



THE DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH & ITALIAN

NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY

2024-2025
NEWSLETTER



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Letter from the Chair

This past academic year has been uniquely challenging for many colleges and universities around the country and Northwestern has been no exception. While the direct and concrete effects on our department have so far been comparatively minimal, uncertainty and sometimes fear cast their shadows over what are typically some of the bright spots of the year. Notes such as this one are generally about looking back with a sense of accomplishment and even joy, while also looking expectantly ahead to another such year. I recognize, then, that this is an odd moment to indulge in this genre, but I also believe it is essential that we do not surrender our spaces of celebration and hope.

Rebecca Solnit famously distinguished hope from mere optimism by defining the former as “the belief that what we do matters even though how and when it may matter, who and what it may impact, are not things we can know beforehand. We may not, in fact, know them afterward either.” This is also true of things we’ve already done. And it wouldn’t be a bad definition of the liberal arts mission overall, either.

While lists of academic milestones can sometimes ring emptily ceremonial, then, they are also the fruits—and seeds—of years of not only planning and hard work, but also adventurous dreaming and chance taken. I think, for example, of the three women who completed their PhDs in our program this year: Raja Ben Hammed, Jessica Passos, Xinyi Wei. Growing up with a passion for literature and ideas in Tunisia, Brazil, and China, respectively, who could have predicted they would complete doctorates in French literature and culture at a university in the middle of the United States? As with so many other places in US life, our department’s greatest strength has been its ability to connect with people and ideas from, and communicating with, places beyond national borders. In that general spirit and context, let’s celebrate some of the major achievements

of our students and faculty this past year.

Matthieu Dupas was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, closing out a milestone professional year stretching from a fall colloquium to celebrate the publication of his first book to a spring quarter spent at the École Normale Supérieure in Lyon. Beginning this quarter (Fall 2025), Matthieu has taken on the role of Director of Graduate Studies for French.

Massimiliano Delfino, shortly after becoming a father, was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Instruction—two roles in which we know he will excel!

The department successfully completed an international search for a new professor of Francophone African literatures and cultures. We’re delighted to announce that Éric Essono Tsimi will be joining the department in January. Watch for updates about this exciting scholar and write and all the things he will be bringing to the department.

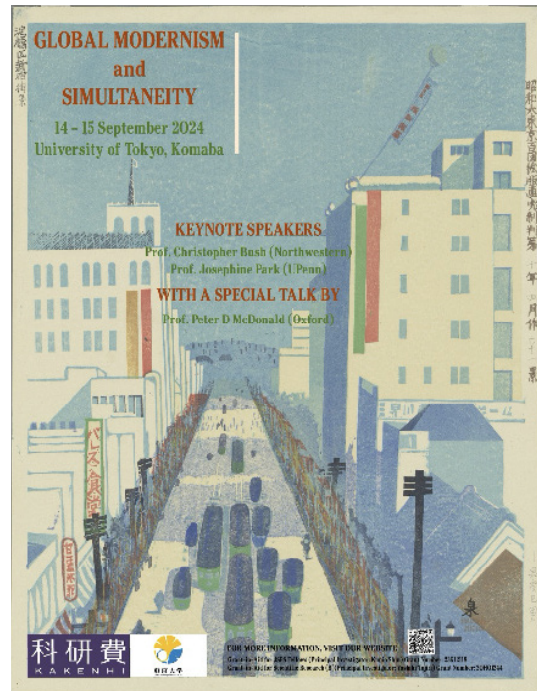
The department also organized a number of well-attended talks and events (check out the individual articles about them!), from Nasrin Qader’s conversation with French-Algerian journalist and filmmaker Dorothee-Myriam Kellou to a lecture on Mediterraneanism by our visiting Fulbright scholar from Italy, Francescomaria Tedesco. Our annual departmental speaker series focused on a range of contemporary topics, with Dorian Bell (University of California, Santa Cruz) discussing anti-Semitism in France, Éric Fassin (University of Paris 8 St-Denis) comparing academic freedom in France and the US, and Federico Faloppa (University of Reading) presenting shifting definitions of harmful speech in a broadly European context.

An outgoing Chair of this department can never say enough good things about our amazing staff, starting with Elizabeth Murray and Lisa Byrnes. Their streak of professional excellence and of making the office a welcoming home for us all continued unbroken this year. I’ll thank them here, but everyone reading this should thank them next time they see them! Mid-year we were all sad to hear that our other staff member, Leon Hedstrom, would be leaving for another position at Northwestern. But we were fortunate enough to have one irreplaceable person’s role taken on by someone who quickly became irreplaceable in her own unique way, Hannah Cox. Hope indeed springs eternal and with that let us all welcome the incoming Chair, Domietta Torlasco!

Christopher Bush

Faculty News

In 2024/25, DANIELE BIFFANTI taught and coordinated courses at the beginner, intermediate, and advanced level. In the Fall, he designed and taught a new advanced course titled Exploring Urban Italy, which immersed students in the tapestry of Italian urban life through the analysis of various media representations. For the third consecutive year he coordinated Mapping Resistance – 1945-2025: Literature and Memory in Translation, a collaborative project between students at Northwestern University and Università La Sapienza in Rome. On April 25, 2025, marking the 75th anniversary of Italy's liberation from Nazi-Fascism, he organized a public reading in Harris Hall based on students' translations from the Mapping Resistance project; the event drew more than 100 spectators. Beyond his teaching, he keeps contributing to the field of Italian Studies by regularly publishing book reviews on journals such as Italianistica and Italian Studies. In March he presented his pedagogical research at the Nemla Conference in Philadelphia, where he also chaired a roundtable on Approaching Politics in the Language Classroom.



CHRIS BUSH gave several invited talks this year: at the Institute for Advanced Studies (Nicolaus Copernicus University) in Toruń, Poland; at the Smith Institute for Political Economy and Philosophy at Chapman University in California (where he was a visiting scholar for a week); and the keynote for a conference on 'Global Modernism and Simultaneity' at the University of Tokyo. He was also an invited roundtable participant for a modernist studies conference at Ewha Womans University in Seoul; was the invited moderator for the keynote session of a conference on 'Script-switching in Literary Texts' (online, but based in Institute of World Literature of the Slovak Academy of Sciences); and presented a paper at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies annual conference.



Faculty Spotlight: Massimiliano Delfino

The academic year 2024–25 marked Massimiliano's promotion to Associate Professor of Instruction, an honor reflecting his ongoing commitment to teaching, research, and professional service. In the fall, he published an article in *Second Language Research and Practice* titled "Preparing the Ground for Intercultural Communicative Competence Through Stereotypes." The article advances the field of language pedagogy by arguing for the creation of a dedicated introductory module designed to equip students with the cognitive and metacognitive skills necessary to approach the study of Intercultural Communicative Competence. He also presented his new research project on Intercultural Competence and humor at the ACTFL conference. In his role as Co-Chair of the Language Faculty Professional Development Committee, he organized initiatives to support faculty, including two workshops on publishing. As part of his ongoing efforts to enrich the cultural life of the university via the Italian Film Series, he curated a successful screening of *Io, Capitano* at Northwestern's Block Theater, in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago. Beyond this event, he continued his collaboration with the Institute by curating additional film screenings and cultural initiatives. On the creative side, Massimiliano presented his poetry book *L'apocalisse nuda* (Marietti 1820) — reviewed on *Treccani* and finalist for the Rodolfo di Biasio Prize — both in Italy and in Chicago.

DANIELA POZZI PAVAN completed her first year as Director of the Italian Language Program (DLP) and Placement Coordinator. As DLP, among other responsibilities, she was busy with the promotion and reappointment cases of all her colleagues in the Italian language program.

Daniela sponsored and organized several extracurricular activities both on campus and off campus. Thanks to the Course Enhancement Grant, she brought students to the Chicago International Film Festival to watch the newly released movie *Vermiglio* by Maura Delpero.

