Women in French Newsletter

Volume 33, Number 1

Spring 2019

President's Letter Cecilia Beach Alfred University

It is with great pride and humility that I write this letter this spring: pride in all the enriching initiatives being carried out by so many WIF members to further our mission to promote the study of French and Francophone women authors, the study of women's place in French and Francophone cultures or literatures, and feminist literary criticism; and humility because I am somewhat removed from the process while on sabbatical in Rwanda. It is deeply gratifying to know that our organization has such a strong foundation it continues to thrive in spite of the geographic distance of its president. We have a solid financial base thanks to both to our strong membership numbers (437 members at last count) and the income from Project Muse, which also provides visibility and recognition for our highly selective and wellrespected journal, Women in French Studies. Our well-functioning organizational provides structure opportunities for many different people to become involved at different levels in the various sectors of our activity. I would like to thank everyone who has taken an active part in Women in French this year! I am also very excited about the future of Women in French. I believe that women's place in French and Francophone cultures and literatures will become even more prominent over the coming decade. Here in Rwanda, where women have a strong voice both in private and public sphere (over 67% of members of parliament), women are also making their voices heard in the field of literature, both in the Rwandan diaspora and at home in the land of a thousand hills. They are telling their stories and the stories of their people, from the horrors of the genocide recovery, inspiring tales of reconstruction and reconciliation.

Within our organization, we also have exciting plans for the near future. Here are a few of the highlights:

Michèle Schaal is organizing the 10th International Women in French Conference at Iowa State University, May 14-16, 2020, with the help of Arline Cravens and Susan Ireland. The theme "Les Voix et voies des marges" addresses the fact that while the number of women

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authors on the French and Francophone literary scene has increased significantly literary scene has increased significantly over the last several decades, they are still marginalized in the literary world and in the transmission of cultural heritage. However, as posited by African-American feminist and philosopher bell hooks, being on the margins may constitute a powerful tool for creating awareness and protest. The 2020 WIF Conference will examine voices and pathways from the margins, as well as diverse forms of marginality. Confirmed plenary speakers include Anne Donadey (San Diego State University) and writer Claire Legendre (Université Montréal). In addition, Claire Legendre's novel L'Écorchée vive (2009) has been chosen for the One Book, One WIF initiative for the 2020 WIF conference.

The organizers of the conference are all long-term WIF members who exemplify the spirit of service that characterizes our organization. Michèle Schaal is an Associate Professor of French and Women's and Gender Studies at Iowa State University and has been a member of WIF for 10 years. From 2011 to 2018, she was the WIF Webpage, Listserv and Social Media Manager. Arline Cravens is an Assistant Professor of French at Saint Louis University and the current regional Women in French representative for the Central and Rocky Mountain Modern Association Language regions. Beginning as a Graduate Student representative for Women in French, she has served as the RMMLA regional representative for 9 years. Susan Ireland is Orville and Mary Patterson Routt Professor of Literature (French) at Grinnell College. She has also been actively involved in WIF since she was a graduate student, taking on the role of co-Vice President (2000-2002, 2015-2019),

and Editorial Board member of *WIF* Studies since 1999. Many thanks to Michèle, Arline and Susan for all their service to Women in French!

In her role as WIF Webpage, Listserv and Social Media Manager, Michèle Schaal also started work on developing a new website for the organization, a monumental job that was taken over last year by Leah Holz. Thanks to Leah's hard work and dedication to the project, the new website will be launched in 2019! The new site will be more user-friendly, functional, and easier membership maintenance. We would also like to include photos from WIF events. Please send your photos to Leah at leahksholz@gmail.com. [Editor's note: Leah will be stepping down from her position as of June 1, 2019; please see the next section for information about the open position.]

Juliette Rogers and her team have also been hard at work on our journal Women in French Studies. She wishes to express her gratitude to all the WIF members who sent proposals for the 2022 Special Topics volume. The WIFStudies Editorial Board voted for the topic "Vous êtes drôle pour une fille: Funny Women in French from the Salon to Youtube" proposed by Cheryl Morgan, the editor of the WIF Newsletter. This year's special volume of WIF Studies will be a collection of selected essays from the 2018 WIF conference in Tallahassee. The volume is being co-edited by Aimée Boutin, Reinier Leushuis, and Julia Frengs, and they are planning to have the volume ready in Fall 2019. The regular annual volume for 2019 is also proceeding apace, with several articles already accepted on topics including Madame de Staal-Delaunay, Suzanne Césaire, and Valérie Trierweiler. We also have two special dossiers planned for 2019: the first is focused on Andrée Chédid, edited by Joëlle Vitiello, and the second is focused on narratives of disaster "au féminin" edited by Julia Frengs. We hope to have the annual volume ready for members in December 2019. Many thanks to Juliette, the editorial board, and all the authors who contribute to the journal!

As you are probably aware from the number of Calls for Papers we receive through the WIF listsery, our regional representatives have all been active this year planning WIF sessions at the regional MLAs. Our presence at these conferences has grown over the past decade thanks in large part to Arline Cravens who managed to create a mini Women in French conference at the RMMLA conference. During her tenure as regional representative, Women in French sessions at the RRMLA increased from 3 sessions to 12 sessions, with attendees from all over the US, Canada and Europe. Arline also instituted an annual Women in French Reception at the RMMLA, inviting prominent and long-standing Women in members as guest speakers. These receptions have turned into an event that promotes the best of Women in French. and also serve as a venue to recruit new members to WIF. Following Arline's model, other regional representatives have now also succeeded in increasing the presence of Women in French in other regions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Arline for her nine years of service as the RMMLA regional representative; she will be stepping down at the end of this year in order to pass the torch to someone new.

