



Black Studies French Studies

An Afro - Francospheres &
BlackFranceNoire Colloquium

**Columbia Global
Centers | Paris**

Monday - Wednesday,
April **22-24, 2024**



Workshop Series

Monday-Tuesday,
April **22-23, 2004**
10h-17h



Conversation Series

Wednesday,
April **24, 2024**
17h-21h

PARIS
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Global

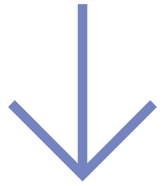
Jointly housed at the Society of Fellows/Heyman Center for the Humanities and the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies, the Afro-Francospheres Project at Columbia University, in partnership with the inter-university research, educational, and public programming initiative. BlackFranceNoire, is hosting a two-part colloquium titled “Black Studies x French Studies” this Spring at Columbia Global Centers | Paris. The program consists of a closed-door graduate student writing workshop series, from Monday to Tuesday, April 22-23, 2024, followed by a public conversation series that features two roundtable discussions on Wednesday evening, April 24, 2024.

With sponsorship from the Office of the Provost at Columbia University and BlackFranceNoire, Afro-Francospheres will host the graduate student writing workshops conceived to broaden the horizons of Black French Studies. These workshops aim to foster interdisciplinary collaborative research among academic communities within France and the United States. These workshops assemble graduate students from various academic disciplines to explore three central themes: the manifestations of Black Radicalism in French-speaking worlds, dialectical examinations of intellectual traditions that have influenced Black French Studies, and an exploration of artistic developments that conceptualize and reimagine the notions of Blackness within variegated Francospheres. Participants will discuss pre-circulated work by graduate students from the partnering universities in the United States—Columbia, Yale, Northeastern, and Boston—and graduate students from École des Hautes Études en Science Sociales. The selected French-based scholars who will co-chair these workshop sessions include Maboula Soumahoro (Université de Tours), Franck Ekué (Centre national de la recherche scientifique), Nadia Yala Kisukidi (Université Paris VIII Vincennes/Saint-Denis), Claire Tancons (Independent Scholar), and Jennifer Padjemi (Université Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle).

On Wednesday, April 24, 2024, the colloquium “Black Studies x French Studies” will culminate with an evening dedicated to public conversations that recall the historic intervention of the student-run movement Négritude in hexagonal France. Harbored within the ephemeral student-led Parisian publication *L'Étudiant Noir*, in 1935, Négritude served as a call-for-action for the theorization of the Black experience and the study of Black intellectual history within the universities nestled in the Quartier Latin. Its iteration in hexagonal France encapsulates the periodicals, print ephemera, and salons of the 1920s and 1930s to the initial decades of the journal and publishing house *Présence Africaine*, established in 1947. Our invited speakers and audience members will reflect upon the historical presence of Négritude in academe, museums, media, and public discourse.

In the spirit of the bilingualism, French-English, and translation used as a vehicle for the Négritude movement writ large, the conversation series will host roundtables conducted in French and English: “Black Aesthetic Praxes Beyond Beauty” and “Parole à la Négritude de l'époque coloniale et post-coloniale.” Invited scholars, authors, curators, and gallerists include Léa Mormin-Chauvac (Author and Filmmaker, France), Carmen Diop (Paris VIII Vincennes/Saint-Denis, France), Noémi Michel (Independent Scholar, Geneva) Jennifer Padjemi (Paris III Sorbonne, France), Amandine Nana (Palais de Tokyo, France), Mariane Ibrahim (Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Paris) Jacqueline Cofield (Columbia University, U.S.A.), and A. Véronique Charles (Columbia University, U.S.A.).

Workshop Series Participants



Graduate Student Panelists:



Tiffany Bailey, Boston University

From Birmingham, Alabama, Tiffany Bailey is a PhD candidate in French Language & Literature at Boston University. She received her BA in French & History and her MA in French & Applied Linguistics from the University of Alabama. She has taught beginning and intermediate French courses as well as Francophone and African film courses. She has studied in Tours and Avignon, France. Her research interests include Black girlhood studies, contemporary literature and film, Francophone studies, popular culture, and women and youth narratives.