During the past academic year, Daniela published the pedagogical project "Il testo filmico nei corsi d'italiano: diversità e inclusione" in the *Quaderni del Master MITAL L2*. In addition, together with her colleague, Daniele Biffanti, she published the article "Introducing Immigration and Integration in the Italian Language Curriculum - An Approach Based on ACTFL Standards," in the peer-reviewed journal *Italica*.

In collaboration with her colleague Daniele Biffanti, she worked on the OER Grammar Resource for Intermediate and Intensive Italian Courses (forthcoming).

Together with her colleagues Paola Morgavi, Massimiliano Delfino, and Daniele Biffanti, in May 2025, she received the Hewlett Grant to develop an online textbook for the Intermediate Italian sequence and two courses of Intensive Italian. The textbook will comprise thematic modules on relevant aspects of contemporary Italian culture, incorporating a variety of authentic sources. Following a content-based approach, students will access cultural content through a

series of scaffolded pedagogical activities, enabling them to develop cultural and intercultural competence, as well as linguistic proficiency, in the three modes of communication.

Daniela's students appreciated her easy-to-navigate Canvas site and nominated her courses for the Canvas Hall of Fame again this year.



Faculty Spotlight: Matthieu Dupas

Since summer 2024, Prof. Dupas has deepened his engagement with the intersections of literature and gender and sexuality theory. His book *La Galanterie comme mode de vie* was launched at the University of Illinois in a well-attended event featuring Prof. Ellen McClure, Doris Garraway, and Nasrin Qader. During the 2024–2025 academic year, Dupas co-lead the seminar of *Le Mouvement Transitions* with Prof. Nasrin Qader and Augustin Leroy, focusing on Roland Barthes's *Cours sur Le Neutre* and Éric Marty's *Le Sexe des Modernes*. This work has laid the groundwork for an upcoming conference on the Neutral, scheduled for April 2026. The seminar will continue with five sessions planned weekly, with further details to be announced over the coming year.

For PAOLA NASTI, 2024 has been a very research intensive year. It has been a pleasure to give papers across the world including at the International Conference of the 'Oxford Society for the Study of Medieval Language & Literatures', St Andrews, July 2025; The Dante Society of America Symposium April 2025, New York City, April 2025, and at the International Conference on *La ricezione del Simbolo niceno-costantinopolitano nella cultura medievale* at the Università di Bologna, November 2024. She has also finalized and submitted a series of chapters for different scholarly volumes including an important article on the Creed in Dante's Comedy ('*Il Credo nel rito di confermazione di Paradiso XXIVXXVI*', in *La ricezione del Simbolo niceno-costantinopolitano nella cultura medievale fra l'età carolingia e il tempo di Dante*, ed. by G. Ledda, Milan: Marietti, forthcoming), an introduction on medieval biblical exegetical poetry ('*Scrittura e le pratiche esegetiche nel medioevo letterario italiano*', in *La conception de l'écriture et de l'exégèse latine d'Origène à Lorenzo Valla*, ed. by M. Ingegno, Turnhout: Brepols, forthcoming); a chapter on 'Hierarchy and Diversity' in Dante, for the first American text book on Dante's *Paradiso*: (*Paradiso. A Reader's Guide*, edited by Ronal Herzman and F. Gianferrari, London: Routledge Textbook Series, forthcoming). Her chapter on Dante's voice arguing that for the poet his voice had the creative power of biblical words was published right at the end of 2024 ('*L'«altra voce» di Dante: virtus verborum e vox sacramentale*', *Atti degli incontri sulle opere di Dante. VI. Commedia. Paradiso*, M. Ciccuto and G. Ledda, Florence: Sismel - Edizioni del Galluzzo, 2024, pp. 349-385). During the summer she is working at several projects: an article on Dante's economics and the concept of just price, a

chapter on authorial intention in medieval poetics and a paper on Pasolini's interpretation of Boccaccio's Decameron for the Boccaccio Society Conference to be held at the Newberry Library in September 2025. There are many more projects in store and she is looking forward to the new year!



Last November, AUDE RAYMOND and PATRICIA SCARAMPI attended the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Annual Convention and World Languages Expo in Philadelphia, PA. Their poster presentation, titled "An Innovative and Inclusive Platform for 21st Century Grammar Learning," showcased the Flipped French grammar platform, which introduces two major innovations: an individualized student learning path and formative feedback tailored to each student's response. By applying principles of Backward Design and Universal Design for Learning, and integrating the ACTFL World-Readiness Standards, Flipped French provides students with a rich cultural

context through content-based activities and an immersive audiovisual experience. The presentation received an enthusiastic reception, with attendees inquiring whether the platform was available for use in their own classes.

DOMINIQUE LICOPS continues to teach a variety of language and culture courses and serves as placement coordinator. She has focused on updating French 202, Writing Workshop, and providing research opportunities to undergraduates. During her leave in Spring 2024, she received a grant from the FRIT department to work with ENS graduate exchange student, Valentin Lorange, to update the Dictionary of 50 trick-words (mots-pièges) used in French 202, by expanding the explanations, creating discovery and practice exercises, and producing a digital version of it for Canvas. Students in 202 started using the expanded digital Dictionary in Fall 2024. Thanks to two URAP grants, Dominique worked with Nate Hanrahan and Ella Smith in Winter 2025, on creating and piloting the learning quizzes that seamlessly integrate the discovery and practice exercises with the explanations. Students will start using these learning quizzes in Fall 2025. In Spring 2025, Dominique continued to work with these two students, and welcomed two independent study students, Leila Narisetti and Nicolas Stanciu, to research language inclusion and non-binary linguistic practices and discuss how these could be integrated in The Grammar Manual for 200-level courses. Dominique plans to continue this work in collaboration with the Manual author, Margaret Sinclair, to produce an OER version of it, for which she has received an Open Educational Resources Faculty Grant.

MARGARET DEMPSTER completed her fourth year as Director of the French Language Program. In addition to teaching French courses in the French and Italian Department, she teaches the French 111 evening course for the School of Professional Studies.

Margaret continued in her role as CoChair of the Study Abroad Committee of the Council on Language Instruction (CLI), and as an advisor for the Weinberg Language Resource Center, as well as Associate Chair of the International Studies Residential College. She also resumed her role as co-host of the Table française with colleagues Aude Raymond and Katia Viot-Southard. Margaret thoroughly enjoys interacting with residents during the many academic and social events – including a trip to the Ferris Wheel and Shakespeare theater at Navy Pier.

In November 2024, she presented an aspect of her French for Business course (French 309) at the American Council of Teachers of French (ACTFL) in Philadelphia. In April 2025, she attended the CLI Language symposium at DePaul University. She attended the TeachX conference in May 2025, where her French 111 Canvas site was nominated for a Canvas Hall of Fame award! Although her presentation proposal to the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) was accepted, she could not attend the July 2025 Convention. One of her current projects is writing a book chapter on sports and business for the committee on French for Specific Purposes. Margaret traveled to France this summer – to visit as well as to participate in the FestiFLE (Français langue étrangère) theater program in Avignon during the theater

festival! At this five-day workshop she, along with fourteen other French professors from around the world, learned innovative ways in which to incorporate theater in the classroom. The group also attended several plays, performances and festival events. Quelle expérience!

An avid sports enthusiast and runner, Margaret traveled to Paris for the 2024 Olympics, and attended events in handball, tennis, swimming, soccer, track and field, and watched the women's marathon at the finish line. This year, as a member of the Chicago-Paris sports committee, and the education committee of "Chicago Sister Cities International – a division of World Business Chicago," Margaret participated in several of their activities, including volunteering at their Chicago Marathon expo booth, and welcoming French runners at a CSCI reception. In 2025, she ran the Shamrock Shuffle 8K, and the Highland Park Half-marathon, and continues to lead a running pace group with the Chicago Area Runners Association for the half marathon and the marathon. She plans to volunteer again for the 2025 Chicago Marathon and to run various 5Ks and another half-marathon in January 2026.