Interest in WIF sessions in other regions has also been strong this year. This year

Mercedes Baillargeon received about forty submissions of very high quality for the three WIF sponsored sessions at the NeMLA conference at the University of Buffalo in March 2019. In the fall, we will have several WIF sessions at SCMLA in Little Rock Arkansas. four WIF session at both the MMLA Convention in Chicago Illinois and the PAMLA Conference in San Diego California, and seven WIF sessions at the SAMLA conference taking place in Atlanta, Georgia! We also received a great number of excellent submissions for the WIF-sponsored session at the national MLA conference in Seattle in January 2020. The session, which is organized and chaired by Viviana Pezzullo, a PhD candidate in Comparative Studies at Florida Atlantic University, is entitled The Human Body and Gendered Technology theFrench in Francophone Traditions. Thank you to all the regional representatives, as well as to all the members who participate in all WIF-sponsored sessions organizers, chairs, and presenters!

Women in French continues to provide many opportunities to graduate students and early career scholars. For example, our Graduate Student representative, Tessa Nunn, organizes a Writing Exchange, and our Vice-Presidents, Susan Ireland and Patrice Proulx, coordinate mentoring and mock interview programs. We offer travel grants for WIF sessions at MLA conferences, as well as for the WIF conference, and we have two essay awards, one for undergraduates and the other for graduate students. Finally, at the 2020 WIF Conference, graduate students or faculty in their first 5 years of teaching will have the opportunity to submit their essay for the Early Career Conference Paper Award. I would also like to encourage graduate students and early career scholars to keep your eyes open for ways to get more involved with Women in French. You are the future of our organization!

I wish you all a productive and enriching spring and summer.

Cecilia Beach

WIF Business & News

OPEN WIF POSITION Webmaster and Social Media Manager, Discussion List

Start date: June 1, 2019.

The person in this position updates and manages our website and social media accounts, which includes: updating our website, posting advertisements for jobs, calls for papers, conferences, and WIF social events, and sharing posts and photos from WIF members and events. The new WIF website is underway, and this position would include the final parts of the transition from the old website to the new. The position also includes managing our discussion list, which involves checking WIF email, forwarding messages, managing names and email addresses, and helping resolve any questions about the discussion list. Time commitment is about 30 minutes per week.

Contact Cecilia Beach (fbeach@alfred.edu) if interested.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Colette Trout (ctrout@ursinus.edu) and Annabelle Rea (rea@oxy.edu) are now accepting nominations for the 2019 WIF elections. The four open: President, Vice-President, and **Regional Representatives:** Midwest (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri. Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin and 2. Rocky Mountain (Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming; Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan). You may nominate vourself or another, after seeking the permission of that person. We ask that you send your statements, outlining your qualifications and your goals for WIF, for publication in the Fall Newsletter, to both members of the Nominating Committee, at the latest by July 15, 2019. Please note that there is a 100-word limit for candidate statements (this is an overall limit, including both qualifications and goals). The President and Vice-President will serve two-year terms; Regional Representatives remain in place for three years.

Responsibilities of these offices:

The **President** serves as liaison with the MLA and presides over the WIF Business Meeting and the WIF Executive Committee meeting held during the MLA Annual Meeting. S/he corresponds with the Executive Committee concerning items of business, and with the membership, as questions arise. S/he coordinates all WIF activities.

The **Vice-President** assists the President; together, they decide the allocation of responsibilities between them. In addition to assisting the President, the Vice-President is traditionally responsible for

recruiting and editing the teaching bibliographies in the bi-annual newsletter as well as setting up the MLA business meeting and reception. The Vice-President is normally expected to become a candidate to succeed the President at the end of her/his term of office.

Regional Representatives serve as liaisons with the Regional MLAs, overseeing, in particular, the WIF sessions and social events. They publicize WIF and its activities to colleagues in their respective regions to recruit new members.

With the 2019 elections, we will have completed the transition to the newly defined regions, as follows:

Midwest (MMLA): Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin

New England and Eastern Canada (NEMLA): Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont; New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec

Rocky Mountain (RMMLA): Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming; Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan

South Atlantic (SAMLA): Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia; Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands

South Central (SCMLA): Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas Western United States and Western Canada (PAMLA): Alaska, California, Hawai'i, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington; British Columbia

MINUTES WIF BUSINESS MEETING MLA 2019

In attendance: Greta Bliss, Cheryl Toman, Natalie Edwards, Chris Hogarth, Julia diLiberti, Nicole Meyer, Tessa Nunn, Michèle Schaal

Treasurer's report: Account balances:

Checking: \$30,439.60

High-Yield Savings: \$70,254.35 From Catherine Montfort: 2017 MUSE royalties amount to \$13,980.72.

Membership:

No update from Stephanie Schechner

Election results:

South Atlantic representative: Adrienne Angelo

Graduate Student Representative: Tessa Nunn

Upcoming open positions:

- President & VP
- Midwest MLA
- Rocky Mountain MLA

Social Media/Website Update MLA 2019

Website:

- We are working on a new website with Wild Apricot that will be launched in the new year.
- Perks of the new website:
 - Easier to update and manage.
 - Membership will be integrated into the site, making joining and

- renewing easier for everyone.
- We will have a forum in addition to the email list where we can share news and updates.
- I'm working on putting our current newsletter into a website format for easy navigation.
- Photos and easy navigation.
- Website reminder:
 - Send me any news or announcements you would like on our website.

