

Rachel Gabara
Department of Romance Languages
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Academic Employment

Associate Professor, Dept. of Romance Languages, University of Georgia (2007-current)
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Romance Languages, University of Georgia (2005–2007)
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Comparative Literature, Princeton University (2000–2005)

Education

- Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and Graduate Certificate in Film Studies, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, 2000
- Maîtrise and Diplôme d'Études Approfondies in Comparative Literature, Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris III, 1992 and 1993
- B.A. in Comparative Literature, Yale University, 1991

Fields of specialization

Twentieth and twenty-first century literature, film, and theory in French; African cinema; documentary film; postcolonial studies.

Publications

Books

From Split to Screened Selves: French and Francophone Autobiography in the Third Person.
Stanford University Press, 2006.

- Winner of the 2007 South Atlantic Modern Language Association Studies Book Award.

"Reclaiming Realism: From Documentary Film in Africa to African Documentary Film."
Manuscript in progress.

Articles

- "Complex Realism: Paulin Soumanou Vieyra and the Emergence of West African Documentary Film." Forthcoming in *Black Camera* 11.2 (Spring 2020). 10,300 words.
- "From Ethnography to Essay: Realism, Reflexivity, and African Documentary Film." *A Companion to African Cinema*. Eds. Kenneth Harrow and Carmela Garritano. Wiley-Blackwell, 2018. 358-378.
- "Abderrahmane Sissako: On the Politics of African Auteurs." *The Global Auteur: Politics and Philosophy in 21st Century Cinema*. Eds. Jeremi Szaniawski and Seung-hoon Jeong. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2016. 43-60.
- "Mixing Impossible Genres: David Achkar and African AutoBiographical Documentary." Revised reprint. *The Documentary Film Reader*. Ed. Jonathan Kahana. Oxford University Press, 2016. 924-937.
- "War by Documentary." *Romance Notes* 55.3 (2015): 409-423.
- "Interrogating Images: *Lumumba: Death of the Prophet* as Reflexive AutoBiographical Documentary." *Raoul Peck: Power, Politics, and the Cinematic Imagination*. Eds. Toni Pressley-Sanon and Sophie Saint-Just. Lexington Books, 2015. 153-170.

- “Africa, Film, and Comparative Literary Studies.” *Inquire: Journal of Comparative Literature* 3.1 (2013). <http://inquire.streetmag.org/articles/103>
- “Abderrahmane Sissako: Second and Third Cinema in the First Person.” *Global Art Cinema: New Theories and Histories*. Eds. Karl Schoonover and Rosalind Galt. Oxford University Press, 2010. 320-333.
- “‘A Poetics of Refusals’: Neorealism from Italy to Africa.” Revised reprint. *Italian Neorealism and Global Cinema*. Eds. Laura E. Ruberto and Kristi M. Wilson. Wayne State University Press, 2007. 187-206.
- “‘A Poetics of Refusals’: Neorealism from Italy to Africa.” *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 23.3 (2006): 201-215.
- “Screening Autobiography: Cyril Collard’s *Nuits Fauves*.” *French Cultural Studies* 16.1 (2005): 55-72.
- “Mixing Impossible Genres: David Achkar and African AutoBiographical Documentary.” *New Literary History* 34.2 (2003): 331-352.

Book and Film Reviews and Entries in Reference Works

- Review of Emmanuel Gras, *Makala. Docalogue* (August 2019). <https://docalogue.com/august-makala/>
- Review of Marc Allégret, *Travels in the Congo*. *African Studies Review* 62.2 (2019): E51-E53.
- Review of Dieudo Hamadi, *National Diploma* and *Mama Colonel*. *African Studies Review* 62.1 (2019): E53-E55.
- Review of Valérie Orlando, *New African Cinema*. *African Studies Review* 61.1 (2018): 263-264.
- Review of *Africa First, Volume Two*. *African Studies Review* 57.3 (2014): 254-258.
- Review of Osvalde Lewat, *Black Business*. *African Studies Review* 57.1 (2014): 238-240.
- Review of *Textual and Visual Selves: Photography, Film, and Comic Art in French Autobiography*. *Studies in 20th and 21st Century Literature* 37.2 (2013): 169-171.
- Review of Mahamat-Saleh Haroun, *A Screaming Man*. *African Studies Review* 56.2 (2013): 227-228.
- Review of Timothy Corrigan, *The Essay Film: From Montaigne, After Marker*. *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 30.4 (2013): 371-374.
- Review of Réda Bensmaïa, *Experimental Nations: Or, the Invention of the Maghreb*. *The Translator* 15.1 (2009): 185-189.
- Review of *Transnational Cinema: The Film Reader*. *Esprit Créateur* 47.4 (2007): 130-131.
- “FESPACO 2003 - New Directions for African Film.” *Yëgòo* 6 (2003): 6-7, 26.
- Entries on Julien Alapini, Amadou Koné, Jerome Carlos, Moudjib Djinadou, Barnabé Laye, Denis Oussou-Essui, Jean Pliya, Félix Couchoro, Koffi Gomez, Senouvo Agbota Zinsou. *Encyclopedia of African Literature*. Ed. Simon Gikandi. London: Routledge, 2003.