GraduateNews

During the 2024-25 academic year, EMILY JACKSON completed her graduate coursework, taught all three courses in the French 121 sequence, and served as the department's Faculty-Student Liaison and TA Coordinator. This summer, supported by a TGS Summer Language Grant, she had the opportunity to spend six weeks in Seoul, South Korea, while participating in the Inter-University Colloquium's advanced academic language and research program at Sungkyunkwan University. As she begins her fourth year, Emily looks forward to completing her qualifying exam and prospectus and beginning work on her dissertation, which will consider works of Francophone visual media produced by Korean adoptees.



FANNIE-ALICE MARCHAISSE is completing her dissertation titled *Enchanted Ideals and Subversive Bodies: Fairies, Gallantry, and Femininity*. It explores how 17th-century French fairytales written by women reimagine social ideals through the figures of the fairy and the transformed body. The first two chapters are complete, and the remaining two are fully drafted and currently under review. She has published a chapter "Once Upon a Time in a Queer Kingdom" which was published in *Queer Kinship: New Approaches from Comparative Literature* (Palgrave, Sept. 2024). Her article, "Teaching the Past, Facing the Present: Gender, Sexuality, and 17th-Century French Literature in the Modern Classroom," has been accepted for publication in the special issue *Anachronism of Cahiers du dix-septième*. In spring 2025, she presented at the SIEFAR conference in Paris, with proceedings to be published by Classiques Garnier. In fall 2025, she will present at the SE17 conference at Smith College and at the MMLA Conference. She will also co-chair and present a panel at NeMLA 2026.

Welcome New Grads!



THAÏS AUTIN is a Ph.D. candidate in the department of French and Italian. Her research interests include 20th and 21st century North and West African francophone literature, as well as 19th and 21st century French literature. She mainly works on migration, diaspora, exile, gender, language, nation, and national myths. Thaïs received her Licence L.L.C.E.R. Anglais (Rennes 2) and her Licence in Philosophie (Rennes 1) after two years of "prépa" in Gabriel Guisth'au, Nantes. She also holds a Master L.C.E.R. Anglais (R2) with an enunciative and contrastive linguistics concentration, however she realized that her true calling was in fact literature. She thus graduated with a M.A. in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies from the University of New Mexico. Her Master's thesis focuses on the following topic: "What is a Nation? Colonial Legacies, Identity, and Reclaiming in Métisse Autobiographical Narratives – A Comparative Study of Sugar and Slate and Garçon manqué". In addition to her academic work, Thaïs particularly enjoys teaching. She was an Instructor of French, and president of the French Club during her years at UNM.



ANNA BATTY is a graduate student in the department of French and Italian. She received her B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a double major in Linguistics and French in 2023. Prior to joining the department, she spent a year working as a TAPIF language assistant, teaching English to high-school students in Nîmes, France, where she developed a passion for second-language education and inclusive pedagogy.

Currently, she is interested in exploring linguistic/idiolectal identity formation as it pertains to literary and visual expression in the field of French and Francophone studies. More broadly, her research interests include gender and sexuality studies, post-colonial studies, 20th and 21st century Fran-

Letter from the French DUS Nasrin Qader

FIRST AND FOREMOST, we congratulate all our undergraduate students for yet another year of hard work and success. We specially congratulate those who graduated and are about to open exciting new chapters in their lives. We will miss you in our classes and in our department, but we also wish you all the joys and adventures of moving on. We look forward to learning about where you go and what you do in the coming years. The department takes pride in the excellence and achievements of all our students, at all levels. At the end of the year, we celebrated these accomplishments of the 2024-25 academic year where student creative work published in the department's literary magazine, *Rosa la Rose*, is always the highlight of the festivities. An impressive range of excellent essays at all levels also garnered awards for their originality, critical acumen, and linguistic dexterity. Two of our graduating seniors, Juliet Burks and Leila Narisetti, were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa for academic excellence. Juliet and Leila were also our department's Student Advisory Board Representatives (SAB) this year and were instrumental in helping us promote French studies through activities and events they spearheaded. Leila also generously volunteered to present her honors thesis during a lunch causerie to the whole department. While she wrote her thesis in history, it was on a Francophone related topic, the Rif anticolonial wars in Morocco. This excel-

lent thesis, entitled "Recognizing the Rif: Abd al-Krim, Tribal Unity and Colonial Warfare, 1921-1926" was coadvised by professors Henri Lauzière (history) and Nasrin Qader (French). Juliet and Leila's excellence in course work in tandem with their engagement with and contributions to the life of the department were also recognized: While Juliet was selected by unanimous decision our Marshall to 2025 graduation, one of the highest honors bestowed on a senior, Leila was awarded the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) Outstanding Senior in French award and medal. Additionally, Lindsey Smith was garnered AATF's Excellence in French award. We wish all our students, graduated and returning, a fulfilling 2025-26 and heartily thank them for everything that they bring to our intellectual community in the department and at Northwestern. We also welcome to the department new students, at all levels, and look forward to working with each and everyone. Heartfelt thanks to the Undergraduate Committee (Ty Blakeney, Dominique Licops, Cynthia Nazarian, Christopher Bush) for their hard work throughout the year as well as the staff of the department, Hannah Cox, Liz Murray, and Lisa Byrnes for all their support of our students and faculty.

Letter from the Italian DUS

Paola Nasti

The driving force of this academic year was, as always, the intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm of our students as they pursued their academic interests through the study of Italian language and culture. This year, in particular, students had the rare opportunity to take courses on the cultural and social construction of the Mediterranean with our Fulbright Chair, Prof. Tedesco. Alongside their excellent academic performance, our students participated with great energy in the extracurricular activities generously organized by our faculty. These included a successful film screening series and a series of game nights, curated by Prof. Morgavi, Prof. Delfino, and Prof. Biffanti, and an exciting evening at the Chicago International Film Festival with Prof. Pozzi-Pavan.

Students who spent a quarter in our Bologna Program returned with refined pronunciation, valuable academic experience, and many personal memories to share with their classmates—though, regrettably, no mortadella. Our final graduation and awards ceremony was a joyful occasion, bringing together our majors and minors as well as students who took only a few courses with us but nonetheless benefited from them and achieved excellence. Year after year, I take pride in the big, welcoming space that our small program creates for curious minds.

It was also a pleasure to promote a series of academic and cultural events devoted to reflecting on the complex idea of freedom—political freedom, freedom of speech, and freedom of movement. Our Freedom Series created opportunities to engage with the Italian anti-fascist Resistance through films, and through critical readings. On Liberation Day (April 25), Prof. Torlasco organized a

public screening of *Roma città aperta* (R. Rossellini), while our students took the stage for the Mapping Resistance event organized by Prof. Biffanti in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago. Together with actress Claire Hart, they gave voice to the powerful and moving words of Italian anti-fascists.

The Freedom Series also featured two events focused on migration, the Mediterranean, and the Global South. The first was a gripping screening of *Io Capitano* (2023) at the Block Theater, organized by Prof. Delfino in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute (many thanks are due), with Prof. Torlasco and Prof. Faloppa serving as discussants. The second was a lecture by our Fulbright Distinguished Chair on the concept of Mediterraneanism. Finally, to complete our reflection on freedom, we welcomed Prof. Faloppa from the UK for a discussion on freedom of speech in Italy and Europe. The success of the series was, above all, a celebration of academic and personal freedom. My sincere thanks to all the students and faculty who made it possible. We look forward to another year of useful doubts and intellectual commitment.

Letter from the French DLP Margaret Dempster

QUELLE ANNÉE ! In my fourth year as Director of the Language Program for French, I find myself so grateful to work with such talented teaching-track faculty colleagues as well as graduate teaching assistants. No matter what challenges they face, they continue to inspire and motivate students with their commitment to teaching.

Throughout the year, Aude Raymond, Katia Viot-Southard, and I enjoyed hosting the Table française at Allison Dining Hall. Marie-Thérèse and Tassadith Lombard Mammar organized the CinéClub showing various French and Francophone films, and Marie-Thérèse spearheaded yet another beautiful edition of Rosa la Rose, applauding our students' talents. The Department hosted many undergraduate events, including two pizza socials, where students learned about the French major and minor as well as Study abroad opportunities. Fall quarter, our Student Advisory Board Representatives also hosted a "Cocoa and Convo" where students gathered informally to speak in French.