Social media:

- Please send me any photos from WIF events throughout the year (including MLA!) and I'll share them on social media and on our website. High-resolution is preferred, but not obligatory.
- Contact me if you'd like any news or announcements put on our social media pages.

Listserv reminders:

- Any current WIF member can email the WIF list from the email address they joined WIF with and to the WIF email address on our website.
- I'm also happy to forward messages along to the list.
- We've had some trouble with the current listserv--please contact me if you are having any issues with your WIF emails and I'll look into it.

Contact Lea with any questions or suggestions: leah.holz@fandm.edu

WIF 2020:

- 10e Conférence Internationale Women in French, Iowa State University
- « Les Voix et voies des marges » / "Margins: Voices and Pathways"
- 14-16 mai 2020 / 14-16 May 2020

Plenary Presentations:

- Ann Donadey (Academic Presentation, TBC)
- Claire Legendre (Artistic Presentation and "One Book, One *WIF*")

Calendar:

Submission of proposals: September 1, 2019

Notification (acceptance or refusal): October 31, 2019

Participants must be a member of *WIF* before January 1, 2020 to participate in the conference.

Other business/comments:

- Nunn: writing group will start again soon, includes graduate students and junior faculty
- Edwards: change Leah Holz's position to web officer or website and social media manager
- Meyer: Nebraska University
 Press approached her to
 potentially publish WIFIS, will
 send suggestion to WIF board

Submitted by Leah Holz

10° Conférence Internationale Women in French « Voix et voies des marges » Iowa State University 14-16 mai 2020

See CFP in the following section

MENTORS WELCOME

We continue to solicit additional WIF members for our mentoring program. If you would be willing to serve as a mentor to a graduate student or new faculty member please contact:

Susan Ireland <u>ireland@grinnell.edu</u>
Patrice J. Proulx <u>pproulx@unomaha.edu</u>

List your contact information (e-mail address; institution) and areas of expertise.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Graduate students in WIF organized a writing exchange for the summer where we read and commented on each other's writing, which included a dissertation prospectus, an article, and a dissertation chapter. The first writing exchange was a success and we are planning others for this fall and for the spring. Please email me (leah.holz@colorado.edu) if you would like to participate in any future writing groups.

I would also like to encourage graduate students to submit to the WIF newsletter. You can submit teaching dossiers in the fall, annotated bibliographies in the spring, and updates about your activities (publications, conferences, classes taught, etc.) for either issue.

Feel free to email me with any questions, concerns, or ideas for graduate students in WIF that you would like me to bring to the board.

GRADUATE ESSAY AWARD

The 2018 WIF Graduate Student Essay Award was awarded to Polly Galis (University of Leeds) for her paper "Mus(e)ing Bodies in Nancy Huston and Guy Oberson's *Poser nue*" (Professor: Diana Holmes, University of Leeds). The essay will be published in *Women in French Studies*. Polly Galis will receive a cash award of \$250, thanks to the generosity of WIF member Dr. Samia I. Spencer, Professor Emerita of French at Auburn University, who is also sponsoring a plaque to be presented to the WIF Outstanding Mentor who directed Ms. Galis's paper, Dr. Diana Holmes.

Women in French Graduate Student Essay Award Contest

Essays in French or English dealing with women in French or Francophone Literature or Civilization should be between 15 and 20 pages (double spaced), including notes and works cited. Blind submissions should be sent by email attachment in MSWord, formatted in the latest MLA style, and must include the student's university affiliation and graduate standing (masters or Ph.D. candidate), home phone number, address, and email address, and the full contact information of the professor who supervised and recommends the paper. The winner may be asked to revise her/his essay, based on evaluators' comments.

The best essay will be published in the yearly WIF Studies, a refereed journal. The winner will also receive \$250, thanks to the generosity of WIF member Samia I. Spencer (Auburn University), who also sponsors a plaque to be given to the advising professor as WIF Outstanding Mentor. We wish to recognize the work professors do in providing guidance on content, style, the writing process, use of secondary materials, and in encouraging the use of

the appropriate conventions for grammar, usage, and documentation of sources.

The submission deadline is May 25th, 2019.

Graduate students should send submissions to Adrienne Angelo at the following address:

ama0002@auburn.edu

UNDERGRADUATE AWARD

Kindly encourage your best students to consider submitting their papers written in French (10-12 pages, notes and bibliography/works cited included), for consideration for the next competition of the WIF Undergraduate essay prize (deadline: June 15, 2019). Please see the WIF website for details and guidelines: http://www.english.womeninfrench.org/awards/.

The topic may be either literary or cultural and should conform to the stated goal of Women in French: to promote the study of French and Francophone women authors, the study of women's place in French and Francophone cultures or literatures. and feminist literary criticism. Please specify your native language. The essays should be sent by THE STUDENT as a Word Document attachment with the name of the professor (WIF member), the student and the university included in the text of the message. There is one competition per year. The WIF Award committee may ask for corrections before publishing the essays on the WIF website.

An essay submission may be returned without review if it does not meet the submission guidelines regarding content, length and formatting as specified on the WIF website. It may also be returned for minor revisions prior to publication. http://www.english.womeninfrench.org/awards/.

The deadline is June 15th 2019.

Please send the essays to <u>Arline Cravens</u> and <u>Karin Schwerdtner</u>.

Call for Papers & Conference News

10° Conférence Internationale Women in French « Voix et voies des marges » Iowa State University 14-16 mai 2020

Iowa State University aura l'honneur d'accueillir la dixième édition de la Conférence Internationale Women in French, axée autour des marges et des marginalités.