Translations

- Translation from French of “The Latest Word from Echo” by Anne-Emmanuelle Berger. *New Literary History* 27.4 (1996): 621-40.
- Translation from Russian of “Vologda: Konrad Korzeniowski’s City” by Viktor Borisov. *Conrad’s Cities*. Ed. Gene M. Moore. Rodopi, 1992. 39-48.

Awards and Fellowships

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, July 2020-June 2021.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, June-July 2018.

American Philosophical Society Franklin Research Grant, June-July 2018.

University of Georgia

- Franklin College Seminar in Transnational European Studies, June 2020.
- Willson Center Faculty Research Grant in Humanities and Arts, Fall 2018.
- M.G. Michael Award for Excellence in Research, 2018.
- Willson Center for Humanities and Arts Distinguished Artist or Lecturer Grant, 2017.
- Willson Center for Humanities and Arts Distinguished Artist or Lecturer Grant, 2016.
- Virginia Mary Macagnoni Prize for Innovative Research, 2013-14.
- Willson Center for Humanities and Arts Research Fellowship, 2013-14.
- Willson Center for Humanities and Arts Department-Invited Lecturer Grant, 2009.
- Willson Center for Humanities and Arts Research Fellowship, 2006-07.

Fulbright Scholar Program African Regional Research Grant, January-May 2003.

Princeton University

- Christian Gauss Fund University Preceptorship, 2003-05.
- Committee on Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences Grant, June-July 2004.
- Old Dominion Faculty Fellow (Humanities Council), 2003-04.
- Tuck Fund Research Grant, Summer 2001.
- Russell B. Newton Fund Grant, Spring 2001.

Selected Conference Presentations

- “Documentary Dialogues: The Interview in Contemporary African Nonfiction Film.” To be presented at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Denver, April 2020.
- “Filming Independence.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Seattle, March 2019. Organized and chaired panel entitled “An Interior Vision: African Film in the Decades After Independence.”
- “Documentary Energies: *Asientos* and the African Essay Film.” African Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, December 2018.
- Organizer and roundtable participant, “African Film and Media Studies: New Paths and Connections.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Toronto, March 2018.
- “Paulin Soumanou Vieyra: African Documentary from France to Senegal.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Chicago, March 2017.
- “Samba Félix Ndiaye and the Transformation of African Documentary.” Documentary Filmmaking Practices in Africa: An International Conference, University of Toronto, January 2017.

