and Inclusivity). And there has been a time to be proud of our students' achievements and award them for their efforts. There has also been a time to simply have fun together, share a laughter and some music: our Spring Celebration Party was a truly joyful celebration for all lovers of Italian. Love for the Italian language also brought together many students who joined our Immersion Day in May and our Study Abroad Info Session.



Highlights of the year also included a lecture by Professor Sergio's Rigoletto (University of Oregon) on the politics of gender in Lina Wertmuller's *The Seduction of Mimi* offered as a masterclass for one of our courses taught by Professor Nasti, 'Voyage to Italy'. To this course our own Professor Delfino also contributed a wonderful class on Pietro Germi's Il cammino della Speranza. The course explored the issues of migration from, to and in Italy as one of the collective experiences that brought and still bring the sense of nationhood and boundaries into question.

In 2022 Italian also appointed a new Assistant Professor of Instruction: Dr Daniele Biffanti will join us in September from Stanford, where he graduated with a thesis on the founding myth of the Italian Republic—the *Resistenza* against Nazi-Fascism and subsequent *Liberazione*. We are very excited about this fantastic new addition to the program and look forward to welcoming Professor Biffanti soon.

New arrivals often come with departures. This year we say goodbye to Professor Alessandra Visconti, who is retiring after her longtime service as a language instructor in Italian. Professor Visconti's contributions to our program have been essential to its success. We will thoroughly miss her expertise on language and music and her incredible energy and *allegria*. Arriverderci Alessandra! We know you will continue to support us even in your well-deserved retirement.

As the outgoing DUS I would like to thank our incredible faculty and students for taking us with hope through these challenging years. It has been a pleasure to serve you. I am confident the program will be in expert hands with our new DUS, Professor Domietta Torlasco.

Paola Nasti

Director of Undergraduate Studies in Italian

# MESSAGE FROM THE ITALIAN DLP

2021-22 has been another challenging year because of the ongoing pandemic and many adjustments were still required. However, the joy of being back in person after a year of isolation prompted collaboration among students, helped create a supportive environment, and strengthened a sense of community, which continued outside of the classroom. Students were eager to participate in the cultural and social extracurricular events that the language faculty promoted every quarter. Massimiliano Delfino organized and hosted the film series, while Daniela Pozzi Pavan organized and hosted the meetings of Circolo Italiano. Both initiatives were very successful and brought together students keen on Italian cinema and willing to share common interests and spend time together.



The spring quarter was especially rich in events. The traditional Languages Fair was reinstated and expanded into the Festival of Languages and Cultures (May 16-20). For that occasion, the Italian language faculty prepared a variety of materials about Italy and the Italian culture to attract prospective students and made themselves available to answer questions about courses, study abroad programs, and minors' and majors' requirements. In addition, the screening of *Call Me By Your Name* – organized within the festival week – was open to the entire Northwestern community and was well-attended.



The academic year ended with a full immersion day in the Italian language and culture created for and by the students enrolled in all Italian classes. Everyone was able to showcase their talent: from making bruschetta and tiramisù to opera arias and Dante's Inferno, each student added to the day a unique artistic touch. It was a moment of conviviality and celebration and an extraordinary manner to say thank you to Professor Alessandra Visconti, who retired after fifteen years at NU.

Though Morban

**Paola Morgavi**Director of the Italian Language Program

## ITALIAN FILM SERIES

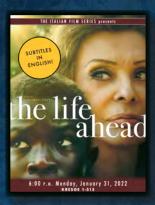
In the past year, the Italian Film Series, organized by Professor Massimiliano Delfino, held a total of six screenings: the 2021 Netflix series Zero, the historical romance Martin Eden, the criticallyacclaimed La vita davanti a sé, Phaim Bhuiyan's 2007's Bangla, fratello è figlio unico, and Luca Guadagnino's recent romantic drama Call Me By Your Name.