Conférences plénières confirmées :

- Anne Donadey (San Diego State University)
- Claire Legendre (Université de Montréal)

Thème:

Le vingtième siècle, et en particulier sa seconde moitié, témoigne d'une présence accrue des femmes de lettres sur les françaises scènes littéraires et année francophones. Chaque désormais la publication de nombreux premiers romans par de jeunes auteures ou des ouvrages par des écrivaines confirmées. L'on pourrait donc aisément croire que les femmes de lettres sont enfin parvenues à la reconnaissance tant culturelle que populaire. Et pourtant... En 2014, la lycéenne Ariane Baillon lançait une pétition sur Change.org pour

contester la présence d'une seule femme philosophe, Hannah Arendt. programme du Baccalauréat. Deux ans plus tard, l'enseignante Françoise Cahen soumettait une requête similaire au Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche pour inclure plus d'auteures au Bac L. Si, en 2018, celle-ci voit son exaucé avec une épreuve exclusivement féminine (au programme : Madame de La Fayette, Madame de Staël et Colette), « sur les 51 textes présentés de 2003 à 2017, on compte... 3 signatures de femmes » (Brigaudeau). Il en va de même pour les prix littéraires : « Depuis la création du Goncourt . . . en 1903, les autrices françaises n'ont reçu que 159 prix sur les 740 récompenses décernées » (Orain et Dagorn). Enfin, Christine Planté et Audrey Lasserre nous rappellent que, en dépit de leurs contributions majeures à la littérature française, les écrivaines conservent une place presque insignifiante dans les manuels ou livres consacrés à l'histoire littéraire. Et que dire des auteures appartenant à ou représentant des perspectives minoritaires telles sexuelles ou ethnicoraciales ? Ces dernières subissent une double, voire triple invisibilisation. En dépit de leur grand nombre, les femmes de lettres, quel que soit leur contexte demeurent historique, ainsi encore marginales dans le paysage littéraire et la transmission de l'héritage culturel. Toutefois, comme l'exprime la féministe et philosophe afro-américaine bell hooks, les marges peuvent également incarner un puissant outil de conscientisation et de contestation. En effet, les auteures françaises et francophones ont contribué à la littérature d'expression française, et ce à n'importe quelle époque historique, des œuvres qui sont parmi les plus rebelles, originales ou politiques.

La conférence WIF 2020 propose d'examiner les voix et voies des marges et des marginalités à travers les siècles. Les propositions de communications pourront considérer les perspectives suivantes mais ne doivent en aucun cas s'y limiter :

- -Identités (individuelles, nationales, régionales, de genre, etc.)
- -Intersectionnalité (genre, classe, race, religion, etc.)
- -Discriminations, y compris les formes les moins discutées comme l'âgisme ou le capacitisme
- -Colonialisme et postcolonialisme
- -L'enseignement des marges au niveau universitaire\
- -Précarité
- -Maladies (manies, obsessions ou dépendances)
- -Alternatives (perspectives, sociétés, féminismes, etc.)
- -Théorie des marges (queer, trans*, etc.)
- -Handicaps
- -Genres littéraires et cinématographiques
- -Place des femmes et autres perspectives sous-représentées dans la littérature ou le cinéma
- -Littératures et cinémas dits minoritaires
- -Empowerment
- -Rébellions
- -Paralittérature
- -Les rapports du (des) centre(s) avec la (les) marge(s)

Projet « One Book, One WIF »:

En partenariat avec nos collègues de WIF UK, Women In French participe au projet « One Book, One WIF ». Établi en 2017 par Stephanie Schechner, ce programme promeut l'étude d'auteures françaises ou francophones peu connues. L'auteure retenue pour la conférence de 2020 est Claire Legendre et son roman L'Écorchée vive (2009). Nous encourageons la

soumission de propositions de communications ou de panels sur cette écrivaine.

Contributions:

Les propositions de communications ne doivent pas dépasser les 250 mots et doivent comprendre les coordonnées des intervenant.e.s ainsi qu'une notice biobibliographique (100 mots au maximum). organisatrices encouragent Les soumission de panels (3 intervant.e.s au minimum. 4 maximum). au panels propositions de doivent comprendre une explication de 250 mots ainsi que toutes les propositions individuelles.

Soumission:

Les propositions individuelles ou de panels peuvent être soumises au plus tard le 1^{er} septembre 2019 via le site Internet de la conférence : http://www.wif2020conf.org

Calendrier:

 1^{er} septembre 2019 : soumission des propositions.

31 octobre 2019 : notification des acceptions ou refus.

30 novembre 2019 : date butoir pour confirmer (ou non) sa participation à la conférence.

15 décembre 2019 : date butoir pour régler les frais d'inscription à la conférence.

1^{er} janvier 2020 : les intervenant.e.s sélectionné.e.s par le comité scientifique devront obligatoirement être membre de WIF avant le 1^{er} janvier 2020 pour pouvoir participer à la conférence.

15 mars 2019: Date butoir pour une demande de remboursement des frais d'inscription en cas d'annulation.