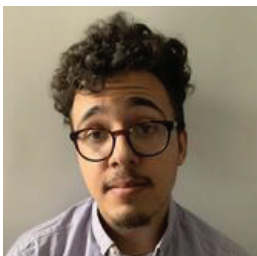
Victoria Dey, Northeastern

Victoria earned her B.A. in French and International Relations from the University of Rochester in 2021. Eager to continue her studies, she entered the World History doctoral program at Northeastern University the following semester. She has completed the Master's portion of her degree and is positioned now as a soon-to-be PhD Candidate. Her research focuses on unraveling the intricacies of antiblackness in contemporary France by drawing on the 1980s as a critical junction for Black French radicalism. She specifically focused on diasporic networks as a strategy of resistance with an emphasis on the role of Afrofeminism. Victoria is the recipient of Northeastern's Lucille Zanghi and James Dow PhD Research Fund and is a 2024-2025 Fulbright France awardee, underscoring the significance of her work.



Jennifer M. Harley, Columbia

Jennifer Harley studies art of the African Diaspora with a focus on land and landscape. She is an interdisciplinary artist and educator based in Brooklyn. Her practice includes collaboratively building and facilitating partnerships between art museums and community spaces, centering individuals with justice histories. She received a BFA in Sculpture and a BA in Art Management at Appalachian State University and has held roles at The Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Whitney Museum, and The Museum of the City of New York. Prior to entering the Art History and Archeology Ph.D. program at Columbia in 2022, she worked as the School & Community Partnerships Manager at The Studio Museum in Harlem. In that role, she led partnerships with Harlem public schools and community organizations that centered queer youth, individuals experiencing houselessness, currently incarcerated individuals, and individuals with justice histories.



Sam Jones, Yale

Sam Jones received his B.A. from Brown University in 2018 with a double major in Africana Studies and French Studies. His research interests center on the lives and works of African American artists, writers, travelers and exiles in Europe. He is currently working on a dissertation which thinks through the attempts made by African American writers to theorize Blackness in Paris and the ways in which these attempts were limited by their proximity to both American and French projects of imperialism.



Noémie Marie-Rose, EHESS

Mylène Mauricrace, PhD Candidate at CIRESC (Centre International de Recherche sur les Esclavages et Post-esclavages) and at EHESS (CERMA, Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Mondes Américains) under the direction of Myriam Cottias (CNRS). My work focuses on the migration of West Indian women (Guadeloupe and Martinique) and more specifically on the circulation of students in the 20th century.

**Elena M'Bouroukounda, Columbia**

Elena M'Bouroukounda is a Doctoral Student in Architecture at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. Elena researches the mediation of space in colonial overseas territories in the Caribbean and the Atlantic world in the late 19th and early 20th century and their historical formulations at the margins of multiple spatial boundaries. A primary thread through her research is the multiplicities of temporalities and historical narratives within this region and their transmission to and deformation in European metropolises. To this, the work mobilizes many visual records of Caribbean colonies, including print materials that circulated the globe and provide a materiality record of the region as it transformed over time through successive reconstructions. The ephemerality of material records ultimately ground her broader interest in the intersection of geographies, ecologies, and architectures.

At Columbia University, Elena is a Provost Diversity Fellow. Before beginning the Ph.D. program, she received a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture from Ball State University in 2017, where she studied French language, and a master of Architecture degree from Princeton University's School of Architecture in 2020, where she was awarded a Suzanne Kolarik Underwood Prize for design excellence.

**Laetitia Ndiaye, Columbia**

Laetitia Marie Ndiaye is a fourth-year graduate student in the French Ph.D. program at Columbia University. Her research interests encompass 20th and 21st-century francophone literature, post-colonialism, identity, space, and language in immigration literature, translation studies, migration, and diaspora.