- “‘I Travel in French’: Dyana Gaye’s Global Cinema.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Atlanta, April 2016. Organized and chaired panel entitled “World Cinema in French.”
- “World Cinema in French.” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Harvard University, March 2016.
- “From Ethnography to Essay: Reflexive Strategies in African Documentary Film.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Montreal, Canada, March 2015.
- “We Are All Comp Lit Now: Comparative Literature Lessons for Multiple-Language Department Graduate Programs.” American Comparative Literature Association ACL(x) Otherwise Conference, University of South Carolina, February 2015. [Published online in the ACLA’s State of the Discipline Report: <http://stateofthediscipline.acla.org/entry/rgp-rachel-gabara-university-georgia> .]
- “Filmic Fragments of the Colonial Past: *Actualités* and Contemporary Francophone African Film.” 20th and 21st Century French and Francophone Studies Colloquium, Atlanta, March 2013.
- “Ethnography and Documentary in Francophone Africa.” Visible Evidence Conference, New York University, August 2011. Organized and chaired panel entitled “Colonial Documentary: Power, Politics, and Resistance.”
- “The Films of Abderrahmane Sissako: African and Cosmopolitan Third Cinema.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Philadelphia, March 2008.
- “Not War Documentaries, but a War of Documentaries.” Spaces of War: France and the Francophone World, University of Minnesota, October 2006.
- “New Directions in Comparative African Studies.” Organized and moderated panel at the Southern Comparative Literature Association Conference, University of Georgia, September 2006.
- “Ethnographic Documentary in Africa.” Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, University of Kentucky, April 2006. Chaired panel entitled “Francophone Africa.”
- “Documentary Film in Africa / African Documentary Film.” 20th and 21st Century French and Francophone Studies Colloquium, University of Florida, March 2005. Organized and chaired panel entitled “Filmic Relations: Visualizing Colonial and Postcolonial Histories and Spaces.”
- “New Spaces, New Media: Bringing Africa and Film into the Literature Classroom.” Modern Language Association Conference, Philadelphia, December 2004.
- “New Realisms: Postcolonial African Historical Film.” African Studies Association Conference, New Orleans, November 2004. Chaired panel entitled “Film, Literature, and History.”
- “Third Cinema in the First Person: New Autobiographical Documentary from Francophone West Africa.” Visible Evidence Conference, Bristol, December 2003.
- “What’s ‘Comp Lit’ About African Film?” Modern Language Association Conference, New Orleans, December 2001.
- “Abderrahmane Sissako and New African Documentary Film.” The ‘Africanist’ Discourse in Transformation, Columbia University, October 2001.
- “New African Documentary: Personal Political Histories.” African Literature Association Conference, Richmond, April 2001. Organized and chaired panel entitled “Articulating the Individual and the Collective in Contemporary Francophone African Fiction and Film.”

- “Third Cinema, National Allegory, Autobiography?” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Yale University, February 2000.

Invited Talks and Colloquia

- “Vieyra, Filmmaker” and “Vieyra, Historian.” Paulin Vieyra Workshop, Black Film Center/Archive, Indiana University, September 2019.
- “Reclaiming Realism: The Emergence of African Documentary Film, 1960-1973.” Institute of African Studies Seminar, Emory University, November 2018.
- Keynote Discussion with filmmaker Raoul Peck. African Literature Association Conference, Atlanta, April 2016.
- “War by Documentary.” *Romance Notes* Colloquium, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, April 2015.
- Seminar participant, Semaphores and Surfaces: Reading the New African Cinemas. Princeton University, November 2013.
- Curator and Presenter for “African Film Weekend” festival. University of Richmond, September 2013.
- “The State of Francophone West African Studies.” Roundtable, Rutgers University, September 2004.
- “Re-documenting Africa.” Comparative Literature Works-in-Progress Colloquium, Princeton University, April 2004.
- “Third Cinema in Africa: From the ‘Return to the Source’ to the Reflexive Turn.” Comparative Seminar in Cinema Studies, University of Pennsylvania, October 2000.

Professional Activities

African Studies Review

- Film Review Editor, 2019-current.

Society for Cinema and Media Studies

- Co-chair, French and Francophone Scholarly Interest Group, 2016-19.

American Comparative Literature Association

- René Wellek Book Prize committee, 2013-15 (Chair, 2013-14).

Bronze Lens Film Festival and Consulate General of France in Atlanta

- Co-organizer of visit and screenings and moderator of student workshop and public discussion with filmmaker Abderrahmane Sissako, November 2015.
- Translated and facilitated public discussion with filmmaker Dyana Gaye, October 2014.
- Translated and facilitated public discussion with filmmaker Mahamat-Saleh Haroun, November 2013.

University of Georgia

- Organized visit and lecture by Jessica Silbey (Northeastern School of Law), February 2018.
- Organized visit, public discussion, and film screenings with Marguerite Abouet and Alain Gomis, in cooperation with the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts and the Consulate General of France in Atlanta, October 2017.