Ames et Iowa State University:

La ville d'Ames fut établie en 1864 afin de desservir, vers l'ouest, la voie de chemin de fer Cedar Rapids and Missouri River. Le président de la compagnie nomma la ville d'après un collègue également promoteur des chemins de fer, le Membre du Congrès Oakes Ames. Iowa State University, la première université "land-grant" des Etats-Unis, se situe à Ames. ISU s'est forgé une réputation de leader mondial dans diverses disciplines comme l'agriculture, le génie et la médecine vétérinaire. Avec plus de 35000 étudiant.e.s provenant de 130 pays différents, ISU possède une culture diversifiée et apporte un certain flair international au Midwest étatsunien. Ames est facilement accessible par la terre et les airs. Ames se situe à environ 65 kilomètres (45 minutes) de l'aéroport International de Des Moines.

10th International Women in French Conference "Margins: Voices and Pathways" Iowa State University 14-16 May 2020

Iowa State University is honored to host the 10th International Women in French Conference, focusing on margins and marginalities.

Confirmed Plenary Presentations:

- Anne Donadey (San Diego State University)
- Claire Legendre (Université de Montréal)

Theme:

The twentieth century, especially the second half, has witnessed a marked increase in the number of women authors on the French and francophone literary scene. Because of the significant increase in the publication of debut novels by young authors and books by established writers, it would be tempting to conclude that women authors have finally achieved widespread cultural and public recognition. Nevertheless, in 2014, a highschool student, Ariane Baillon, launched a petition on Change.org to challenge the fact that just one female philosopher, Hannah Arendt, was part of the Baccalauréat exam. Two years later, high-school teacher Françoise Cahen submitted a similar request to the Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche to include more women authors in the Bac L exam. Although Madame de La Fayette, Madame de Staël and Colette were added to the program in 2018, "of the 51 texts included from 2003 to 2017, only three . . . were by women authors" (Brigaudeau). The same is true for literary awards: "Since the creation of the Goncourt . . . in 1903, French women authors have received only 159 of the 740 awards" (Orain and Dagorn). Finally, Christine Planté and Audrey Lasserre remind us that, despite their major contributions to French literature, women writers still do not occupy a prominent place in textbooks on literary history. Likewise, what can be said of authors from sexual or ethnoracial under-represented communities? These authors suffer the consequences of a double, or even triple invisibilization. Despite their large numbers and regardless of the historical time period, women authors are still marginalized in the literary world and in the transmission of cultural heritage. However, as posited by African-American feminist and philosopher bell hooks, being on the margins may constitute a powerful tool for creating awareness and protest. Indeed, women authors have written some of the most rebellious, original and political literature of French expression in all historical eras.

The 2020 WIF Conference will examine voices and pathways from the margins, as

well as diverse forms of marginality from all eras. Possible topics include; but are not limited to:

- -Identities (individual, national, regional, gender, etc.)
- -Intersectionality (gender, class, race, religion, etc.)
- -Discrimination, including underrepresented forms such as ageism or ableism
- -Colonialism and Postcolonialism
- -Approaches to teaching the issue of marginality at the university level
- -Destitution
- -Illness (including mania, obsession, addiction)
- -Alternatives (perspectives, societies, feminisms, etc.)
- -Theories of the margins (queer, trans*, etc.)
- -Disabilities
- -Literary and cinematographic genres
- -Place of under-represented women and perspectives in literature or film
- -"Minority" literature and film
- -Empowerment
- -Rebellions
- -Paraliterature
- -Relationship between the center(s) and the margin(s)

"One Book, One WIF" Initiative:

In partnership with our colleagues from WIF UK, Women in French is continuing the "One Book, One WIF" initiative. Established in 2017 by Stephanie Schechner, this project aims to promote critical interest in lesser known French and francophone women writers. The book selected for the 2020 WIF conference is Claire Legendre's novel *L'Écorchée vive* (2009). Proposals for papers or panels on this author are encouraged.

Proposals:

Individual abstracts should not exceed 250 words and should include the presenter's contact information as well as a short biography (100 words maximum). Proposals for three- or four-paper panels are also encouraged. Panel proposals should include a 250-word rationale for the proposed topic as well as individual abstracts.

Submissions:

Individual abstracts or panel proposals must be submitted no later than September 1, 2019 via the conference website (coming February 2019).

Calendar:

September 1, 2019: Submission of proposals.

October 31, 2019: Notification of acceptance or refusal.

November 30, 2019: deadline to confirm conference participation.

December 15, 2019: deadline to register for the conference.

January 1, 2020: Participants must be members of WIF by January 1, 2020 to participate in the conference.

March 15, 2019: Deadline for reimbursement of the registration fee due to cancellation.

Ames and Iowa State University:

Ames was established in 1864 to serve the westward-bound Cedar Rapids and Missouri River Railroad. The president of the railroad named the town after fellow rail promoter, Congressman Oakes Ames. Ames is the home to Iowa State University, the nation's first land-grant university. Iowa State has established itself as a world leader in diverse disciplines such as agriculture, engineering, and veterinary medicine. With more than 35,000 students hailing from nearly 130 different nations, Iowa State offers cultural diversity and brings a distinct international flavor to the Midwest. Ames is easily

accessible by ground and air transportation. Ames is 40 miles (45 minutes) from the Des Moines International Airport.