## **VOYAGE TO ITALY**



This past fall, Professor Paola Nasti offered a new edition of our course, Italian 205: Voyage to Italy to explore in depth the experiences of immigrants to Italy. The course focused in particular on literary and cinematic works that treat the Italian colonial past, the history of migration and immigration from both Europe and Africa, and the present challenges of "fortress Europe." Thanks to Paola for taking our students on such a fantastic voyage and enabling them to gain a deeper appreciation for the diversity of Italy, both past and present.

**Doris L. Garraway** 

THE DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH & ITALIAN

IS PLEASED
TO INVITE YOU TO OUR

ITALIAN SPRING CELEBRATION!

Join us for food, conversation, and fun

Tuesday, May 3 4:00PM Kresge 2-305

## Northwestern

Department of French and Italian



# ITALIAN IMMERSION DAY



Together with my colleauges Paola Morgavi, Alessandra Visconti, and Massimiliano Delfino, we organized for the first time an Immersion Day for all students in Italian. During this all-day event, we organized activities ranging from music, singing, photography, Italian traditions, Italian games, and conversations in Italian. The event was a great success. All students enjoyed the diverse activities we organized and were proud to show their talents to their peers.

Daniela Pozzi Pavan









On June 2nd, the Department of French and Italian celebrated the accomplishments of our students at the undergraduate awards reception!

#### **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN ITALIAN**

UNDERGRADUATE AWARD WINNERS IN ITALIAN

Peter Ryan Outstanding Achievement in Italian 101

Lizzie Wilkerson
Outstanding Achievement in Italian 102

Sophia Akinboro Outstanding Achievement in Italian 133/134

Isabel Calderon Raisbeck Distinguished Essay in Italian at 200-Level

Mya Franklin Distinguished Essay in Italian at 300-Level

ITALIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTIONAL CENTER Maddie Malueg, Filippo Ferraresi, Chayda Harding

#### **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN FRENCH**

**UNDERGRADUATE AWARD WINNERS IN FRENCH** 

Kristina Feikova Tilde Sankovitch Distinguished Essay in French Le mythe des Jeux Olympiques

Bintou Sonko
Distinguished Essay in English on a French Subject
Ousmane Sembéne. The Environment Creates an Auteur: The Making of Sembéne

Fiona Roach Second Year Language Ma boîte à souvenirs

**Evelyn Perfall** Third Year Language La Boue jusqu'à ses genoux

**Michael Tinney** Third Year Language, Honorable Mention Notre Histoire : Une Critique Queer de Ma Vie en Rose

> Bobby Yalam Third Year Literature La Ville Qui Avalera La Terre

> **Leila Narisetti** Fourth Year Language Une journée à la plage

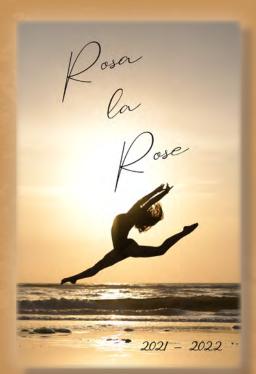
Chloe Ponzio Fourth Year Literature La langue et l'identité

AATF OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD Mingqian (Mary) Cui, Kristina Feikova

FRENCH STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD REPRESENTATIVES
Halle Petrie, Chloe Ponzio

FRENCH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTIONAL CENTER Nigel Chew, Nasser Nduhi, Madeleine Williams, Khadija Al Moutaa This year saw the long-awaited return of the printed version of **Rosa la Rose**, the Department's literary magazine featuring student poetry, prose, and artwork, curated and edited by Professor Marie-Thérèse Pent.

What follows is a selection of student works that were read during our end-of-the-year undergraduate awards reception.



# Rosa la Rose

Sophia Akinboro
Priyanka Amin
Tano Barenden-Rossi
Juliet Burks
Dori-Taylor Carter
Adonis Clemente
Mary Cui
Grace de Angelis
Madison Dieffenbach
Kristina Feikova
Louise Fontan-Ducret
Emmanuel Hernandez
Evie Hoskins
Lauren C. Kelly
Maya Krainc
Brennan Leach

Magdalena Mirto
Julia Nichols
Gloria Park
Sean Pascoe
Evelyn Perfall
Efren Ponce
Eric Powers
Xanh Quang
Malena Ramnath
Alexandra Romo
Peter Ryan
Michael Tinney
Polen Ton
Randy Truong
Cincia Tsai

#### La famiglia nucleare

Dove lealtà e generosità sono comuni

Dove il padre è protettivo e amorevole

Dove la madre è profonda e laboriosa

Dove la sorella è pragmatica e generosa

Dove la nonna ha tanto amore e si prende cura dei nipoti

Sono nata in questa ottima comunità che mi sostiene quotidianamente

La mia famiglia nucleare è il centro del mio mondo.