- Organized “Afro-French Studies Colloquium,” featuring visiting scholars Pap Ndiaye (Institut d’Etudes Politiques, Paris) and Philippe Gumpowicz (University of Paris Saclay), in cooperation with the Consulate General of France in Atlanta, April 2017.
- Panelist for Institute for African American Studies Post-Screening Discussion of Raoul Peck’s *I Am Not Your Negro*, Athens Ciné, February 2017.
- Organized visit to campus, screening, and discussions with filmmaker Su Friedrich (Princeton University), October 2016.
- Organized and moderated panel discussion entitled “Round Table on The Crisis in Mali,” January 2013.
- Presented lecture entitled “Colonial and Postcolonial Documentary in West and Central Africa” in APERO Brown Bag Series, African Studies Institute and African American Cultural Center, September 2012.
- Panelist for Willson Center Cinema Roundtable entitled “Contemporary World Cinema,” April 2012.
- Organized reading and discussion with visiting novelist Olivier Sebba (Editions du Seuil et Editions Rivages), October 2011.
- Organized visit and lecture by Panivong Norindr (University of Southern California), April 2009.
- Panelist for Willson Center Cinema Roundtable entitled “The French New Wave: 50 Years Later,” February 2009.
- Organized screening of Abderrahmane Sissako’s film *Bamako* and introduced film and moderated question and answer session, Athens Ciné, August 2007.
- Organized and moderated round table discussion entitled “Understanding the French Riots: Immigration and Representation,” March 2006.

American Council of Learned Societies

- Reviewer for Mellon/ACLS Early Career Fellowship Program, 2007.

Princeton University

- Organized and presented “Films in French,” a series of five 35mm screenings of recent films from France and West Africa, February-April 2004 and March-May 2002.
- Organized and presented the 2002 Sacret Young Lecture in Film Studies, a 35mm screening of *Ndeysaan* followed by a discussion with Mansour Sora Wade, April 2002.

American Cultural Center, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; Université Cheikh Anta Diop and West Africa Research Center, Dakar, Senegal

- Organized and presented series of films by African-American directors, followed by discussions, February-April 2003.

Baobab Center, Dakar, Senegal

- Lecture on African film followed by film screening and discussion, March 2003.

Manuscript Review

- Focal Press/Routledge, Michigan State University Press, Oxford University Press, University of Nebraska Press, *African Studies Review*, *Africa Today*, *Journal of African Cinemas*, *Nouvelles Études Francophones*, *Research in African Literatures*, *South Atlantic Review*.

Teaching

University of Georgia

- First-Year Odyssey Seminar: “Experiments in Autobiography”
- French 3010: “Conversation and Composition”
- French 3020: “Advanced Conversation and Composition”
- French 4080: “L’autobiographie contemporaine française et francophone”; “Récits d’enfances francophones”
- French 4120/6120 (split-level undergraduate/graduate): “Filmer le déplacement”; “Autobiographies françaises et francophones”; “Littérature-monde en français”
- French 4170: “Francophone Film, Literature, and Culture”
- French 6200 (graduate): “Le roman africain francophone”
- French 8180 (graduate): “Postcolonial Studies”
- French 8700 (graduate): “Roman et cinéma historiques en Afrique francophone”; “Littérature, cinéma, et théorie francophones: De l’anticolonial au postcolonial (et au-delà?)”; “Paris Postcolonial”

Princeton University

- Freshman Seminar 119: “Comment s’écrire?”
- Comparative Literature 202: “Literatures of the World”
- Comparative Literature 332/African Studies 332: “Introduction to the African Novel”
- Comparative Literature 345/Visual Arts 346: “World Cinemas”
- Comparative Literature 347/European Cultural Studies 330: “Filming Displacement: Europeans in Africa and Africans in Europe”
- Comparative Literature 400/African Studies 401: “The Historical Novel from Europe to Africa: Postmodern and Postcolonial?”
- Comparative Literature 526 (graduate): “Theories of Film”
- Comparative Literature 550 (graduate): “Retelling History: Sub-Saharan African Fiction and Film”

University Service

University of Georgia

- Affiliate Faculty, African Studies Institute, 2005-current.
- Franklin College Awards Committee, 2019-2022.
- Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Anglophone African Literature, 2019-20.
- Advisory Committee, Department of Romance Languages, 2005-07, 2019-20.
- Graduate Studies and Outcomes Assessment Committee, Department of Romance Languages, 2019-20.
- Technology and Website Committee, Department of Romance Languages, 2017-2020.
- Graduate Coordinator, Department of Romance Languages, 2013-17.
- Willson Center for Humanities and Arts Advisory Board, 2014-17 (Chair, 2015-17).
- Search Committee, Assistant Professor of German Film and Media Studies, 2016-17.
- Faculty Coordinator, French Language Community, 2008-13.
- Graduation Committee, Department of Romance Languages, 2012-13.
- Search Committee, Academic Professional in Spanish, 2011-12.