**Hazel Richards, Columbia**

Hazel Richards (she/her/hers) is a first year Hstory PhD student in the Atlantic History Field at Columbia University. She is interested in questions of decolonization, citizenship, sovereignty, and empire. Other themes that interest her are the role of literature, carcerality, and borders/borderlands. Her research focuses on the twentieth century French Caribbean, particularly concerning Guiana.

**Natacha Robert, Columbia**

Natacha Robert is an educator, activist, and artist. She is a current doctoral student at Teachers College, Columbia University in the department of Curriculum and Teaching. Her research focuses on African-centered education with interests in culturally relevant education and decolonization. She is a former middle and high school social studies and special education teacher. Working with various community-based organizations, she has created and helped to direct after school programs for Black children and other minoritized youth. She is the founder of Elimu for Liberation, an African-centered educational company that provides resources to parents, teachers, and school districts to support them in teaching African-centered and culturally relevant lessons and content. As an activist and community organizer she has worked with the Westchester Alliance for Black School Educators and the December 12th Movement to raise awareness for and address the myriad of issues, such as miseducation and ethnic cleansing (gentrification), facing Black people. Currently she works to help support, raise awareness for, and free political prisoners as a member of the Northeast Political Prisoner Coalition. She is also a member of the Enslaved African Memorial committee, an organization working to build a memorial to honor and remember the Africans who were enslaved in Bergen County, New Jersey.

**Mylène Maurierace, EHESS**

Noémie Marie-Rose, doctorante à l'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, sous la direction de Myriam Cottias (CNRS, CIRESC-PHEEAC) et de Céline Flory (EHESS Mondes Américains, CIRESC-PHEEAC). Sa thèse porte sur la réorganisation du travail après l'abolition de l'esclavage en Martinique. Elle interroge notamment les mécanismes ayant structuré le maintien des « nouveaux libres » sur les habitations entre 1848 et 1900.

Scholar-Reviewers:



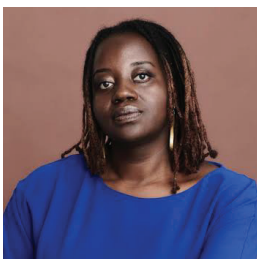
Franck Freitas-Ekué

Franck Freitas-Ekué est doctorant à l'université de Paris-8 Vincennes – Saint-Denis. Sa thèse s'intitule « Corps black® : généalogie d'une identification raciale par une valorisation marchande du corps », sous la direction de la Pr Eleni Varikas (université Paris-8 Saint-Denis). Ses travaux portent sur les politiques de représentation au sein de l'Atlantique noir, la construction des identités noires dans un contexte d'économie capitaliste. Il a codirigé les dossiers, « Techno-racisme » en collaboration avec Maxime Cervulle, pour la revue Poli en 2015 ; « Sex Sells, Blackness too ? Stylisation des rapports de domination dans les cultures populaires » en collaboration avec Malek Bouyahia et Karima Ramdani pour la revue Volume ! en 2011. En avril de cette année sortira, l'ouvrage « Penser avec Stuart Hall » aux éditions La Dispute, en collaboration avec Malek Bouyahia, et Karima Ramdani.



Claire Tancons

Claire Tancons is a curator and scholar invested in the discourse and practice of the postcolonial politics of production and exhibition. Tancons holds an MA in Museum Studies from École du Louvre, Paris (1999) and an MA in Art History from the Courtauld Institute of Art, London (2000). She is also a former Curatorial Fellow of the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program, New York (2001). Born in Guadeloupe, Tancons lives in diaspora and works in situ.