From May 5-8, professors of language instruction, along with student majors and minors, participated in the Festival of Languages and Cultures organized by the Council on Language Instruction. We held events including a decorative table at the "Rock", where we offered madeleines, and a variety of fun Francophone-themed prizes for correct answers to trivia questions about French

and Francophone cultures. As we advertised upcoming events, and study abroad opportunities, we discussed with students FRIT's course offerings and activities. That week, 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 student talent show. We concluded the academic year with several festive events, including the Rosa la Rose reading and awards ceremony, the Departmental end-of year party, and the Reception for Graduating Seniors.

I would like to thank our Departmental Chair, Chris Bush for his sense of humor, his leadership style, and for his constant support for the Teaching Track Faculty. I extend an enthusiastic thank you to my colleagues, and to the graduate and undergraduate students for their unwavering commitment to teaching, to learning and to embracing everything French and Francophone! In addition, I also would like to thank our tutors, Khadija Al Moutaa, Andrea Korkmaz, Jon Mandrell, Riana Tadonki and Kenzi Zaim, for assisting and motivating our students. And to the staff, Elizabeth Murray, Lisa Byrnes, and Hannah Cox, I thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Department. Merci beaucoup!



Letter from the Italian DLP

Daniela Pozzi Pavan

I AM HONORED to have been appointed as Director of the Italian Language Program (DLP) following Paola Morgavi's twelve years of tireless dedication in creating a growing and successful Italian program. I am grateful for the welcome and collegial support I have received throughout the year. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Chris Bush for his support, and especially to Paola Morgavi for her invaluable guidance as I navigated my first year in this position.

The 2024–2025 academic year was marked by a vibrant array of initiatives that enriched the academic and cultural life of our program, fostering a sense of community among students and faculty.

Among several other events, Massimiliano Delfino curated and hosted the fall film series, presenting a variety of films on different topics. I organized the 'traditional' field trip to the Chicago International Film Festival. More than 30 students from various Italian language courses attended the screening of *Vermiglio* by Maura Delpero. Paola Morgavi organized and hosted the popular *Caffè Italiano*, giving students the opportunity to discover the Italian culture outside of class. Daniele Biffanti hosted the *Tavola Italiana* at Allison Hall, offering students a relaxed setting to practice Italian over dinner.

In the winter quarter, the Italian language faculty hosted a well-attended Study

Abroad Information Session. We were delighted to receive a record number of applications to the Bologna Consortium Studies Program (BCSP) for fall 2025.

The Spring quarter brought further stimulating initiatives. As part of the Freedom Series, organized by Professor Paola Nasti and Domietta Torlasco, Massimiliano Delfino introduced the screening of Matteo Garrone's *Io Capitano* and moderated the panel discussion with Professor Domietta Torlasco, and Distinguished Fulbright Chair in Italian Studies Professor Federico Faloppa of the University of Reading. In addition, in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute in Chicago, Daniele Biffanti organized a reading performance dedicated to the Italian Resistance movement on the 80th anniversary of Italy's Liberation from Nazi fascism. During the event, students in the Italian program guided the audience through an emotional journey across the peninsula through a reading of selected stories, translated into English by students at Northwestern University in collaboration with students of the Università La Sapienza of Rome.

During the Festival of Languages and Cultures, the Italian language faculty organized a table at the Rock to promote Italian courses for the following fall.

The academic year concluded with a *festadifineanno*, where students from all Italian language classes showcased

their artistic talent through singing arias and reading poetry. It was a moment of conviviality and celebration.

The student-run Italian Association also contributed significantly to the program's vibrancy, organizing events such as a game night, a screening of the Italian series *Il Gattopardo*, and a lively trivia evening.

In addition to organizing engaging events for our students and actively promoting our program, we contributed to the broader academic community by presenting at national conferences, publishing scholarly articles, and securing curriculum innovation grants to enhance the rigor and depth of our course offerings. I am grateful to my colleagues for their unwavering dedication to the program, their commitment to student success, and their continued collaboration.

As Director of the Italian Language Program, I would like to thank Chris Bush for his leadership and his ongoing support for the teaching track faculty during his time as Department Chair. I also warmly welcome Domietta Torlasco as our new Chair. I extend my sincere appreciation to our extraordinary, dedicated staff, Liz Murray, Leon Hedsrom, and Hannah Cox, for their efficiency and support throughout the year.

Departmental Events



The Department of French and Italian

INVITES YOU TO A
BOOK LAUNCH FOR
MATTHIEU DUPAS'S
***La Galanterie
comme
mode de vie***

A conversation with
Ellen McClure
Doris Garraway
Nasrin Qader
Ty Blakeney
and the author

**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 25**
3:00pm
Kresge 1-515
(with light reception to follow)

Northwestern | French and Italian

On October 25, 2024, the department hosted a book launch in honor of our colleague Professor Matthieu Dupas, whose acclaimed and field shaping first book, *La Galanterie comme mode de vie* had been published the previous spring by the renowned French publisher, Classiques Garnier. While the event's primary aim was to celebrate this achievement, it was an opportunity for us to discuss its arguments with the author and with other colleagues and students. For this purpose, we invited Ellen McClure, a leading scholar of the early Modern France currently teaching at the University of Illinois at Chicago to join colleagues from the department, namely Doris Garraway, Ty Blakeney, and Nasrin Qader, on a panel. Professor Dupas opened the session followed by short presentations on aspects of the work. Professor Dupas returned to the podium to generously respond to questions and make further comments before we opened the floor to a lively discussion with the audience. We had also invited to the event colleagues from other departments whose work intersect with Matthieu Dupas', and this gave rise to a multidisciplinary and enriching general discussion. The event was followed by a reception during which informal discussions continued in a spirit of celebration and appreciation of our colleague's contribution to our intellectual community.

Nasrin Qader

THE DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN PRESENTS

ARCHIVES DES MÉMOIRES COLONISÉES**WITH DOROTHÉE-MYRIAM KELLOU****(DOROTHÉE-MYRIAM KELLOU'S FATHER WILL JOIN VIA ZOOM)**

Dorothee-Myriam Kellou's fascinating work is both a historical and personal quest. It is an intimate interrogation of inherited historical silences around the colonization of Algeria and its war of independence. She begins this quest with the following questions: how to go beyond official historiography to find a different and more subjective language regarding a long history of violence? How to approach emotions, affects, and interstices of memory to interrogate dynamics that create and maintain silence? To do so, she turns to her own father in a conversation and on a journey of discovery.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21**12:00–2:00PM****KAPLAN SEMINAR ROOM****(KRESGE 2-351)****LUNCH WILL BE SERVED!**

Dorothee-Myriam Kellou is an Algerian and French author, journalist and filmmaker. She garnered the Trace prize for investigative reporting in 2017 for her work on the war in Syria, and regularly contributes to many of the leading news outlets in France.

In 2019 Kellou directed the award-winning film "À Mansourah, tu nous as séparés," and in 2020 produced a sound documentary series for France culture, "L'Algérie des camps," with the support of the Albert Londres prize. She published her first book, "Nancy-Kabylie," with Grasset in 2023. She is frequent lecturer on France's legacy of colonialism and war in Algeria and teaches investigative journalism at the university level. She also leads the Rawiyat collective of women filmmakers.

She has been awarded the 2024 Recanati Kaplan Prize. An annual initiative from the Recanati Kaplan foundation, Villa Albertine, and the Institut du monde arabe, the Prize supports international artistic and intellectual exchange by recognizing a high-potential project from an outstanding cultural actor in the Arab world.

Northwestern French and Italian

On Thursday November 21, 2024, the department hosted Dorothee-Myriam Kellou, for a special event featuring her recent documentary film about colonial archives and memories of war from Algeria. The event also featured her father, who was not only at the center of the story the documentary told but was also himself a filmmaker. Mr. Kellou joined the audience in a discussion via zoom from Paris. This event drew undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty from varied disciplines and shared a very personal account of a forgotten memory of the war. The film took us to the family home in Mansourah, Algeria, now in ruins, in the company of the filmmaker's father. He told us that until she began this project, he never spoke of this event and had forgotten about it. The event was as much about history and archives of erased memories as about multigenerational trauma. The audience commented on the effectiveness of the way in which her project and the event were both thoughtful and informative as well as moving and personal.