Priyanka Amin / Paola Morgavi

#### La vita è strana

Nella mia vita, mi trovo su un percorso incasinato, dove è facile diventare lesionato, o mi confondo con persone malvagie, che vogliono rubare i miei diritti, che pretendono troppo, e che mentono a me.

Ma,
se posso ignorare il baccano, come una farfalla posso crescere, diventare qualcuno più forte.

Tano Barendsen-Rossi / Paola Morgavi



#### Le lac d'hiver

Et donc, piégé, glacé, et loin des rivières, La nuit pendant tes jours, ciel effacé, nu. Ne devrions-nous jamais, sans penser à hier, Quitter le temps perdu ?

Ô lac ! l'année commence doucement sans retour. Au-dessus de toi sur cette vague de verre Regarde ! Moi, seul, mais l'espoir toujours m'entoure Aux vagues glacées d'hiver

Cris étouffés tombent dans l'oreille d'une sourde, Majesté perdue, tu n'échoues plus sur des plages, Tu restes éveillé, combattant durement l'eau lourde, Dommage ; tu restes en cage. « Ô temps ! Suspendu, encerclé, au purgatoire, Allez-vous délivrer ! Demandez avec votre voix déclamatoire Au futur d'arriver !

Ô lac ! Figé ! Si tu pouvais voir le ciel ! Si tu pouvais savoir que cette nuit fondra, Le soleil t'emportera au monde actuel, Et un jour tu verras !

Que ta nuit qui sera couverte d'étoiles, Que le soleil que la lune reflètera, Que ta liberté qui, en coulant, se dévoile Tous disent « tu aimeras »

#### **Eric Powers / Dominique Licops**

Dans mes vêtements pour flâner Dans mon lit et mes oreillers Dans ma demeure dans mon quartier Je vois ton visage

Dans les figures cachées Dans les armées de médecins Dans l'élection du chef Je vois ton visage

Dans l'hôpital et l'école Dans le silence dans les roues Dans l'écho du monde révolu Je vois ton visage

Dans la clarté des nuits Dans le verre vide des journées Dans les époques constantes <u>Je vois</u> ton visage

Dans tous mes masques de vent Dans la goutte d'air renfermée Dans la pénombre déroulée Je vois ton visage

Dans les nuages dans le ciel Dans les éclats des graminées Et dans le sommeil des envies Je vois ton visage

Dans chaque chaîne des analyses Dans la lune dans les étoiles Dans les étreintes lointaines Je vois ton visage



Dans la cascade des jours Dans le poids du temps Dans le sourire éteint et plat Je vois ton visage

Dans les rappels d'amour Dans les coeurs espérant Bien au fond de l'esprit Je vois ton visage

Dans mes intimités seules Dans mes pensées vagabondes Dans les tréfonds de ma vue Je vois ton visage

Dans le but sans moyen Dans le souhait craqué Dans les serrements de l'âme Je vois ton visage

Dans l'amitié soutenue Dans le chemin inconnu Dans l'attente sans source Je vois ton visage

Et par le pouvoir d'une lueur Je réalise ma raison d'être Je suis née pour te désirer Pour te trouver

Beauté.





# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Your generous support and contributions help make possible all that we do. Thank you.

# DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION

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Department Chair

**Cynthia Nazarian**Director of Undergraduate
Studies in French

Paola Nasti
Director of Undergraduate
Studies in Italian

Nasrin Qader
Director of Graduate Studies

Margaret Dempster
Director of French Language
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Paola Morgavi
Director of Italian Language
Program

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