Maboula Soumahoro

Soumahoro is an associate professor at the University of Tours and president of the Black History Month Association, dedicated to celebrating Black history and cultures. She first taught at Bennington College for the MATSL program in 2003, and has since taught at Barnard College, the Bard Prison Initiative, and Columbia University where she was also invited as a Visiting Scholar (2002-2003) and International Visiting Professor (Mellon Arts Project, Fall 2022).

A well published specialist in the field of Africana Studies, she has conducted research, and taught in several universities and prisons in the United States and France and was most recently the inaugural Villa Albertine Resident in Atlanta. She is the author of *Le Triangle et l'Hexagone, réflexions sur une identité noire* (La Découverte, 2021), translated in English by Dr. Kaiama L. Glover as *Black Is the Journey, Africana the Name* (Polity, 2021). This book received the FetKann! Maryse Condé literary prize in 2020.

Based in France, Soumahoro served as an appointed member of the National Committee for the Memory and History of Slavery from 2013 to 2016. She was a visiting faculty member at Bennington for the 2016-2017 and 2022-2023 academic years.



Nadia Yala Kisukidi

Nadia Yala Kisukidi was born in Brussels, from a Congolese (DRC) father and a Franco-Italian mother. She is Associate Professor in philosophy at Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint-Denis University. She was vice-president of the Collège International de Philosophie (2014-2016) and is a member of the editorial committee of *Cahiers d'études africaines* (EHESS). Kisukidi is specialized in French and Africana philosophy. Her publications include *Bergson ou l'humanité créatrice* (CNRS, 2013), *Dialogues transatlantiques* (Anacaona, 2021) co-written with the Brazilian philosopher Djamilia Ribeiro, and many articles in philosophy.

Conversation Series Panelists:

Black Aesthetic Praxes "Beyond Beauty"

- ✕ Jacqueline Cofield EdD, Teachers College, Columbia University
- ✕ Mariane Ibrahim, Gallerist, Mariane Ibrahim Gallery
- ✕ Amandine Nana, Curator, Palais de Tokyo

This panel delves into the intercontinental dimensions of Black women artists' aesthetic praxes, exploring their resonance within contemporary educational and cultural frameworks. Rooted in Kaiama L. Glover's imperative for "afro-fluency," the necessity to move beyond Anglo-centric perspectives in African Diaspora Studies, this panel amplifies the voices of Black women multimodal artists across language-worlds.



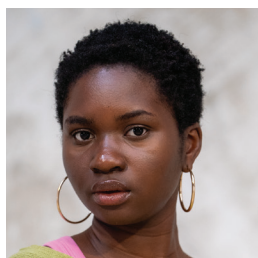
Jacqueline Cofield, Teachers College, Columbia University

Dr. Jacqueline M. Cofield (she/her) earned her doctorate at Columbia University's Teachers College, specializing in art history, Black studies, curriculum studies, and museum education. With degrees from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, the University of Southern California, and the City College of New York, CUNY, Jacqueline brings a diverse academic background to her research. She is the producer and host of the podcast "Beyond Beauty," which amplifies the narratives of global women artists. As a Joan Tisch Teaching Fellow at the Whitney Museum, Jacqueline fosters inclusive educational experiences within the museum. Through her work in transdisciplinary curriculum design, documentary filmmaking, education, and curation, Jacqueline creates spaces where diverse voices and perspectives are valued and celebrated, enriching global artistic dialogues and promoting cross-cultural understanding. Her experiences at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Studio Museum in Harlem, and the Peggy Guggenheim Museum have further shaped her commitment to advancing equitable access to the arts and empowering marginalized artistic and cultural communities.



Mariane Ibrahim, Gallerist, Mariane Ibrahim Gallery

Gallerist Mariane Ibrahim is dedicated to broadening the horizons of the creative landscape by promoting and supporting a diversity of artistic practices. She has risen to become a major figure in the international art scene beginning her remarkable journey by opening her flagship in Seattle in 2012, before expanding to Chicago in 2019, Paris in 2021, and Mexico in 2023. Mariane Ibrahim actively engages with cultural institutions, collaborating closely with them to promote a deeper understanding and expanded appreciation of contemporary art. Her partnerships with museums, art centers, and artistic foundations play a crucial role in disseminating the works of her artists and in fostering stimulating dialogues on cultural and social themes. Her unwavering commitment to artistic excellence and cultural diversity were recognised by the French Ministry of Culture when she was made Knight of Order of Arts and Letters in 2021.