Dorothee-Myriam Kellou is a journalist, director, and activist. Among her works is the documentary we screened, "À Mansourah, tu nous as séparés [In Mansourah You Separated Us]" which tells the story of forced population displacements by the French during the Algerian War of Independence. She is also the author of "Nancy-Kabylie," in 2023. The first is the name of a town in France and the other of a region in Algeria where she has her roots. She has reported for France Culture, a program called "Algérie des camps [Algeria of Camps]" for which she won the Albert Londres prize. She was also recognized for her reporting on the Syrian war in 2017. Finally, she is the organizer of a women directors' collective called Rawiyat (meaning storytellers in Arabic) and has been the recipient of Fulbright Excellence Award.

We had the opportunity to bring her to Northwestern thanks to the Recanati-Kaplan award she had garnered from the Recanati-Kaplan and Villa Albertine of the French Cultural Services in New York and Institut du monde Arabe in Paris. One element of this prestigious prize was the opportunity to be in residence in the US where she was conducting research on progressive Muslim feminisms in Washington DC, Miami, and Chicago. This project was to lead to the production of a podcast and documentary film upon completion..

Nasrin Qader

The Department of
French and Italian presents

“Jews Will Not Replace Us”:

Antisemitism and the
Great Replacement Theory

a lecture by
Professor Dorian Bell
Associate Professor of Literature
University of California, Santa Cruz

Adherents of the so-called Great Replacement theory accuse “globalist” elites of conspiring to drown white nations in a nonwhite immigrant tide. This talk shows how such demographic conspiracism draws on — but also reconfigures — old antisemitic notions about Jewish power. The result is what Bell calls post-antisemitism: a phenomenon molded by antisemitism, yet that poses a distinctive new threat to Jews and non-Jews alike.

Dorian Bell is Associate Professor of Literature at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he is affiliated with the Jewish Studies Program and the Department of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies. His first book, *Globalizing Race: Antisemitism and Empire in French and European Culture* (Northwestern University Press, 2018), traces intersections between antisemitism and imperialism that shaped the emergence of European racial thought. He is at work on a second book, tentatively entitled *White Populism: Race and Grievance in the 21st Century*, which examines how shifting notions about whiteness are driving political and cultural change on both sides of the Atlantic. Professor Bell has published widely on the histories of antisemitism, race, imperialism, and reaction, and given lectures on those topics at numerous universities and research institutes in the United States, Europe, and Africa.

Friday, November 22
3:00pm
Crowe Hall 1-132

Northwestern | French and Italian

THE DEPARTMENT OF
FRENCH AND ITALIAN
PRESENTS

A LECTURE BY
ERIC ESSONO TSIMI
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
BARUCH COLLEGE

FRIDAY

17 JAN
2025

4:00-6:00PM



REWRITING THIAROYE: FACT, FICTION, AND THE POLITICS OF MEMORY

KRESGE 2-351

Open to all
Reception will follow

Northwestern

Department of
French and Italian
WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

The Department of French and Italian presents:

STATE ANTI-INTELLECTUALISM IN FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES: GENDER, RACE, AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM

A talk by
Éric Fassin

Professor of
Sociology and
Gender Studies,
Université Paris 8
Vincennes -
Saint-Denis



Friday,
February 28
4-6 pm

Trienens Forum
(Kresge 1515)

Open to the public
Reception will follow

Northwestern | Department of
French and Italian
WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

French Department's 'ciné-club' shows movies, shares treats to boost language immersion

SHUN GRAVES THE DAILY NORTHWESTERN MAY 29, 2025

A few Tuesdays every quarter, a small gathering that meets in University Library's Forum Room hushes its French small talk when the lights go dark.

This Tuesday, about 20 students, professors and others watched the Department of French and Italian's ciné-club present its last film of the quarter, "Allons Enfants."

The 2022 documentary, titled "Rookies" in English, brought viewers to the heart of Paris, where the film showed a crew of secondary school students who also train to become professional dancers in school.

Beyond French chitchat among attendees, the ciné-club — a long-standing example of language education outside NU's classrooms — offers a full-scale immersion, taste buds included, before the film even begins.

Tuesday's iteration featured tartlets filled with chocolate ganache and topped with raspberries. The treats were provided by French Prof. Dominique Licops, whose husband's company creates the confections.

While Licops supplies the food, Tassadith Lombard curates the films.

Lombard, a visiting lecturer from Paris, has helped shape the selections over the past year. She's aimed to bring in more contemporary films that students can relate to, and the films are shown with English subtitles.

"That way it's not just like teaching grammar or just teaching classes," Lombard said. "It's also about sharing cultural content. I think it really speaks to people way more than grammar generally."

She has also sought to widen students' horizons beyond France itself to other Francophone cultures, such as Belgium and the Canadian province of Quebec by showing a variety of films.

For the students in the documentary, the balance between keeping up with school and excelling on the dance floor comes with struggles, especially for those from fraught Parisian households. Yet the film also drew guffaws from the audience in the Forum Room for the kids' colloquialisms and one-liners. After the credits rolled this past Tuesday, Lombard asked for reactions

from the crowd. Weinberg junior Manit Amin chimed in first to offer his thoughts in French.

Amin told The Daily that he started attending the ciné-club in Spring Quarter 2024, to help fulfill his cultural requirement for French Prof. Marie-Thérèse Pent's class. Pent has spearheaded the ciné-club for nearly two decades.

Now, after studying abroad in Paris and maintaining his interest in French, Amin has continued attending. Before the film began, Amin mentioned his frequent attendance within earshot of Pent.

"Voilà!" she said. "The best student."

Pent said the ciné-club helps promote French culture and widen viewers' perspectives beyond what they might already know, such as the New Wave films of the mid-20th century.

The ciné-club also attracts an audience beyond just students.

Victor Jourdan recently arrived from France to begin a summer internship in NU's computer science department. He started working Monday and came to the ciné-club the very next day.

"I actually wanted to go, just to see people speaking French," Jourdan said. "I like seeing people making progress trying to learn my language."

2024-25 Program:

Les Indes Galantes (Célément Cogitoire, 2017)

Les Demoiselles de Rochefort (Jacques Demi, 1968)

Petite Maman (Céline Sciamma, 2021)

Gagarine (Fanny Liatard & Jérémy Trouilh, 2020)

L'Innocent (Louis Garrel, 2022)

Allons Enfants (Alban Teurlai & Thierry Demaiziere, 2022)

Papicha (Mounia Meddour, 2019)

Rosetta (Luc Dardenne & Jean-Pierre Dardenne, 1999)

Demain (Cyril Dion & Mélanie Laurent, 2017)

Au revoir les enfants (Louis Malle, 1988)

Les misérables (Ladj Ly, 2019)

J'ai tué ma mère (Xavier Dolan, 2010)





The Block Museum, in collaboration with the French and Italian Department and the Italian Cultural Institute–Chicago, hosted an almost full-house screening of *Io Capitano* (2023), directed by Matteo Garrone, on April 17, followed by a panel discussion featuring Professors Massimiliano Delfino, Domietta Torlasco, and guest Professor Federico Faloppa from the University of Reading. The film, which garnered the Silver Lion for Best Director at the Venice Film Festival, offers a poignant portrayal of two Senegalese teenagers embarking on a perilous journey from West Africa to Italy. It was Italy's official submission for the 2024 Academy Award for Best International Feature Film. The panel delved into the film's exploration of migration, identity, courage and human resilience, providing the audience with a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by migrants and the cinematic techniques employed to tell their stories.

