

**Rachel Gabara**  
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### **Academic Employment**

Associate Professor, Dept. of Romance Languages, University of Georgia (2007- )  
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 African and European literature and film, literary theory, film history and theory, postcolonial studies, autobiography.

### **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.

Reviewed in *Research in African Literatures* 39.2 (Summer 2008), *International Journal of Francophone Studies* 11.1-2 (Summer 2008), *Bryn Mawr Review of Comparative Literature* 6.2 (Fall 2007), *Biography* 30.2 (Spring 2007) and *Choice* (May 2007).

#### **Articles**

- “‘A Poetics of Refusals’: Neorealism from Italy to Africa.” Revised reprint. *Italian Neorealism and Global Cinema*. Eds. Laura E. Ruberto and Kristi M. Wilson. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2007. 187-206.

- “‘A Poetics of Refusals’: Neorealism from Italy to Africa.” *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 23.3 (July 2006): 201-215.
- “Screening Autobiography: Cyril Collard’s *Nuits Fauves*.” *French Cultural Studies* 16.1 (February 2005): 55-72.
- “Mixing Impossible Genres: David Achkar and African AutoBiographical Documentary.” *New Literary History* 34.2 (Spring 2003): 331-352.
- “FESPACO 2003 - New Directions for African Film.” *Yëgóo* 6 (June 2003): 6-7, 26.

### **Book Reviews and Entries in Reference Works**

- Review of Peter Bloom, *French Colonial Documentary: Mythologies of Humanitarianism*. Forthcoming in *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*.
- Review of Réda Bensmaïa, *Experimental Nations*. Forthcoming in *The Translator*, April 2009.
- Review of *Transnational Cinema: The Film Reader*. *Esprit Créateur* 47.4 (Winter 2007): 130-31.
- 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. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1992. 39-48.

### **Current Research**

- “Reclaiming Realism: From Colonial to Contemporary Documentary in West and Central Africa.” Book-length project tracing and analyzing the history of documentary cinema in Francophone sub-Saharan Africa, from French colonial films to the current work of a young generation of African filmmakers.
- “Abderrahmane Sissako: Third Cinema in the First Person.” Article in progress.

### **Conference Presentations**

- “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.” Conference entitled “Spaces of War: France and the Francophone World,” European Studies Consortium, 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 “Francophone Africa” panel.
- “Documentary Film in Africa / African Documentary Film.” 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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 “Film, Literature, and History” panel.
- “Third Cinema in the First Person: New Autobiographical Documentary from Francophone West Africa.” Visible Evidence XI Conference, Bristol, England, December 2003.
- “What’s ‘Comp Lit’ About African Film?” Modern Language Association Conference, New Orleans, December 2001.
- “Abderrahmane Sissako and New African Documentary Film.” Conference entitled “The ‘Africanist’ Discourse in Transformation,” Institute of African Studies, 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*.” Twenty-Third Annual Colloquium on Literature and Film, West Virginia University, October 1998.
- “Scripted and Screened Autobiographies: The Examples of Cyril Collard.” XVth International Comparative Literature Association Conference, University of Leiden, The Netherlands, August 1997.
- “Manhood through Womanhood: Self-Analysis and Self-Construction in Michel Leiris’ *L'Age d'homme*.” Comparative Literature Program Conference, University of Michigan, March 1997.

### **Invited Talks**

- “Africa, Film, and Comparative Literary Studies.” Comparative Literature Graduate Student Organization, University of Georgia, April 2005.
- “The State of Francophone West African Studies.” Roundtable discussion, 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 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.
- Honorific Fellowship Support Award, Spring 2003.
- Tuck Fund Grant, for research in Paris, France and Dakar, Senegal, June-July 2001.
- Russell B. Newton Fund Grant, for the study of Wolof at the University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2001.

### **Teaching**

#### **University of Georgia**

- French 2120H – “Honors Intermediate French”
- French 3010H – “Honors Conversation and Composition”
- French 4080 – “Contemporary French and Francophone Autobiography”
- French 4120/6120 – “Filming Displacement: Europeans in Africa and Africans in Europe”
- French 4170 – “Francophone Film, Literature, and Culture”
- French 6200 – “Francophone Literatures and Cultures: The Sub-Saharan African Novel”

#### **Princeton University**

- 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 – “Theories of Film”
- Comparative Literature 550 – “Retelling History: Sub-Saharan African Fiction and Film”
- Freshman Seminar 119 – “Comment s’écire?”

### **University Service**

#### **University of Georgia**

- Affiliate Faculty, Department of Theatre and Film Studies
- Affiliate Faculty, African Studies Institute
- Graduate Studies Committee, Department of Romance Languages, 2007-08.
- Examination Committee, Department of Romance Languages, 2007-08.
- Advisory Committee, Department of Romance Languages, 2005-07.
- Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Romance Languages, 2006-07.
- 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
- Lecture Committee, Department of Comparative Literature, 2004-05.
- Graduate Committee, Department of Comparative Literature, 2003-04.
- Departmental Representative [Undergraduate Chair] of the Department of Comparative Literature, 2001-02.
- Comprehensives Committee, Department of Comparative Literature, 2000-01.

### **Supervision of Student Research**

Ph.D. Major Professor  
Mahamadou Diaby-Kassam

Ph.D. Committee Member:  
Liana Babayan

M.A. Major Professor:  
Peter Gachanja  
Althea Hubbard  
Corinne Kimmel

M.A. Committee Member:  
Elizabeth Franz

### **Professional Activities**

#### **Manuscript Reviewer**

- *Research in African Literatures*, 2007.

### **American Council of Learned Societies**

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

### **University of Georgia**

- 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 roundtable discussion entitled "Understanding the French Riots: Immigration and Representation," March 2006.

### **Princeton University**

- Moderator for panel entitled "Globalism, Self, Identities," at "Feasting on Words: Cannibalism and the Caribbean Text" (conference on the work of Maryse Condé), November 2004.
- 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), Wolof (elementary), Russian and Polish (reading knowledge).

### **Professional Memberships**

- Modern Language Association
- American Comparative Literature Association
- African Literature Association
- West Africa Research Association
- Society for Cinema Studies