Amandine Nana, Curator, Palais de Tokyo

Amandine Nana is a writer and curator at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris. Trained as an art historian and urbanist with a multidisciplinary background in the humanities, she specializes in African and African diasporic studies. She built her curatorial practice at the crossroads of art, research, publishing, literature, and architecture within an international context between Paris, Dakar, and New York. In 2020 in Paris, she founded Transplantation, a cultural organization, nomadic project space, and art library dedicated to diasporic imaginaries in France. Between 2020 and 2021 she collaborated with Chimurenga (South Africa) on the Chimurenga Library, an expansive project and research initiative focusing on the Black radical imagination in the Francophone world presented at the Centre Pompidou in 2021. She is the co-founder of Perspectives Africana, the first Africana Studies student seminar at ENS ULM in Paris, where she taught a course titled "Art History, Gender, and Black Feminism" from 2022 to 2023. She joined the Palais de Tokyo in 2023 and she is currently working for fall 2024 on her first show inspired by I, Tituba, Black Witch of Salem by Maryse Condé.

Parole à la Négritude de l'époque coloniale et post-coloniale

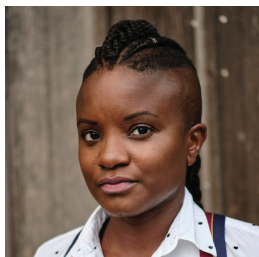
- ✕ Jennifer Padjemi, Journaliste, Auteure et Enseignante, Paris III/Sorbonne Nouvelle
- ✕ Léa Mormin-Chauvac, Journaliste et Auteure
- ✕ Carmen Diop, Doctorante, Université Paris VIII
- ✕ Noémi Michel PhD, Chercheuse-Enseignante Indépendante
- ✕ A. Véronique Charles PhD, Chercheuse-Enseignante, Columbia University

Dans les sociétés dominantes fondées par une histoire impérialiste datant du sixième siècle, les expériences vécues par toutes les couches sociales sont à la fois racialisées et genrées. Bien que l'essai *Peau noire, masques blancs* de Frantz Fanon est répandu dans les sphères francophones et anglophones, il ne suffit pas uniquement de le citer pour affirmer le constat susmentionné. Cette table ronde fait à juste titre résonance à l'œuvre d'Awa Thiam intitulée *La Parole aux négresses* et plus largement reprend d'autres œuvres autour desquelles nous allons discuter les axes critiques, le langage poétique, et les théories issues du mouvement de la Négritude.



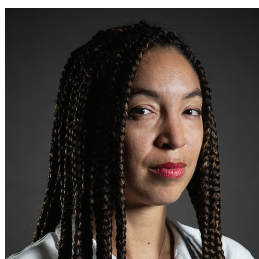
Léa Mormin-Chauvac, Journaliste et Auteure

Léa Mormin-Chauvac est journaliste indépendante, scénariste et membre du comité éditorial de la revue féministe *La Déferlante*. Après un passage par *Libération* et *France Culture*, elle a coécrit le documentaire *Les Soeurs Nardal, les oubliées de la négritude* avec Marie-Christine Gambart pour France Télévisions. Elle est également l'auteure de la première biographie des sœurs Nardal publiée en avril 2024 chez Autrement.