Massimiliano Delfino



The Department of French and Italian presents

A Freedom Series:

Film Screening and Panel Discussion: *Io Capitano* (2023)
April 17, 7 pm
Block Museum
With Massimiliano Delfino, Domietta Torlasco,
and Federico Faloppa

**"Harmful Speech: Definitions and Challenges
in the European Context"**
April 18, 3-4:30 pm
Kresge 1515
With Federico Faloppa

Film Screening: *Rome, Open City* (1945)
April 25, 4-6 pm
Kresge 1515
With Domietta Torlasco

**"Mapping Resistance": A Commemoration for the 80th
Anniversary of the Liberation of Italy from Nazi-Fascism**
April 25, 6-8 pm
Harris 108
Written by Daniele Biffanti
With Claire Hart

"Mediterraneanism: the Anti-Meridian Thought?"
May 9, 3-5 pm
Kresge 1515
With Francescomaria Tedesco

Northwestern | Department of
French and Italian
WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



On April 18, 2025, Professor Federico Faloppa's compelling talk was a wake-up call to take hate speech seriously, to understand it deeply, and to confront it collectively.

Acknowledging that hate speech has become a growing concern in Albanian society, Faloppa noted how it remains poorly defined and often misunderstood. Without a common understanding, he warned, responses will remain fragmented and reactive. The call was clear: before we can fight hate speech, we must define it and define it wisely.

While focusing on European frameworks, Faloppa highlighted the global struggle to agree on a definition. Around the world, scholars and legal systems differ, but all agree on one point: hate speech targets people because of who they are - their race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or other personal traits - and it seeks to undermine dignity and equality. Faloppa argued that hate speech is not only about offensive words, but about the harm those words cause, and the exclusion they enforce.

Importantly, his talk moved beyond legal boundaries, urging a contextual approach. Instead of relying on fixed lists of forbidden expressions, societies should consider context - who speaks, why, and with what impact. Hate speech, Faloppa insisted, must be understood not in isolation, but as part of larger social and political dynamics. A key section of his talk focused on the balance between freedom of expression and responsibility. A balanced approach rejects censorship, but calls for accountability - especially from those in positions of influence.

The talk also reflected on how social media has transformed the landscape of communication. Online platforms have amplified both voices and violence. Anonymity, algorithms, and viral misinformation create a fertile ground for hatred. Technology alone cannot solve the problem — education, empathy, and civic responsibility are equally essential.

Ending on an uplifting note, Professor Faloppa urged to move "beyond definitions" and embrace a shared ethical mission: to defend dignity, equality, and dialogue in every corner of public life. Words have power to harm but also to heal.

Paola Nasti

**The Department of
French and Italian
presents**

"THE MOST PRECIOUS
MOMENT OF FILM HISTORY."

—MARTIN SCORSESE

ROME OPEN CITY

A FILM BY ROBERTO ROSSELLINI



FRIDAY, APRIL 25

4 PM

KRESGE 1515



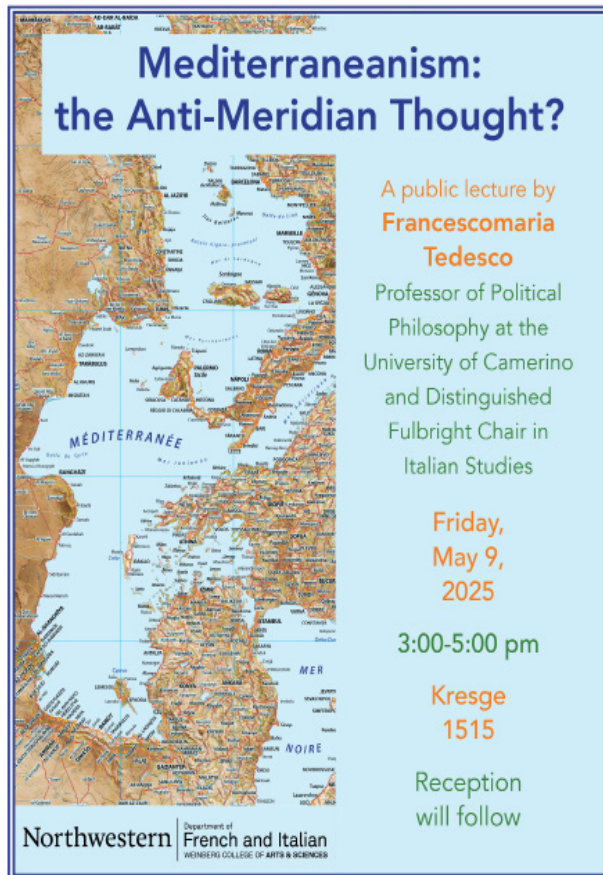
APRIL 25/6 PM/HARRIS HALL/1881 SHERIDAN ROAD, EVANSTON
READINGS BY STUDENTS OF THE ITALIAN PROGRAM AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY/WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF CLAIRE HART/WRITTEN BY DANIELE RUFFANTI

MAPPING RESISTANCE

A COMMEMORATION FOR THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF ITALY FROM NAZI-FASCISM

Northwestern | Department of French and Italian
WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES





"Discourses have power." This declaration opened a striking talk by Professor Francescomaria Tedesco (University of Camerino) that urged audiences to rethink how the Mediterranean has been imagined and represented. Professor Tedesco challenged familiar tropes of timeless beauty, languid rhythms, and ancient charm, showing how such narratives, whether flattering or dismissive, can obscure the region's complexity and agency.

The talk argued that both negative and positive portrayals of the Mediterranean reduce it to an abstraction. On one hand, pejorative stereotypes paint the South as backward or irrational; on the other, romantic visions idealize it as pure, poetic, and resistant to capitalism. Both, the speaker warned, silence real histories and struggles, replacing living societies with comforting myths.

A particularly powerful section focused on southern Italy, long viewed through an orientalist lens that contrasts breathtaking landscapes with supposedly "primitive" inhabitants. Professor Tedesco traced this narrative from early anthropology to modern cultural theory, revealing how even well-intentioned thinkers have perpetuated the image of a mystical, "slow" South, a space outside of history, governed by emotion and spirituality rather than action and change. Such portrayals, the talk contended, do not empower; they aestheticize, turning communities into metaphors instead of recognizing them as political subjects.

Ultimately, Professor Tedesco called for a vision of the Mediterranean as plural and dynamic: a crossroads of hybridity, not a stage for stereotypes. To rethink the Mediterranean, he concluded, is to recognize the diversity of its voices and reclaim the power to tell its own stories.

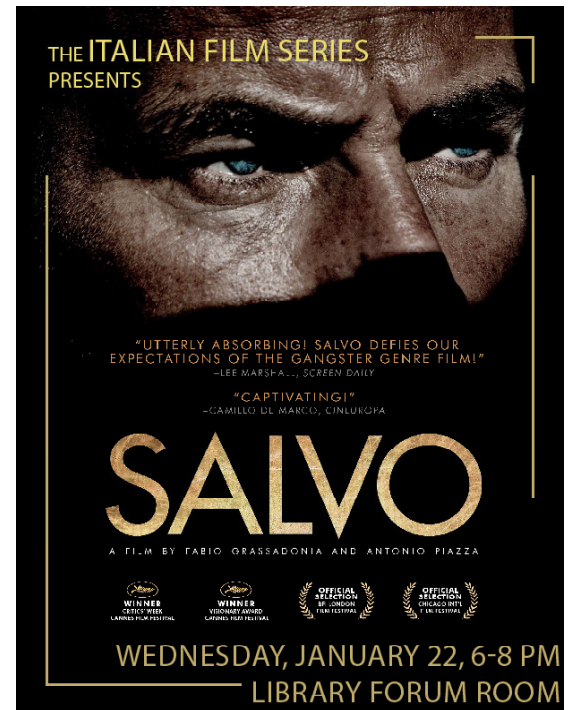
The talk drew a large and engaged audience, including many students enrolled in spring courses on "Mediterraneanism and agency" and "Deconstructing the Mediterranean," taught by Professor Tedesco at Northwestern, who held the Fulbright Chair for 2025.

