

Rachel Gabara
Department of Romance Languages
University of Georgia

rgabara@uga.edu
210 Gilbert Hall
Athens, GA 30602-1815
(706) 542-8930

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 Francophone literature and film, literary theory, film history and theory, autobiography, postcolonial studies.

Publications

Book

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.

Articles

- “From Ethnography to Essay: Realism, Reflexivity, and African Documentary Film.” *A Companion to African Cinema*. Eds. Kenneth Harrow and Carmela Garritano. Wiley-Blackwell, forthcoming 2018.
- “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 *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.” *Yëgóo* 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.

Current Research

- “Reclaiming Realism: From Documentary Film in Africa to African Documentary Film.” Book-length project analyzing post-independence African documentary in relation to the history of French colonial film in West and Central Africa.

Conference Presentations

- “Paulin Soumanou Vieyra: African Documentary from France to Senegal.” Accepted for presentation at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Chicago, March 2017.
- “Samba Félix Ndiaye and the Transformation of African Documentary.” Accepted for presentation at Documentary Filmmaking Practices in Africa: An International Conference, University of Toronto, January 2017.
- Keynote Discussion with filmmaker Raoul Peck. African Literature Association Conference, Atlanta, April 2016.
- “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> .]
- Invited participant, Semaphores and Surfaces: Reading the New African Cinemas. Princeton University, November 2013.
- “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.
- “Appropriating Otherness, Constructing Oneself: Michel Leiris’ *Manhood* and Cyril Collard’s *Savage Nights*.” Annual Colloquium on Literature and Film, West Virginia University, October 1998.
- “Scripted and Screened Autobiographies: The Examples of Cyril Collard.” International Comparative Literature Association Conference, University of Leiden, August 1997.

Invited Talks

- “War by Documentary.” *Romance Notes* Colloquium, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, April 2015.
- 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.

Awards and Fellowships

University of Georgia

- 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 African Regional Research Grant for research in Dakar, Senegal and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, January-May 2003.

Princeton University

- Christian Gauss Fund University Preceptorship, 2003-05.
- Grant from the Committee on Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences, for research in Paris, France, June-July 2004.
- Old Dominion Faculty Fellow (Humanities Council), 2003-04.
- Tuck Fund Grant, for research in Paris, France and Dakar, Senegal, Summer 2001.
- Russell B. Newton Fund Grant, for the study of Wolof at the University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2001.

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: “Filmer le déplacement”; “Autobiographies françaises et francophones”; “Littérature-monde en français”
- French 4170: “Francophone Film, Literature, and Culture”
- French 6200 (graduate-level course): “Le roman africain francophone”
- French 8180 (graduate-level course): “Postcolonial Studies”

- French 8700 (graduate-level course): “Roman et cinéma historiques en Afrique francophone”; “Littérature, cinéma, et théorie francophones: De l’anticolonial au postcolonial (et au-delà?)”

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-level course): “Theories of Film”
- Comparative Literature 550 (graduate-level course): “Retelling History: Sub-Saharan African Fiction and Film”

University Service

University of Georgia

- Willson Center for Humanities and Arts Advisory Board, 2014-current (Chair, 2015-16)
- Graduate Coordinator, Department of Romance Languages, 2013-current
- Affiliate Faculty, African Studies Institute, 2005-current
- Search Committee, Assistant Professor of German Film and Media Studies, 2016-17
- Faculty Coordinator, French Language Community, 2008-2013
- Planning Committee, Second Annual International Conference on Africa and Its Diaspora, African Studies Institute, 2013
- Graduation Committee, Department of Romance Languages, 2012-13
- Search Committee, Academic Professional in Spanish, Department of Romance Languages, 2011-12
- 25th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee, African Studies Institute, 2012
- Search Committee, Francophone Caribbean Theater, Departments of Romance Languages and Theatre and Film Studies, 2010-11
- Curriculum Committee, Department of Romance Languages, 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
- Advisory Committee, Department of Romance Languages, 2005-07
- Search Committee, Latina Feminisms, Department of Romance Languages and Institute of Women's Studies, 2006-07
- Online Newsletter Committee, Department of Romance Languages, 2005-06

Princeton University

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

Supervision of Student Research

Ph.D. Major Professor:

- Johanna Montlouis-Gabriel
Althea Hubbard – “Expressing Truth through Fiction and Orality through Literacy: Narrative Voices in Francophone African Literature” (November 2014)
Peter Gachanja – “Ousmane Sembene: The Aestheticization of Memory and History” (February 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” (April 2010)

Ph.D. Committee Member:

- Vilay Lyxuchouky
Iona Wynter-Parks
Jean Lener Gay – “Au-delà des frontières de l'antillanité: Alterités et altérations identitaires, corollaires des allers-retours antillais” (April 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:

- 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” (April 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:

- Haoyu Irène Xia – Non-thesis Option (April 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” (April 2011)
- Elizabeth Franz – “Le Discours du Pouvoir dans ‘Le Cycle du Barrage’ de Marguerite Duras” (July 2008)

Professional Activities

University of Georgia

- 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, University of Georgia, September 2012.
- Panelist on Willson Center Cinema Roundtable entitled “Contemporary World Cinema,” April 2012.
- Organized reading and discussion with visiting French novelist Olivier Sebba, sponsored by the Department of Romance Languages, October 2011.
- Organized visit to campus and lecture by Dr. Panivong Norindr (USC), April 2009.
- Panelist on Willson Center Cinema Roundtable entitled “The French New Wave: 50 Years Later,” February 2009.
- Organized screening of Abderrahmane Sissako’s film *Bamako* at Athens Ciné and introduced film and moderated question and answer session afterwards, August 2007.
- Organized and moderated round table discussion entitled “Understanding the French Riots: Immigration and Representation,” March 2006.

Society for Cinema Studies

- Co-chair, French/Francophone Special Interest Group, 2015-current

American Comparative Literature Association

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

Bronze Lens Film Festival and France-Atlanta

- Co-organizer of visit 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.

Manuscript Review

- Oxford University Press, University of Nebraska Press, *Research in African Literatures*, *South Atlantic Review*.

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” [“The Price of Forgiveness”] followed by a lecture by and discussion with Senegalese filmmaker Mansour Sora Wade, April 2002.

Swarthmore College

- External Examiner, Honors Program, Interpretation Theory Capstone Seminar, May 2004.

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

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

Baobab Center, Dakar, Senegal

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

Languages

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