

**Title:** "*Anti-racisme* in the Academy: Francophone Studies as a Nexus for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion"

**Proposal Format:** Panel Discussion

**Panel Members:** Dr. Anny-Dominique Curtius, Dr. Roxanna Curto, Katie Gilbert, and Hadley Galbraith

The purpose of our proposed round table is a discussion of the ways we can promote Francophone Studies as a nexus of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the academy. Francophone Studies is a compelling case study in the academy. It most often shares a department with French Studies. It contributes in important ways to globalizing the field of French studies at certain levels of the curriculum, while the predominance of a continental French hegemony continues to overshadow the opportunities for engaging questions of anti-Blackness, ethnic discrimination and colonialism. We will discuss diversifying curricula by bringing Francophone Studies into beginning language courses, the potential avenues for bridging Francophone Studies and other disciplines in a fruitful way, bringing contemporary issues and representations of difference into the Francophone classroom, bringing a Francophone Studies lens into other research areas of French Studies, and further diversifying the Francophone Studies syllabus, with an eye for intersectionality. Our presenters come to this discussion with a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, bringing to the round table perspectives from literary translation studies, performance studies, gender and sexuality studies, trauma studies, museum studies, technology studies, sports, and hispanophone cultural studies. The panel will be of interest to scholars in Francophone Studies, other areas of literary and cultural studies, those interested in interdisciplinary collaboration, and higher education in general.

**Anny-Dominique Curtius** is a Professor of Francophone Studies at the University of Iowa where she also serves as co-Director of the working group “Museum Futures” at the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies. Her interdisciplinary research is at the crossroads of cultural theory, cinematic, visual, and performing arts of the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, and Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa; Comparative postcolonial museum studies; Black Atlantic Ecocriticism. Her work also focuses on the defacement and toppling of the iconography of slavery in the public space. She is the author of two books *Suzanne Césaire. Archéologie littéraire et artistique d’une mémoire empêchée* [Suzanne Césaire. Literary and Artistic Archeology of a Hindered Memory (2020) and *Symbioses d’une mémoire: Manifestations religieuses et littératures de la Caraïbe* (2006) [Symbiosis of a Memory: Caribbean Religions and Literatures] as well as numerous articles and book chapters in the fields of studies aforementioned. She has two books in progress. One explores entangled subtitles and global audiences in Francophone cinemas. The second one examines postcolonial and ecocritical narrativization of trauma and memory in the new museum.

**Roxanna Curto** is Associate Professor of French and Spanish and Chair of the Department of French and Italian at the University of Iowa. She received her Ph.D. in French from Yale in 2008 and her A.B. in Romance Studies from Harvard in 2001. In her research, she explores the

representation of cultural elements such as technology and sports in literature from the French- and Spanish-speaking worlds. She is the author of *Inter-tech(s): Colonialism and the Question of Technology in Francophone Literature* (University of Virginia Press, 2016). She has also published essays exploring connections between Aimé Césaire and Latin American literature, and the role of technology in the work of 20<sup>th</sup>-Century poets, including Guillaume Apollinaire, Blaise Cendrars, and Denis Roche. Her second book project, *Writing Sport: The Stylistics and Politics of Athletic Movement in French and Francophone Literature* considers aspects of physical culture in literature written in French from Europe, Africa, North America and the Caribbean. She recently co-edited the volume, *Pour le sport: Physical Culture in French and Francophone Literature* (Liverpool University Press, 2021).

**Katie Gilbert** is a Ph.D. student in French & Francophone World Studies at the University of Iowa. Her research interests focus on questions of community building and representation in the hierarchized language contexts of the Caribbean and Indian Ocean, as it is done through literature, film, and other cultural production. She holds an MFA in literary translation from the University of Iowa, and is passionate about promoting translation in the classroom, as well as teaching the French language and the different cultures and literatures of the francophone world.

**Hadley Galbraith** is a Ph.D. candidate in the French & Francophone World Studies Program at the University of Iowa. Her interdisciplinary research focuses on the intersections of memory, trauma, embodied experience, and dance in contemporary literature, film and performance reexamining slavery and its legacies in Francophone contexts. Her dissertation takes a transnational perspective, examining works by authors from the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, Sub-Saharan Africa, and France. She has published articles in the journal *Contemporary French & Francophone Studies: SITES*. She will defend her dissertation in Spring of 2022.