Paola Nasti

Italian Film Club

MASSIMILIANO
DELFINO

Through our Italian Film series, our students have had the opportunity to engage with a diverse and thought-provoking selection of Italian cinema, exploring themes ranging from the Italian Mafia, feminist perspectives, and family dynamics, to broader reflections on contemporary Italian society. The series included *C'è ancora domani* (2023, by Paola Cortellesi), *Salvo* (2013, by Fabio Grassadonia and Antonio Piazza), *La Grande Bellezza* (2013, by Paolo Sorrentino), *La mafia uccide solo d'estate* (2013, by Pierfrancesco Diliberto, Pif), and *Vermiglio* (2024, by Maura Delpero). Each film offered a unique perspective on Italian culture, history, and key social issues, fostering rich discussions and critical thinking among students, and providing a multifaceted understanding of Italy's current cinematic and cultural landscape.





an undergraduate
causerie (in English)
and lunch

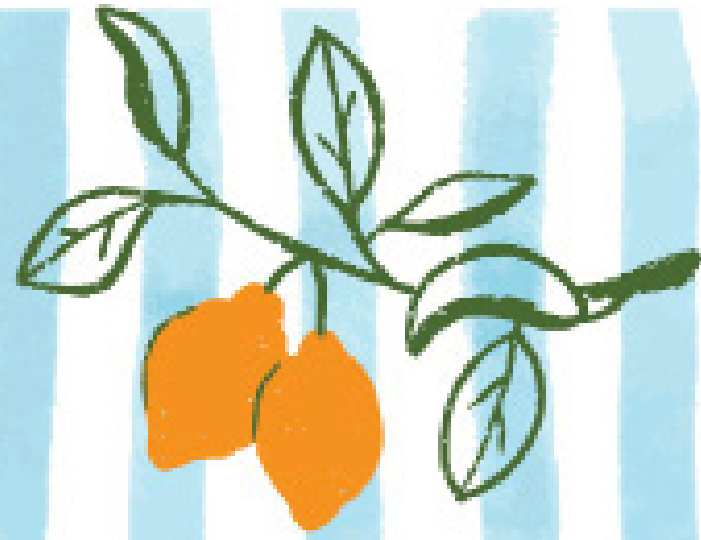
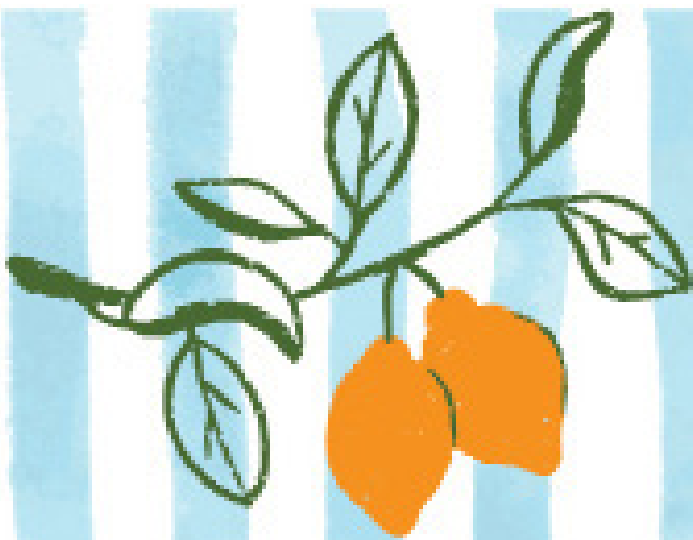
FRIDAY, MAY **23**

featuring
Leila Narisetti's honors thesis:
"Recognizing the Rif:
Abd al-Krim, Tribal Unity and
Colonial Warfare, 1921-1926"

Crowe
2-130

12:30 pm

Department of
Northwestern French and Italian
WILSON COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



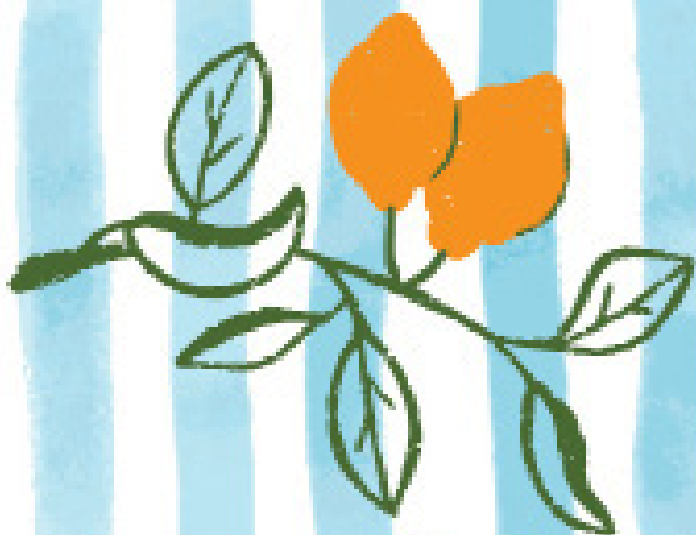
Festa di fine anno

Wednesday, May 28th

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Scott Hall 212

(Second Floor - Enter at
Sheridan & Emerson)



Northwestern

Department of
French and Italian
WINSTON COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

A decorative border of various colorful flowers, including pink, yellow, blue, and red blossoms on green stems, frames the entire invitation.

You are cordially invited to the

*FRENCH AND ITALIAN
END OF YEAR PARTY*

Thursday, June 12, 2025
3:30 pm
Harris Hall 108

Please join us
To congratulate our graduating seniors
and their families
To congratulate students receiving
academic excellence awards
To celebrate the new edition of *Rosa la
Rose*, featuring student creative writing

Food, drink, and a special graduation cake will be served.

Rosa la Rose 2025

MARIE-THÉRÈSE PENT FACULTY COORDINATOR
AND EDITOR

It is in the first scent of the linden tree and the return of the swift swallows that the 23d edition of Rosa la Rose is blossoming once again.

Patrick Modiano (Nobel prize in literature) held his Nobel Lecture on December 7th 2014, at the Swedish Academy, and said: *Et si le poète écrit des poèmes, ils sont à l'image du temps où il vit et n'auraient pas pu être écrits à une autre époque.*

"If a writer writes poems, they reflect the time he is living in and could never have been written in a different era."

Rosa la Rose 2025 is born as a witness of our time. In our new edition, we feel the unbearable lightness of being in the heavy ambient air du temps, we raise big questions: *Chi sono io?* (p6). *Dove vive la bambina?* (p5).

We have dreams (p27) : *"C'est une femme qui rêve. Grâce à sa peau foncée d'un nuancé d'été, elle rêve que le racisme disparaîtra. Grâce à sa féminité visible, elle rêve que les femmes seront vues comme des égales aux yeux embrouillées des misogynes."* We feel outraged: (p23) *"Je les entends – les enfants en cage, les mères qui pleurent au grillage – je les entends comme le tonnerre, comme une juste rage."*

We feel for the Mother earth. (p30) *"Ce n'est que lorsque le dernier arbre sera mort, la dernière rivière sera empoisonnée, et le dernier poisson sera attrapé que nous réaliserons qu'on ne peut pas manger l'argent."* (p30)

and we have faith: *La speranza è l'ultima a morire* (p48).

Please, take the time to read our new booklet: *Rosa la Rose 2025*!