Organisatrices/Organizers:

Dr. Michèle A. Schaal (Iowa State University) <u>mschaal@iastate.edu</u>
Dr. Arline Cravens (Saint Louis University) arline.cravens@slu.edu

Dr. Susan Ireland (Grinnell College) ireland@grinnell.edu

Comité scientifique/Selection Committee:

Arline Cravens (Saint Louis University), Susan Ireland (Grinnell University), E. Nicole Meyer (Augusta University), Patrice J. Proulx (University of Nebraska Omaha), Michèle A. Schaal (Iowa State University)

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CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS WIF Studies Special Issue 2022

"Vous êtes drôle pour une fille"
Funny Women in French, from the Salon
to Youtube

Examining the forms and spaces of modern and contemporary French-speaking women's humor, the next special issue of *WIF Studies* will provide a needed platform and catalyst for scholarship on women's humor in French and Francophone contexts. It will continue to address significant gaps in studies of humor in French that WIF members have acknowledged over the years, starting with the first issue of

Women in French Studies in 1993. Commemorating WIF's first two MLA sessions since WIF had become an Allied Association of the MLA in 1991, the inaugural Women in French Studies issue published three articles developed from the MLA panel "Women and Humour."

Major works in the critical field continue to omit women from their purview or fail to use gender as a category of analysis. The "civilisation du rire" (Vaillant) is still one of men, it would seem. Moreover, despite scholarly interest in women's humor, there are still far too few accounts of their participation in comic culture in French and Francophone contexts. A handful of studies in French focus on women's humor but their international scope does not offer much perspective on the cultural and historical factors affecting the production and forms of French speaking women's humor.

It has been almost 20 years since Humoresques devoted a special issue to the question in Armées du rire: l'humour au féminin, where co-editor Judith Sandor Stora wrote that "l'étude de l'humour féminin en France commence à peine." In 2012, the Canadian journal Recherches feministes took up the mantle with its special issue "Les voies secretes de l'humour des femmes" but left the door open for a volume on the humor of women of French expression. Unlike our colleagues working on American, British, and Irish women writers' literary humor (for example, Regina Barrecca, Judy Little, Emily Toth, Linda Walker, and Eileen Gilooly), we in French still lack a substantial corpus of scholarly work devoted to women's humor in French.

The need for such a volume has become all the more compelling since Armées du

rire. Along with novelists of all stripes, women are laughing: in the press and in cartoons, in street art, on the little and big screen, on the radio, and on the stage. Blanche Gardin won the Molière prize for humor in 2018. Franco-Ivoirien stand-up Shirley Souagnon travels to Reunion to conduct humor workshops. The Internet explosion allows women unmediated access to a global public. Greater visibility and increased numbers, though, have not changed the fact that funny women still pose a problem. In 2014, French Youtuber and humorist Natoo (Nathalie Odzierjko) published a vlog called "Les femmes et l'humour" in response to a viewer's back-handed compliment, "Tu es drôle pour une fille." Natoo's five-minute vlog deliciously skewers the perennial stereotypes about women and humor, calling to mind 19thcentury journalist Delphine Gay de nose-thumbing Girardin's witty would-be detractors in her weekly newspaper column from July Monarchy.

For the Women in French Studies special volume (2022), we seek contributions that investigate the humor of women of French expression since 1789. We wish to explore the cultural archive for signs of women's creative use of humor since the Revolution and the Napoleonic Code and track it through today's digital age. Against a tradition of reception that treats women as the unlaughing at which men laugh, this volume aims to demonstrate and reflect on the multiple humorous forms and practices of women of French expression. We seek to develop a greater understanding of the ways in which creative women use humor and of their place in broader cultures devoted to laughter, in all its modalities.

Submissions that explore any region of the French-speaking world and any creative practice using humor (taken in its largest sense to include the comic, the satiric, the ironic, etc.). within the historical parameters are welcome.

Possible areas of inquiry: literary humor, performance (art, music, one woman shows), cartoons and comic strips, radio, television, cinema, Internet. Transnational and historical perspectives welcome.

Abstract of 250-300 words in English or in French requested by **November 4**, **2019**.

Please send proposals to Cheryl Morgan (cmorgan@hamilton.edu)

Notice of acceptance by **December 15**, **2019**.

Full manuscript due by **June 10, 2020**. Manuscripts will go through blind peer review.

CHICAGO MLA 2019 Report

E. Nicole Meyer submitted the following information and remarks about two MLA 2019 events.

Meyer co-organized "Radical Transactions: Teaching Women in French and the 21st-century Classroom,", January 3-6, 2019."

The session was well attended, the questions lively and engaged. The panel was well received and we appreciate the lovely comments. Chair: Joyce Johnston. Speakers: Dominique Mary Licops, Viviana Pezzullo, Lorie G. Sauble-Otto, Natalie Edwards, Christopher Hogarth, E. Nicole Meyer.

Meyer also chaired the session "Harassment over Time: When #Me Too becomes #MeThen and #MeAgain" sponsored by the Women's Caucus for the Modern Languages at this year's MLA. Panel participants: Donna L. Potts, Jaime Weida, Katharine Polakk, Michelle A. Massé.

The quality Dr. Massé's session was wonderful, and the audience (50% men) asked questions on how their campus could change, what they could do to avoid #MeAgain (or even #MeToo) happening, what ways can we enact structural change.