- 25th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee, African Studies Institute, 2012.
- Search Committee, Francophone Caribbean Theater, 2010-11.
- Curriculum Committee, Department of Romance Languages, 2018-19, 2009-11.
- Undergraduate Outcomes Assessment Committee, Department of Romance Languages, 2010-11.
- Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Romance Languages, 2012-13, 2009-10, 2006-07.
- Program Review Team for Department of Theatre and Film Studies, 2008-09.
- French M.A. Examination Committee, Department of Romance Languages, 2011-12, 2010-11, 2008-09.
- Study Abroad Committee, Department of Romance Languages, 2008-09.
- Graduate Studies Committee, Department of Romance Languages, 2007-08.
- Examination Committee, Department of Romance Languages, 2011-12, 2007-08.
- Search Committee, Latina Feminisms, 2006-07.

Princeton University

- Committee for Film Studies, 2000-05.
- Interdepartmental Committee, Program in African Studies, 2000-05.
- Interdepartmental Committee, Program in African-American Studies, 2000-05.
- Departmental Representative [Undergraduate Chair] of the Department of Comparative Literature, 2001-02.

Supervision of Student Research

Ph.D. Major Professor:

Asmah Hyat

Johanna Montlouis-Gabriel – “Re-Framing Francophone Women: Narrative Identities, Bodies, and Visual Representations” (December 2018)

Althea Hubbard – “Expressing Truth through Fiction and Orality through Literacy: Narrative Voices in Francophone African Literature” (December 2014)

Peter Gachanja – “Ousmane Sembene: The Aestheticization of Memory and History” (May 2014)

Mahamadou Diaby-Kassamba – “Le voyage spirituel et la quête de l'Absolu dans *Oui mon commandant d'Amadou Hampaté Bâ, L'Aventure ambiguë* de Cheikh Hamidou Kane, et *Les Soleils des indépendances* d'Ahmadou Kourouma” (May 2010)

Ph.D. Committee Member:

Julianna Blair Wilson (Emory University) – “Reflexive Criminality: Race, Migration, and Violence in Francophone Literature and Film” (July 2018)

Iona Wynter-Parks – “Writing Animals in Contemporary French-Language Literatures: A Poetics of Interrelatedness” (May 2018)

Jean Lener Gay – “Au-delà des frontières de l'antillanité: Alterités et altérations identitaires, corollaires des allers-retours antillais” (May 2014)

Liana Babayan – “La représentation de l'exil dans les oeuvres de Djébar et de Cixous: *Vaste est la prison, Nulle part dans la maison de mon père, Les reveries de la femme sauvage*” (December 2010)

M.A. Major Professor:

- Diana Huizar – Non-thesis Option (May 2018)
Laura Martin – “Prostitutes and Mothers: Representations of Women in Two Moroccan Francophone Novels” (May 2010)
Peter Gachanja – “Sembene se révolte contre la corruption politique: Une étude du *Mandat, Xala, et Le dernier de l'empire*” (May 2009)
Althea Hubbard – “Crise et adaptation: Le traitement de l'identité africaine dans deux oeuvres d'Ahmadou Kourouma” (May 2009)
Corinne Kimmel – “*Traversée de la Mangrove et Une Si Longue Lettre: De L'Oppression Jusqu'à la Résolution*” (May 2008)

M.A. Committee Member:

- Anthony Contreras – Non-thesis Option (May 2017)
Jeff Étienne – Non-thesis Option (May 2014)
Haoyu Irène Xia – Non-thesis Option (May 2012)
Fatoumata Seck – “Resisting Acculturation: Oral Literature from Africa to the Caribbean in the Works of Suzanne Comhaire-Sylvain, Léopold Sédar Senghor, Abdoulaye Sadj, and Excilia Saldaña” (May 2011)
Elizabeth Franz – “Le Discours du Pouvoir dans ‘Le Cycle du Barrage’ de Marguerite Duras” (August 2008)

Languages

French (near-native fluency), Russian and Polish (reading knowledge), Wolof (elementary).