Sotto l'acqua

ritrovarmi sulle spiagge di Napoli
quando sentivamo ancora l'aria fresca e la luce del sole
prima di andare sotto l'acqua
adesso restiamo qui, separati dalla vita

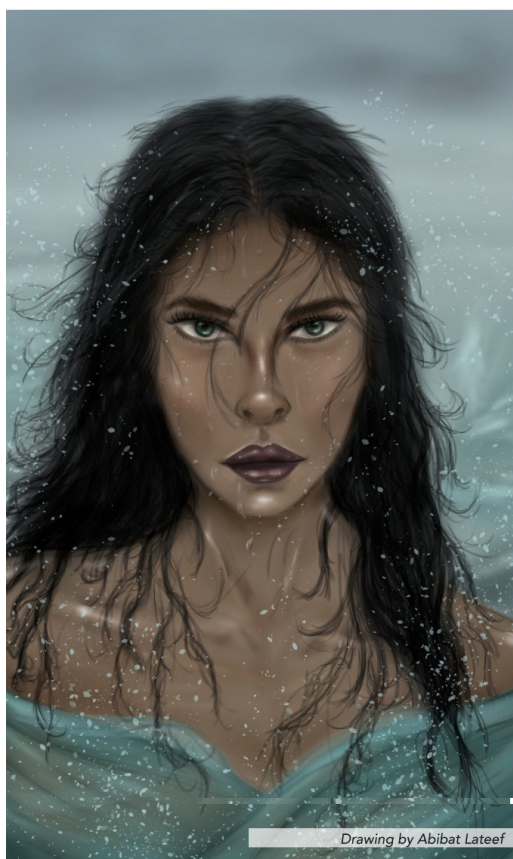
possiamo fare tutto quindi non facciamo niente
restiamo viaggiatori clandestini in un passaggio immobile
senza una destinazione in vista, ci avviciniamo ai nostri limiti
ci muoviamo tra il divano e il discorso
ancora un'altra notte di sussurri

andiamo verso noi stessi
finché non diventiamo più sottili della luce
diamo vita a questa danza invisibile
di cui siamo gli unici due spettatori e registi
lasciamo questo giardino che porta solo frutti di amore e di odio

vediamo nuove forme che prendono forma
è qui che il potenziale diventa cinetico?
ci stiamo muovendo verso il nulla o verso l'essere?
non possiamo restare così
quindi la passione si arrende alla vergogna

posso ancora risalire per prendere aria?
nuotare alla spiaggia dove tutto è iniziato
o dovrei tornare indietro nel tempo invece?
dimenticare l'acqua, dimenticare la brezza, e restare sulla terra

Jackson Bronack / Paola Morgavi



La misère du naufragé

Ô frontière brutale ! Tu ne portes plus d'espoir.
Réveille-toi, ô monde nonchalant !
Et ouvre tes portes que tu gardes égoïstement !
Pourquoi cadenasses-tu mon avenir ?

Traversez, mères en larmes, laissez vos larmes couler
Vos cris imbibent le désert et vos larmes inondent la mer !
Vos pas s'effacent dans le sable, vos noms destinés à l'oubli.
Qui se souviendra de vous ? Le vent violent ? La peur de la nuit froide ?

Ouvrez grand vos oreilles et entendez leurs cris, étouffés par votre indifférence !
Ouvrez grand vos yeux et éprouvez la souffrance infligée à ces âmes innocentes.
Leurs enfants dorment sur un béton froid, sans rien à espérer pour demain.
Qu'êtes-vous devenus ? Renvoyez-vous les moins fortunés sans frémir ?

Réveillez-vous enfin ! Détruisez vos barrières, déchirez l'indifférence !
Il est temps de réaliser que nous portons tous la même chair.
Ce qui nous rend humains transcende une simple nationalité.
Ne voyez-vous donc pas que les similarités dépassent les différences ?

Résiste, ô cœur en colère, ne reste pas caché dans le silence !
Bats-toi pour les âmes oubliées et lève ta voix comme un cri contre l'injustice.
Resteras-tu muet face à cette souffrance ?
Le monde s'écroule quand l'humanité se tait. Et ça, tu le sais bien !

Zita Gloria Ineza Teta / Katia Viot-Southard

Undergraduate News



Congratulations to our 2025 Graduates in French and Italian!

French Majors: Juliet Burks, Claire Iben, Leila Narisetti, Lindsey Smith

French Minors: Kristen Axtman, Audrey Bannister, Chas Barfield, Alyce Brown, Barbara Burns, Emily Chow, Hunter Disco, Addie Fleming, Sadie Fridley, Megan Gonzlez, Nate Hanrahan, Evelyn Jenkins, Paisley Kandler, Chaira Kim, Abram Luna, Brooke Scott, Adrienne Scheide, Caitlin Smith, Simone Spalding, Jade Thomas

Italian Minors: Carmine Cultrona, Madeline Friedman, Gannon Schram, Cooper Silverman

Undergraduate Award Winners

Outstanding Achievement in French:

French Language Instructional Center: Kydie Al Moutaa, Andrea Korkmaz, Jon Mandrell, Riana Tadonki, Kenzi Zaim

French Student Advisory Board: Juliet Burks and Leila Narisetti

Undergraduate Award Winners in French: Juliet Burks, Maria Chebli, Cole DeFeo, Ruby Dowling, Nate Hanrahan, Adi Madhu, Brooke Scott, Viktoria Trofimova, Jane Yu

Fletcher Prize for Rising Undergraduate Research Star: Ella Smith

Phi Beta Kappa: Juliet Burks and Leila Narisetti

Senior Marshal: Juliet Burks

AATF Excellence in French: Lindsey Smith

AATF Outstanding Senior: Leila Narisetti

Outstanding Achievement in Italian:

Italian Language Instructional Center: Maddie Friedman

Undergraduate Award Winners in Italian: Luis Bazan, Ella Bentley, Cassandra Brook, Michael Capobianco, Claire Coven, Sebastian della Cava, Angelina Randazzo, Darrick Woods

Department Administration

Department Chair: Christopher Bush

Director of Graduate Studies: Doris Garraway/Matthieu Dupas

Director of Undergraduate Studies in French: Nasrin Qader

Director of Undergraduate Studies in Italian: Paola Nasti

Director of the French Language Program: Margaret Dempster

Director of the Italian Language Program: Daniela Pozzi Pavan

Department Staff

Business Administrator: Elizabeth Murray

Program Assistant: Hannah Cox

Graduate Program Assistant: Lisa Byrnes

Thank you to our donors! Your generous support makes what we do possible.

French-italian@northwestern.edu
(847) 491-5490
Crowe Hall 2-107

In Memoriam

Doris L. Garraway

Professor Doris Garraway passed away on October 4, 2025 at the age of 53. A stellar presence in the field of French and Francophone Caribbean studies, Doris gifted her colleagues and students with extraordinary grace and an unwavering commitment to the highest standards of both academic and interpersonal excellence. She served as Chair of the Department of French and Italian during the pandemic, and it was her steady hand and passionate attachment to fairness that successfully led the department through the turmoil of those years. She was committed to investigating questions of discrimination and social justice and, during the same period, became the catalyst for collective discussions on the past and future of our country. She leaves a huge void but also a formidable legacy.

or is' research and teaching interests included Francophone Caribbean literature and historiography from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries, the Haitian Revolution, early modern French cultures, gender and slavery, postcolonial studies, law, and performance. Her celebrated books, *The Libertine Colony: Creolization in the Early French Caribbean* (Duke UP, 2005; reprint 2008) and *Tree of Liberty: Cultural Legacies of the Haitian Revolution in the Atlantic World* (co-edited, University of Virginia Press, 2008) have been highly influential in several related fields since their publication. At the time of her illness, she was completing a book manuscript entitled *Liberty's Majesty: Print, Performance, and Theopolitical Sovereignty in the Haitian Kingdom of Henry Christophe*.

Doris' excellence was recognized with fellowships and awards from Princeton University's Davis Center for Historical Studies, Northwestern's Kaplan Center for the Humanities, the National Humanities Center (declined), the John Carter Brown Library (declined), and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (declined). She chaired the Department of French and Italian from 2019 to 2022, and she was named the Herman and Beulah Pearce Miller Research Professor at Northwestern for 2011 to 2014.

A generous and engaging speaker, Doris gave lectures at universities in the U.S. and abroad, including the University of Uppsala (Sweden), the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Michigan, the University of Washington, the University of Iowa, and Penn State University. She also gave keynote addresses at conferences in the U.S. and abroad.

A dedicated teacher and graduate advisor, Doris directed dissertations on various topics including gender in Haitian literature, anticolonialism and nationalism in far right-wing French literature and thought, trauma in twentieth-century Haitian literature, education in Francophone African and Caribbean literature, migration in Francophone Caribbean literature and film, and memory in North African literature. She served as Director of Graduate Studies in French from 2005 to 2011, and as Director of Undergraduate Studies from 2013 to 2017.

The Department of French and Italian is organizing an international conference on Doris Garraway's work and the field of French Caribbean studies. The conference will take place in early October 2026, on the first anniversary of Doris' passing.