WIF PANELS ET ANNUAL SAMLA CONFERENCE

SAMLA 90: Fighters from the Margins: Socio-Political Activists and Their Allies November 2-4, 2018 Birmingham, Alabama

I. Space, Place, and Time in French and Francophone Women's Writing. Chair: E. Nicole Meyer, Augusta University

- 1. "Space, Place, and Time in Nicole Garcia's *Un Balcon sur la mer* (2010)," Anne Donadey, San Diego State University
- 2. "L'Espace imaginaire et le retour au pays pas natal de Gisèle Pineau," Viviana Pezzullo, Florida Atlantic University
- 3. "Notions of Home in Minh Tran Huy's *La Princesse et le pêcheur*," Susan Crampton-Frenchik, Washington and Jefferson College

4. "Questions of Gendered Space, Place, and Time in Sarraute and Duras," E. Nicole Meyer, Augusta University

II. Memoir and Manifesto: Life Writing and/as Resistance.

Chair: Adrienne Angelo, Auburn University

- 1. "De l'importance d'écrire," Alexis Chauchois, Florida State University
- 2. "Houria Bouteldja: et elle et moi dans tout ça?" Frédérique Chevillot, University of Denver
- 3. "Intermedial Hybridity and Social Critique in Annie Ernaux's *L'Usage de la photo*," Noelle Giguere, Emory University
- 4. "The Tortured Body as Sight/Site of Resistance: (Post)Colonialism and Patriarchy in Louisette Ighilariz's *Algérienne*," Mary McCullough, Samford University

III. Public Space, Private Space: Women (and) Activism in French and Francophone Literatures and Art.

Chair: Cathy Leung, Queensborough Community College

- 1. "La résistance de la femme africaine contre la société patriarcale: le cas d'Affiba dans *La Révolte d'Affiba* de Regina Yaou," Viviane Koua, Auburn University
- 2. "Le genre, une question d'espace? Espace privé et espace public dans *Gabriel* de George Sand," Cathy Leung, Queensborough Community College

3. "Women and the Professions in Maylis de Kerangal's Novels," Nora Cottille-Foley, Georgia Institute of Technology

IV. Historicizing Dissent: Narratives of Revolt, Resistance, and Rebellion from the French Caribbean.

Chair: Lisa Connell, University of West Georgia

- 1. "Haunting Echoes in Femmes des Antilles: Traces et Voix," Delphine Gras, Florida Gulf Coast University
- 2. "Cries of Freedom: Representing Abolition in Maryse Conde's *An Tan Revolysion*," Lisa Connell, University of West Georgia

Submitted by **Adrienne Angelo**, WIF Regional Representative (South Atlantic).

CALL FOR TEACHING DOSSIERS

The WIF Newsletter will continue to feature a teaching dossier in the fall issue. This feature serves as a way to share useful pedagogical approaches, sample course descriptions, and innovative practices with our colleagues. Ideas for dossiers should be sent to Susan Ireland (ireland@grinnell.edu) and Patrice J. Proulx by May 1, 2019 at the latest (pproulx@unomaha.edu); description (100-150 words) is sufficient at this point. The complete dossier would be due by August 30 and should be sent to both Susan and Patrice. Submissions should be 3-10 pages in length, doublespaced, in Times New Roman, with endnotes rather than footnotes. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

WIF Member Publications & News

Stacie ALLAN. Writing the Self.
Writing the Nation: Romantic Selfhood
in the Works of Germaine de Staël and
Claire de Duras. Peter Lang. Oxford,
2019. 240 pp. French Studies of the
Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries
Series Editors: Robin Howells and Fiona
Cox
ISBN 978-1-78874-208-5 pb.
ISBN 978-1-78874-209-2 eBook

The French Revolution represents a pivotal moment within the history of personhood in France, where gender and national differences provided foundations of society. As such, these ideological constructs feature as battlegrounds in the search for identity and self-expression within the Romantic literature published between revolutions of 1789 and 1830. This book considers Germaine de Staël's and Claire de Duras's depictions of men's and women's shared and diverging lived experiences to offer an innovative transnational perspective on the usually male-focused mal du siècle. combines methodology feminist revisions of the novel, situated reading practices, and life writing research with an intersectional approach to gender and nationhood. This framework presents a dialectical relationship between sameness and difference on formal and thematic levels that challenges the construction and enforcement of binaries within early nineteenth-century legislation, discourse, and culture.

Beyond Staël's and Duras's intertextual relationship, this book promotes the importance of an understudied period in literary scholarship, clarifies women's role within French Romanticism, and explores the tense relationship between the self and the nation.

Marlène BARSOUM "Long-Term Travel and the Notion of Home: The Case of Alexandra David-Néel." *The French Review.* Vol. 92. No.1, October 2018: 156-170.

--"Travel and Self-Transformation: The Adventures of Alexandra David-Néel" *Women in French Studies* Special issue: Les Femmes et le voyage. Vol. 7, 2018: 259-275.

Guest editors **Margot IRVINE** and **Karin SCHWERDTNER** are very pleased to announce the forthcoming publication of an issue of *Études françaises* (55: 1, 2019) titled "Entre public et privé: lettres d'écrivains depuis le XIXe siècle"

This publication contains contributions from several WIF members and includes an interview with French writer, Michèle Lesbre: "Michèle Lesbre, femme de (vraies) lettres".

Here is the table of contents:

- 1. Clive Thomson, « 'Le sentiment dont nous parlons': la correspondance de Georges Hérelle »
- 2. Margot Irvine, « 'Rien ne sera plus beau que ces lettres': la correspondance de Romain Rolland et de Louise Cruppi » 3. Geneviève De Viveiros, « Identité fluide dans la correspondance de Zola et la pratique de l'autoportrait »

- 4. Tara Collington, « *De la vie dans son art, de l'art dans sa vie*: identités publiques et privées dans la correspondance d'Anny Duperey et Nina Vidrovitch »
- 5. Karin Schwerdtner, « Pascale Roze à Léon Tolstoï. La relation épistolaire dans *Lettre d'été* »
- 6. Michèle Bacholle, «Les lettres d'hommage de Linda Lê »
- 7. Entretien avec « Michèle Lesbre, femme de (vraies) lettres »
- **E. Nicole MEYER** has co-edited with **Joyce JOHNSTON** *Rethinking the French Classroom: New Approaches to Teaching Contemporary French and Francophone Women*, (co-edited volume). Co-edited with Joyce Johnston. Routledge, 2019. 978-1-13-836993-1. 978-0-36702346-1, 978-0-429-40000-1.