A. Véronique Charles PhD, Chercheuse-Enseignante, Columbia University

A. Véronique Charles est chercheuse, écrivaine et universitaire interdisciplinaire en études littéraires. Elle est chercheuse postdoctorale à la Society of Fellows in the Humanities de l'Université Columbia, où elle enseigne également au Département des études afro-américaines et de la diaspora africaine. Charles est titulaire d'un doctorat en littérature comparée et en théorie littéraire, avec un certificat en études africaines de l'Université de Pennsylvanie, ayant obtenu un Master 2 en littérature comparée de l'Université Paris VIII. Pour l'année 2023-2024, A. Véronique Charles est l'un des trois principaux dirigeants du projet "Afro-Francosphères", financé par le Bureau du Provost à l'Université Columbia. Elle est ainsi membre de l'équipe de chercheuses universitaires qui construisent BlackFranceNoire.



Noémi Michel PhD, Chercheuse-Enseignante Indépendante

Noémi Michel est chercheuse-enseignante, auteure et travailleuse culturelle. Elle enseigne régulièrement à la Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design de Genève ainsi qu'à l'Ecole cantonale d'art de Lausanne. Au croisement de la théorie et des expérimentations artistiques et collectives, son travail s'ancre dans la théorie critique avec un focus sur les pensées féministes noires. Il interroge les conceptions divergentes de l'antiracisme en Europe ainsi que la notion de voix politique. Ses textes récents ont été publiés dans *Tout ce qu'on tait on sait / We Know What Remains Unsaid* du collectif *Wages for Wages against*, les revues *Mirà* (Nouveau Musée de Monaco), *Critical Horizons*, *Postcolonial studies* et *Social politics*. Ses réalisations artistiques et collectives récentes comprennent la co-écriture ainsi que la dramaturgie du spectacle pluridisciplinaire « *Vielleicht* » (actuellement au Théâtre National de Strasbourg) sur les traces coloniales dans les espaces urbains, la conception de podcasts et tables rondes pour le Centre d'Art de la Meute à Lausanne, ou encore le conseil dramaturgique en politiques de représentation et diversité dans le cadre de productions théâtrales et audiovisuelles. En savoir plus.

**Carmen Diop, Doctorante, Université Paris VIII**

Féministe Afrocaribéenne, Carmen Diop est experte en communication et journaliste. Titulaire d'une Maîtrise de philosophie politique, d'une Licence d' anthropologie sociale et de sociologue comparée, d'un Master 2 de psychologie du travail et doctorante en sociologie, elle a créé en 1988 un magazine grand public destiné aux femmes Noires francophones (Élite Madame). Depuis 2007, ses recherches, qui mobilisent le point de vue situé et l'approche intersectionnelle, portent sur la condition professionnelle des femmes Noires diplômées en France. Elle est l'auteure d'un article précurseur dans l'hexagone (2011) sur les discriminations et les micro-agressions au travail, dont de nombreuses Afropéennes se sont saisies pour mieux se comprendre et s'organiser (« Les femmes Noires diplômées face au poids des représentations et des discriminations en France » Hommes et Migrations n°1292). Elle analyse leur expérience de dominées à plusieurs titres telle qu'elles la racontent et la comprennent elles-mêmes et observe la très riche scène afroféministe française et afropéenne qui reste invisibilisée dans la recherche académique et les médias français.

**Jennifer Padjemi, Journaliste, Auteure et Enseignante, Paris III/Sorbonne Nouvelle**

Jennifer Padjemi est journaliste indépendante, critique culturelle et autrice. Elle est passionnée par les phénomènes socio-culturels et tendances médiatiques qui façonnent notre époque : des séries et films aux réseaux sociaux ; des représentations raciales à celles des corps en passant par les identités de genre. Elle a créé le podcast Miroir Miroir (Binge Audio) et elle est l'autrice du podcast Réparer les violences (HeRCuLeS). Ses deux livres Féminismes & Pop Culture (2021) et Selfie, comment le capitalisme contrôle nos corps (2023) sont parus aux éditions Stock. Elle est également chargée de cours à la Sorbonne-Nouvelle et critique régulière sur une émission de France Culture.