Rethinking the French Classroom

This volume investigates how teaching practices can address the changing status of literature in the French classroom. Focusing on how women writing in French are changing the face of French Studies, opening the canon to not only new approaches to gender but to genre, expanding interdisciplinary studies and aiding scholars to rethink the teaching of literature, each chapter provides concrete strategies useful to a wide variety of classrooms and institutional contexts. Essays address how to bring French Studies and women's and gender studies into the twenty-first century through intersections of autobiography, gender issues and technology; ways to introduce beginning and intermediate students to the rich diversity of women writing in French; strategies for teaching

postcolonial writing and literary theory; and interdisciplinary approaches to expand our student audiences in the United States, Canada, or abroad. In short, revisiting how we teach, why we teach, and what we teach through the prism of women's texts and lives while raising issues that affect cisgender women of the Hexagon, queer and othergendered women, immigrants residents of the postcolony attracts more openly diverse students. Whether new to the profession or seasoned educators, faculty will find new ideas to invigorate and diversify their pedagogical approaches.

Introduction
E. NICOLE MEYER AND JOYCE
JOHNSTON

PART I Exploring Identities/Exploring the Self: French Literature and Women's Studies in the Twenty-First Century

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- 2 Fractured Families: Program Growth through Innovative Teaching of French and Francophone Women's Autobiographies
 E. NICOLE MEYER
- **3** Worldwide Women Writers and the Web: Diversity and Digital Pedagogy ALISON RICE
- **4** "Representing the Self": Contemporary French Lit meets the Twenty-First-Century Student DAWN M. CORNELIO

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- **5** Teaching French and Francophone Women Authors Online SAGE GOELLNER
- 6 Integrating Women's Voices and Contemporary Cultural Materials through E-journaling ELIZABETH BERGLUND HALL
- 7 Linking Beginning and Advanced Language Learners through Images of Women JOYCE JOHNSTON
- **8** Building Bridges from Language to Civilization through Gisèle Pineau's *Un Papillon dans la cité* NATALIE EDWARDS AND CHRISTOPHER HOGARTH

PART III Colonial and Postcolonial French Women Writers: Teaching Diversity on Shifting Ground

- **9** Peoples, Authors, Protagonists: Teaching Francophone Women Authors through Gender Identity Themes LAURENCE M. PORTER
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- 11 Making the Case for French Studies: Strategies for Teaching Gendered Multiculturalism in Contemporary French Literature REBECCA E. LÉAL

12 Teaching Algeria through the Lens of Feminism FLORINA MATU

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15 Francophone Women Writers outside the French Classroom: An Integrated Approach to Exploring Women's Voices SHIRA WEIDENBAUM

16 Pushing Boundaries: A Feminist Interdisciplinary Approach to Team-Teaching French and American Women's Lives during World War II COURTNEY SULLIVAN AND KERRY WYNN

17 Women Novelists and the Music of Paris
ARLINE CRAVENS

18 Introducing or Expanding Queer Content in the Contemporary Francophone Classroom CJ GOMOLKA

Nicole MEYER holds a number of new positions: as of fall 2018, she is Editor, French, Francophone Studies and Comparative Literature for the *Rocky Mountain Review*; chair of American

Association of Teachers of French National Commission, French for Special Purposes (2019-2021), and invited member of the French Standards Task Force for the American Association of Teachers of French.

Claire MOUFLARD. "The Digital Para/Textual Griotte: Bessora's Discourses on Identity Politics and Neocolonialism in Contemporary France." Humanitie 8 .no.1: In 2,"Alternative Episteme: New Practices in Francophone Films and Literatures," edited by Frieda Ekotto and Bénédicte Boisseron, special issue;

https://doi.org/10.3390/h8010002 (2019)

Cheryl TOMAN is the editor of a new collection entitled, Capital Culture, published by Editions La Doxa in Paris (2019). This volume featuring thirteen essays in literature and cultural studies (half in English, half in French) plays with the various meanings of "capital" which is also its common theoretical theme. Capital culture can be liberating for some, but devastating for many: immigration, war, natural disasters, prostitution, corruption, marginalization are all explored in essays on human, political, economic, and disaster capital. African and Caribbean Francophone literature and other studies examining African museums, festivals and cities are of particular interest in addition to a chapter supplemented by a re-mapping of literary spaces through Geographic Information Systems technology and digital image processing. The volume's literary scholars examine works by Ken Bugul, Justine Mintsa, Angèle Rawiri, Karen Tei Yamashita, Werewere Liking, and Makenzy Orcel, among others. Essays in cultural studies examine regional museums and festivals in Cameroon and the challenges and successes of publishing in Francophone Africa. The collection also includes the contribution, "Douala: ville transculturelle" written by Thérèse Kuoh-Moukoury, the first novelist of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Metka ZUPANČIČ "Women and French democracy, 1789–1804: between the guillotine and the Civil Code limitations." In Women and the Ideology of Political Exclusion. From Classical Antiquity to the Modern Era. Edited by Tatiana Tsakiropoulou-Summers and Katerina Kitsi-Mitakou. New York: Routledge, 2019. 247-26

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NB: This region will no longer exist come December 2019.

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NB: This region will become Rocky Mountain come December 2019.

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